

The Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the
Colossians

¹ Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ through a will of God, and Timothy the brother,

² To the holy and faithful brethren in Christ in Colosse:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

³ We are giving thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, ⁴ having heard of your belief in Christ Jesus and your devotion toward all the holy ones, ⁵ through the expectation being laid up for you in the heavens, of which you previously heard in the word of the truth of the good message, ⁶ coming to you just as also in all the world, and is bearing fruit and is being increased, just as also among you from which day you heard and recognized the grace of God in truth; ⁷ just as you also learned from Epaphras, our beloved fellow-slave, who is a faithful servant of the Christ for you, ⁸ the one also having informed us of your devotion in spirit.

⁹ Because of this, we also, from which day we heard, are not ceasing praying for you and asking so that you may be filled with the recognition of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; ¹⁰ for you to walk worthily of the Lord toward all pleasing, bearing fruit in every good work and being made to increase in the recognition of God, ¹¹ being empowered in all power according to the might of His glory toward all endurance and patience, with joy ¹² giving thanks to the Father, Who has qualified us for the share of the inheritance of the holy ones in the light, ¹³ Who has rescued us from the authority of the darkness and relocated us into the kingdom of the Son of His devotion, ¹⁴ in Whom we are having the redemption, the forgiveness of sins; ¹⁵ Who is the image of the invisible God, firstborne of all creation, ¹⁶ because in Him all was created, the things in the heavens and the things on the earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or lordships or rulers or authorities. All has been created through Him and toward Him. ¹⁷ And He is before all, and all has been framed in Him. ¹⁸ And He is the head of the body, the assembly; Who is the beginning, the firstborne from the dead, so that He may be preeminent in all things. ¹⁹ Because in Him all the fullness was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through Him to reconcile the all to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross – through Him – whether the things on the earth or the things in the heavens.

²¹ And you, being once alienated and enemies in the mind in evil works, yet now He reconciled ²² in the body of His flesh through the death, to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before Him; ²³ if indeed you are remaining in the faith, having been founded and firm, and not being shifted from the expectation of the good message which you heard, which has been proclaimed in all the creation which is under the heaven, of which I, Paul, became a servant.

²⁴ Now I am rejoicing in the sufferings for you, and I am filling up in my flesh what is lacking of the afflictions of the Christ for His body, which is the assembly, ²⁵ of which I became a servant according to the stewardship of God which has been given to me for you, to fill out the Word of God: ²⁶ the secret having been hidden from the ages and from the generations, yet now was manifested to His holy ones, ²⁷ to whom God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this secret among the nations:

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Who is Christ in you, the expectation of the glory;²⁸ Whom we are announcing, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ Jesus;²⁹ for which also I am laboring, contending according to His energy which is energizing in me in power.

Colossians 2

¹ For I want you to know how great a struggle I am having about you and those in Laodicea and as many as haven't seen my face in the flesh,² so that their hearts might be encouraged, having been instructed in devotion, and toward all riches of the full assurance of the understanding, toward recognition of the secret of God, namely of the Father and the Christ,³ in Whom all the treasures of the wisdom and the knowledge are hidden.

⁴ Now this I am saying so that no one may mislead you by false reasoning in persuasive speech. ⁵ For though I am indeed absent in the flesh, yet I am with you in the Spirit, rejoicing and seeing your order and the stability of your faith in Christ.

⁶ As therefore you have received the Christ – Jesus the Lord – be walking in Him,⁷ having been rooted, and being built up in Him, and being confirmed in the faith, just as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving. ⁸ Watch lest anyone be capturing you through the philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the elements of the world, and not according to Christ. ⁹ Because in Him is residing all the fullness of the Godhead bodily. ¹⁰ And you have been filled in Him Who is the Head of every principality and authority,¹¹ in Whom also you were circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in the putting off of the body of the sins of the flesh, in the circumcision of the Christ,¹² having been buried together with Him in the immersion, in which also you have been raised together through the belief of the working of God, having raised Him from the dead. ¹³ And you, being dead in the trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He enlivened you together with Him, having forgiven us all the trespasses,¹⁴ having blotted out the handwriting against us in ordinances which was contrary to us, and has taken it out of the midst, having nailed it to the cross. ¹⁵ Having despoiled the principalities and authorities, He openly made a spectacle of them, celebrating a triumph over them in it.

¹⁶ Therefore don't let anyone judge you in food or in drink, or in a matter of a feast or a new moon or sabbaths,¹⁷ which are a shadow of the things about to come, but the body is of Christ. ¹⁸ Let no one rule against you while insisting on his will in humiliation and a worship of the messengers, intruding into the things which he hasn't seen, aimlessly puffed up by the mind of his flesh,¹⁹ and not holding on to the Head, from which all the body, through the joints and ligaments, supplied and joined together, is growing with the growth of God.

²⁰ If you died with Christ from the elements of the world, why, as living in the world, do you subject yourselves to ordinances:²¹ "You may not handle, nor taste, nor touch,"²² all of which are toward corruption with the using according to the commandments and teachings of men?²³ Which are indeed having a reputation for wisdom in self-imposed religion, and humiliation, and severity to the body, not of any value against gratification of the flesh.

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¹ If therefore you were raised with the Christ, be seeking the things above, where the Christ is sitting at the right of God. ² Be thinking on the things above, not on the things on the earth. ³ For you died, and your life has been hidden with the Christ in God. ⁴ When the Christ, our life, is manifested, then you also will be manifested in glory with Him.

⁵ Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, bad craving, and the greed which is idolatry, ⁶ through which things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of the disobedience, ⁷ in which you also once walked when you were living in them. ⁸ But now, you also, put away all these: wrath, anger, depravity, defamation, filthy talk from out of your mouth. ⁹ Don't be lying to one another, having despoiled the old person with its practices, ¹⁰ and having put on the new, which is being renewed in recognition according to the image of the One having created it, ¹¹ wherein there is not Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, one from a country not speaking Greek and Scythian, slave, free, but Christ as all, and in all.

¹² Put on therefore, as chosen of God, holy and beloved, inward parts of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, ¹³ supporting one another and forgiving each other if anyone might have a complaint against anyone; just as also the Christ forgave you, so also you. ¹⁴ But above all things, devotion, which is a bond of perfection. ¹⁵ And make the peace of God be ruling in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be becoming thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of the Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and warning each other in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing in grace in your hearts in the Lord. ¹⁷ And everything, whatever you may do in word or in work, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

¹⁸ Wives, be submitting to your own husbands, as is proper in the Lord.

¹⁹ Husbands, be devoted to the wives, and don't be bitter toward them.

²⁰ Children, be obeying your parents in all things, for this is well-pleasing in the Lord.

²¹ Fathers, don't provoke your children, so that they won't be discouraged.

²² Slaves, be obeying the lords according to the flesh in all things, not in eyeservice as pleasers of men, but in genuineness of heart, fearing God. ²³ And everything, whatever you may be doing, be working from the soul, as to the Lord, and not to men, ²⁴ having known that from the Lord you will receive the recompense of the inheritance; for you are slaving to the Lord Christ. ²⁵ But the one doing unrighteousness will be requited for the unrighteousness done, and there is no reception of faces.

Colossians 4

¹ Lords, be giving to the slave that which is just and equality, having known that you also are having a Lord in the heavens.

² Be persisting in prayer, being vigilant in it in thanksgiving, ³ and praying at the same time for us, so that God may open for us a door for the word, to speak the secret of the Christ, through which also I have been bound, ⁴ so that I may make it manifest, as it is necessary for me to speak. ⁵ Be walking in wisdom toward those outside, buying up the

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season, ⁶ your word always with grace, having been seasoned with salt, to know how it is necessary for you to be answering each one.

⁷ Tychicus, a beloved brother, and faithful servant, and fellow-slave in the Lord will make known to you everything about me, ⁸ whom I sent to you for this very thing, that he may know the things concerning you, and that he may exhort your hearts, ⁹ with Onesimus, the faithful and beloved brother who is of you. They will make known to you all things here.

¹⁰ Aristarchus, my fellow-captive, greets you, and Mark, the cousin of Barnabas (about whom you received commands: if he comes to you, receive him), ¹¹ and Jesus, the one being called Justus. Only these who are of the circumcision are co-workers for the kingdom of God, who became a solace to me. ¹² Epaphras, who is of you, a slave of Christ, greets you, always contending for you in prayers so that you may stand perfect and having been filled in all the will of God. ¹³ For I am testifying for him that he is having much zeal for you and those in Laodicea and those in Hierapolis. ¹⁴ Luke, the beloved physician, greets you, and Demas. ¹⁵ Greet the brethren in Laodicea, and Nymphas and the assembly in his house. ¹⁶ And whenever this letter is read before you, see that it is also read in the assembly of the Laodiceans, and that you also read the one from Laodicea. ¹⁷ And say to Archippus, "See to the service which you received in the Lord, so that you may be fulfilling it."

¹⁸ The greeting is by my hand – Paul. Be remembering my chains. The grace is with you. Amen.