



A new creation focus through Colossians ...

## The Word of Christ

"The voice of the LORD is powerful," said the sweet psalmist of Israel, "the voice of the LORD is majestic" (Psalm 29:4). "The voice of the LORD," added David, breaks the cedars of Lebanon in pieces, hews out flames of fire, shakes the wilderness, makes the deer to calve, strips the forests bare, "and in His temple everything says, 'Glory!'" Who is this LORD who has such a powerful voice? It is "the LORD who sits as King forever" (Psalm 29:10). It is the same as the Lord whom Isaiah saw sitting on His throne, who in despair cried out, "Woe is me, for I am ruined ... for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts" (Isaiah 6:5). This same LORD of hosts is described by the apostle John as Jesus in glory (John 12:36-42). So it was the word of Christ that brought the universe into existence, the word of Christ that thundered from Sinai, the word of Christ that brought new creations into existence in their immersions in Jesus' name.

- **The whole word** — The word of Christ is not limited to the specific events mentioned above. Really the whole scripture is the word of Christ, with a special emphasis on the teachings of the new covenant. "Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you," exhorts the apostle Paul. This is the powerful word, more powerful than the physical description of the word which breaks the cedars of Lebanon in pieces; this is the word that can take a lost and alien sinner, free him from sin, grant him the indwelling Spirit, and bring him into existence as a new creation in Christ. This word, then, is to *richly dwell within*—not sparingly, nor sparsely. The saint of God really is to immerse himself in the word, memorize the word, talk about the word, teach the word, and spread the word. "And these words I am commanding you today," the Almighty laid down as a principle in Israel, to be built upon by the church, "shall be on your heart, and you shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up" (Deuteronomy 6:6,7).

- **Wisdom** — In Israel, the children were to be taught by the parents to talk about the word of God. In Christianity, under the terms of the new covenant, a disciple of a teacher is compared to a child. "I appeal to you for my child," said Paul to Philemon, church leader in Colossae. This child, stated the apostle, "I have begotten in my imprisonment — Onesimus" (Philemon 1:10). Onesimus, runaway slave, was sent back to his earthly

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master after Paul taught him the gospel, immersed him, and got him on the right track. These "children," therefore, are to have the word of God talked about all the time in their presence. "Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you," is the apostle's opener, "with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another ..." Children of the faith are being guided in accordance with the word of God, being taught its principles, and being admonished where necessary. It is clear, also, that the children are to desire the teaching and accept the admonitions without turning into a bunch of squalling, complaining brats.

One of the major ways in which this teaching and admonishing of the children of the faith is "with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts." It is patently clear that this is when the saints sit in their houses and walk by the way and when they lie down and when they rise up; it is not a verse referring only to the assemblies of the brethren. The continuing overall goal is that "the word of Christ" is to dwell richly within each disciple of Christ in every way possible, that each might be filled up to the fullness of Christ. Fill 'em up!!

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