

**Children's Moment using video selection from Fantasia**

You know, the fuller your bucket of water of water is, the wetter your feet are going to be. The closer to the top the water sits, the more likely it is to splash out and get everything in its path wet. The Apostle Paul, in his letter to the Colossians makes it abundantly clear that what ever we are full of, will in fact splash out and soak the people near us. And so he calls all Christ followers to be full to overflowing with three qualities. Take you Bibles and let's read in unison chapter 3:15-17. page 834

The first thing that we are to be so full of that it splashed over onto those around us is in verse 15. **We are to be full of His peace.** Now, our obvious thought is the peace that we are full of when we come to salvation in Jesus Christ. *Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have **peace with God** through our Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 5:1.* The walls between God and us because of our sin has been not only broken down, but also thrown away. And this peace we have with God flows from the inside out. But Jesus also tells us in John 14:27 *"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.* Jesus here specifically promises us His peace. It is the peace that He himself had and demonstrated on earth. Now, the word Paul uses here has a very specific meaning. It means that we have an internal umpire, that's the word, umpire, who lives within us. It is an inner calm that is more than just the absence of conflict. You know we sometimes think that if we are not angry with someone else then we are living in peace but the reality may be that there is tremendous inner conflict going on and that can spill out onto those who love us most. Paul is reminding us that we have within us the Spirit of Christ who serves as an umpire to address those fouls and out of bounds choices before we make them. The Spirit raises the caution flag and says you don't want to go there because it will destroy the peace inside that can flow out on others that can have a positive spiritual impact. So let me ask you, who got wet from the fullness of your peace this week. Was it a good dousing or only a brief shot from a spritzer bottle.

The second quality is that **We are to be full of His Word.** Again Paul could have several things in mind in verse 16 but he makes it real clear what he is speaking of. Look at our text. There is no getting around it. *"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God."* The Word flows out of us as we teach, and remember teaching is not the communication of information but as Christ said, *it is teaching to observe everything He has taught us.*" To admonish means to bring words of caution or to warn someone. So,

God's Word overflows first of all in our loving and gentle words of caution, correction and instruction. To use the Word as it was meant to be used. **All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.** You see that it is all about application and life transformation. And that is how the word flowing out of us is to get people wet. But secondly, and here I want to admonish gently, being full of His word flows out in singing. See, they had the music style struggle even back then. They had psalms that were sung with limited instrumentation and in unison, they had hymns that called for harmony and then they had contemporary songs, here called spiritual songs. God's word has historically overflowed from people's hearts into music. Does God honoring music, no matter what the style, flow out of your heart as you go about your day? Now there is one other found in verse 17. *And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.* **We are to be filled with His name.** Now usually when we read this verse we focus on what we can do, but that is not Paul's emphasis at all. It is how we can go about our daily life. Now, let me give you a little more than a gentle admonishment and this flows out of my deeply held theological convictions. A woman who spends her day peering at a computer screen all day responsibly managing the money of her clients can do that in Christ's name as much as a woman translating the Scripture in Papua New Guinea. A man in Mpls who spends his day selling insurance can do that in Christ's name as well as a man teaching theology at Bethel Seminary. There continues to be an insidious pecking order within the hearts and minds of too many Christians and Christian organizations. That is so contrary to God's Word. Going about life in Christ's name, according to this verse, is pretty comprehensive. To let what Jesus said and did be reflected in all that we say and do. And what flows out from this mindset is that people are drawn to Christ. Now, another tidbit. The Greek word here for thanks is Eucharist. That's right. The same word used for the communion service. It is a service of thanksgiving.

Conclusion