

Sermon series: New Year's 2018
Sermon title: **Get Rich in 2018!**
Scripture: Colossians 3:16-17
Clearwater Bay International Baptist Church
December 31, 2017
S.C. Brown, Pastor

Well, a New Year is upon us and I can't think of a better thing to encourage us all in than Bible reading in 2018.

Some of you may find that you can't get over the hump spiritually.

Some of you may feel like you have hit a wall in your spiritual walk!

Well, if you want to grow something then you must plant seeds. The Bible is seed and you won't grow spiritually if you don't read the Bible.

So, I really want to encourage you in 2018 to marinate in and soak in....the Bible.

You want to GET RICH IN 2018? You want your life to be rich in 2018???

Let's be in the Bible.

In fact, the first point in our church vision that I laid out this September is related to this:

BEHOLD...God. How do we do that? By seeing and savoring Jesus Christ in the Bible regularly.

and the second point in our vision is BELONGing to the Body of Christ....and as we will see today...God wants us to be in the Bible individually and as a group.

Let's pray.

Let's read our verse again this morning in
Colossians 3:16-17

Let the word of Christ dwell in your richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thanksgiving in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

We are going to just walk through this passage and see what God wants us to know.

The first phrase is, "Let the word of Christ dwell in **you** richly."

What does it mean?

We need to say first off, that the YOU is plural and not singular. It is 'you all' or 'you guys' or 'y'all'

He's writing to a church, a group of believers.

Let that shape your thinking, as we pick it apart.

The **WORD OF CHRIST** here means the message about Jesus...we could say the gospel.

But, since the whole Bible is the message about in Jesus and the coming of his Kingdom, it isn't a stretch to say that it means THE BIBLE.

He says that the Bible needs to **DWELL** in our church richly. There is not word "Let" in the original language. The action is on the word DWELL.

The Bible is to reside in our church.

The Bible is to find a home in church.

The Bible is to lodge in our church.

The Bible is to settle down in our church.

But as Matthew Henry says, **it is to "Reside as the Master of the house, not the servant."**

The word **RICHLY** accentuates this. It means abundant and plentifully.

It's supposed to 'fill the house' not just reside on the shelf or the nightstand.

As a church, we should be Bible people and not some churches....let the Bible be just a supplement to the other teachings.

I remember going to the National Cathedral in Washington D.C. some years ago and I was appalled that the church bookstore was filled with teachings of the Dali Lama and various other Gurus.

Here Paul is reminding the believers in Colossae, to be a Bible church. Be obsessed with the truth of the gospel and the scriptures.

How does the church (as a whole) become a people whom the Bible dwells in richly?

- By each and every person in the church...dwelling in the Word themselves and helping each other.

Look what it says in the later part of the verse....

TEACHING AND ADMONISHING ONE ANOTHER IN ALL WISDOM.

Teaching here is the *positive* instruction of each other in Biblical truth.

Admonishing is *negative*...it means warning each other the danger of straying from the truth. Checking each other. Cautioning each other.

Here's a summary of this verse as I have translated and dissected it:

“So, as a church...be saturated in the Word. Teach the truth to one another and warn one another not to stray from the truth...even SINGING (psalms, hymns and spiritual songs) to one another about the Word, about Jesus and songs prompted by the Spirit.... —and you can’t do this corporately unless you do it individually...Do both. In fact, in everything you do, you should be Christ focused and thankful.”

Therefore, I want to encourage all of us as individuals in 2018 to BEHOLD God and to pursue God in the riches of the Bible.

Feed your affections for Christ this year. Don’t starve your soul and your affections for Jesus by feeding on other things! Get rich in the Bible.

The world, the flesh and the devil will work overtime this year to get you and I to NEGLECT the Bible. They will war against our souls by trying to get us to eat junk food and not real food.

Psalm 1 says, **“Blessed is the man..who delights in the law of the LORD and on his law meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all he does he prospers.”**

Or **Psalm 19**, **“The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure,**

making wise the simple; the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes.”

Psalm 119:9, “How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word.”

Psalm 119:103, “How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth.”

Psalm 119:105, “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”

Psalm 119:111, “Your testimonies are my heritage forever, for they are the joy of my heart.”

Psalm 119:127, “Therefore, I love your commandments above gold, above fine gold.

Psalm 119:162, “I rejoice at your word like one who finds great spoil {treasure}.”

Psalm 119:72, “the law of your mouth is better to me than thousands of gold and silver pieces.”

We have some Bible reading plans available for you today. There is one that has you reading the whole Bible in a year. It takes about 15 minutes a day and you get 5 days off per month.

The other one is the New Testament. It takes 5 minutes a day and you read 5 days a week.

Oh, what hard work it is, but it is rewarding to your soul.

We all need a plan.

We all need help...get help from each other.

Find a partner in 2018 to help admonish you.

Find a small group in 2018 where you can teach and admonish one another in all wisdom. Singing and being thankful together. We all need this.

As a church, let's be saturated in the Word this year both as a whole, as small groups and as individuals.

Let's get rich by diving into God's word.

Let's teach each other, caution each other, sing the Bible to each other with thankful hearts....

and let's be Jesus-focused in everything we do.

I hope that you'll join us on this quest. If there is any way I can help you or encourage you in Bible reading...it would be my great joy to help you break open the treasure chest of God's word in 2018.

Amen.