

BOOK OF COLOSSIANS
BEING A WELL-BALANCED CHRISTIAN
COLOSSIANS 3:16-17

Introduction

Much of life is a question of maintaining balance. *For Example:*

Athletic Teams:

Offense and Defense – Quickness and Size and Strength.

Personal Finances:

Income and Expenses.

Personal Health:

Diet, exercise and rest.

There must also be balance in our Christian life.

Knowledge and Application.

Colossians 1-2—right thinking (knowledge and understanding).

Colossians 3-4—Application or how we live.

Knowledge and Application are meant to go together! The LORD wants us to be stable and balanced in our Christianity! He wants us to live Biblically! (Which is nothing like what the world views it as!)

What the Church needs and what non-Christians need are believers who are well-balanced! That is, they need believers who are **stable and authentic**, who not only **have a knowledge of the Scriptures**, but **seek to apply what they believe** in their everyday lives with the Spirit of Jesus!

In Colossians 3:16,17 Paul gives us three characteristics of a well-rounded or well-balanced Christian.

I. WE ARE TO BE BIBLE SATURATED!

"Let the Word of Christ, dwell in you richly in all wisdom. . ."

Paul encourages these believers (and us) to **allow the message of the Bible to dominate, saturate and motivate their living!**

The word “*dwell*” means “*to feel at home.*” Paul urges us to have such a relationship with God's Word that ***it feels at home in our life ... or we feel at home with it!***

The Bible should be at the very heart of our existence as believers! **We should draw our direction from it and we should find our comfort and strength in it!**

BOOK OF COLOSSIANS
BEING A WELL-BALANCED CHRISTIAN
COLOSSIANS 3:16-17

Being saturated in the Bible does several things for us:

- 1) It helps us know the truth!**
- 2) It enables us to recognize error! (e.g. counterfeit money)**
- 3) It provides answers to difficult questions!**

So, how do we as believers become "Bible-saturated"?

A. We Must Know Its Message!

In other words **we must read and study the Bible!**

We must come to where **we know God's Word better and deeper as we grow in the Lord!**

Did you know that half of the books of the Bible can be read in less than 45 minutes each, and many of them in less than 20? It has been demonstrated that the entire Old and New Testaments can be read aloud in less than 71 hours.

Do you realize that this means that in less that fifteen minutes a day we could read the Bible cover to cover in under a year?

With that in mind, how much time do we spend thoughtfully reading the Word of God?

B. We Must Understand Its Message!

Hearing and understanding are two different things!

Have you ever been accused of **hearing but not listening?** We must **engage in active listening** with our **hearts and minds!**

We must make sure that we are **hearing correctly!**

This takes diligent study comparing Scripture with Scripture!

C. We Must Seek To Apply Its Message Practically!

Mark Twain said, *"Most people are bothered by those passages of Scripture which they cannot understand; but as for me, I have always noticed that the passages in Scripture which trouble me most are those which I understand."*