

COLOSSIANS

Colossians 1

Greeting

1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,

2 To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ *who are* in Colosse:

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

Their Faith in Christ

3 We give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, 4 since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of your love for all the saints; 5 because of the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, of which you heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel, 6 which has come to you, as *it has* also in all the world, and is bringing forth fruit, as *it is* also among you since the day you heard and knew the grace of God in truth; 7 as you also learned from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf, 8 who also declared to us your love in the Spirit.

Preeminence of Christ

W 9 For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; 10 that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; 11 strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; 12 giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. 13 He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, 14 in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins. 15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. 17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. 18 And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

Reconciled in Christ

19 For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, 20 and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross. 21 And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled 22 in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless,

1:16 Jesus Christ—God the Son—created the heavens and the earth.

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and above reproach in His sight— 23 if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.

Sacrificial Service for Christ

24 I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, for the sake of His body, which is the church, 25 of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God which was given to me for you, to fulfill the word of God, 26 the mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints. 27 To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. 28 Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus. 29 To this end I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily.

Colossians 2

Not Philosophy but Christ

1 For I want you to know what a great conflict I have for you and those in Laodicea, and for as many as have not seen my face in the flesh, 2 that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, and attaining to all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ, 3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

4 Now this I say lest anyone should deceive you with persuasive words. 5 For though I am absent in the flesh, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ.

6 As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, 7 rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.

8 Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.

† D★ 9 For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; 10 and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.

- 1:22 holy... in His sight “holy” refers to the believers positional relationship to God— The believer is separated from sin and set apart to God by imputed righteousness. As a result of the believers union with Christ in His death and resurrection God considers Christians as holy as His Son.
- 1:23 continue in the faith = “keep the faith”— Those who have been reconciled will persevere in faith and obedience because in addition to being declared righteous they are actually new creatures with a new disposition that loves God, hates sin, desires obedience, and is energized by the indwelling Holy Spirit.
- 1:28 Ministers preach, warn and teach. Preaching is letting the power of the Holy Spirit speak through you to draw the nonbeliever to Christ, who in turn brings the new believer to the Father. Rather than defect from the gospel they heard, true believers will remain solid on Christ, who is the only foundation, and will remain faithful by the enabling grace of God. This is the perseverance of the saints (Matt 24:13).
- 2:9 Prophecy Fulfillment: God with us – Isaiah 7:14; 8:8-10

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Not Legalism but Christ

11 In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, **by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh**, by the circumcision of Christ, **12** buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with *Him* through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. **13** And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, **having forgiven you all trespasses. 14** **having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us**, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. **15** Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.

16 So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths, **17** which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ. **18** **Let no one cheat you of your reward, taking delight in false humility and worship of angels**, intruding into those things which he has not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind, **19** and not holding fast to the Head, from whom all the body, nourished and knit together by joints and ligaments, grows with the increase *that is* from God.

20 Therefore, if you died with Christ from the basic principles of the world, why, as though living in the world, do you subject yourselves to regulations— **21** “Do not touch, do not taste, do not handle,” **22** which all concern things which perish with the using—according to the commandments and doctrines of men? **23** **These things indeed have an appearance of wisdom in self-imposed religion, false humility, and neglect of the body, but are of no value against the indulgence of the flesh.**

Colossians 3

Not Carnality but Christ

1 If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. **2** **Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.** **3** For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. **4** When Christ *who is* our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

- 2:11-12 This is the new birth, the new creation in conversion. The outward affirmation of the already accomplished inner transformation is now the believer's baptism by water.
- 2:14 God's free and complete forgiveness of guilty sinners who receive Christ of all their sins (past, present and future sins).
- 2:15 “having disarmed”—The Cross spelled the ultimate doom of Satan and his evil host of fallen angels (Gen. 3:15, John 12:31, Heb. 2:14). After the Crucifixion and before His Resurrection, Jesus was in the belly of the earth for 3 days. He actually went to Hell—to the abode of the devil and his demons to announce His triumph over sin, Satan, death and Hell. Also during this time, Christ went to Abraham's bosom” (Luke 16:22) which was also inside the earth, separate from Hell. This is where Old Testament saints resided until Jesus came at this time to take them to Paradise—to the third heaven where God the Father resides. Old Testament saints had to wait until Jesus paid and died for their sins on the Cross before they could be with God the Father. Remember, Jesus paid and died for all man's sins back to the true time of Adam and forward for all men in the future. Jesus redeemed all Old Testament saints and all New Testament saints to the Father. Luke wrote the Book of Luke and the Book of Acts. Luke was the only Gentile apostle in the New Testament. He, in fact, wrote 25% of the New Testament and Paul wrote 22% of the New Testament.

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I O [5] Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: **fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire**, and covetousness, which is idolatry. [6] Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, [7] in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them.
[8] But now you yourselves are to put off all these: **anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth.** [9] Do not lie to one another, since **you have put off the old man with his deeds.** [10] **and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him.** [11] where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave *nor* free, but **Christ is all and in all.**

Character of the New Man

Hol★ [12] Therefore, as *the* elect of God, **holy** and beloved, **put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering;** [13] **bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.** [14] **But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.** 15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. [17] And **whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.**

The Christian Home

[18] **Wives, submit to your own husbands,** as is fitting in the Lord.
[19] **Husbands, love your wives** and do not be bitter toward them.
[20] Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord.
[21] **Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.**
22 Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God. [23] And **whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men,** 24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ. [25] **But he who does wrong will be repaid for what he has done, and there is no partiality.**

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3:5 fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness are sins that are actually spiritually worshipped by the person practicing them. The sinner loves and worships these sins, instead of God. In fact, the sin or sins in their life becomes their lord and master. Passion and evil desire refer to sexual lust. Passion is the physical state of that vice and “evil desire” is the mental state. The wrath of God [Hell] is coming upon these rebellious sons of disobedience. Sexual immorality is the most enslaving of all sins and is the hardest to break free from. The True Christian must and will break free from the chains of sexual sins.

3:8-10 Like one who removes his dirty clothes at the end of the day, believers must discard the filthy garments of their old sinful lives. Because the old man died in Christ, and the new man lives in Christ (new creation = the regeneration = spiritually reborn = spiritually renewed)—believers must put off remaining sinful deeds and be continually renewed into the image of Christ (being like Christ).

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Colossians 4

1 Masters, give your bondservants what is just and fair, knowing that **you also have a Master in heaven.**

Christian Graces

P **2 Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving;** 3 meanwhile praying also for us, that **God would open to us a door for the word,** to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in chains, 4 that I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak.
5 Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time. 6 **Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt,** that you may know how you ought to answer each one.

Final Greetings

7 Tychicus, a beloved brother, faithful minister, and fellow servant in the Lord, will tell you all the news about me. 8 I am sending him to you for this very purpose, that he may know your circumstances and comfort your hearts, 9 with Onesimus, a faithful and beloved brother, who is *one* of you. They will make known to you all things which *are happening* here.
10 Aristarchus my fellow prisoner greets you, **with Mark the cousin of Barnabas** (about whom you received instructions: if he comes to you, welcome him), 11 and Jesus who is called Justus. These *are my* only fellow workers for the kingdom of God who are of the circumcision; they have proved to be a comfort to me.
12 Epaphras, who is *one* of you, a bondservant of Christ, greets you, always laboring fervently for you in prayers, that you may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God. 13 For I bear him witness that he has a great zeal for you, and those who are in **Laodicea**, and those in Hierapolis. **14 Luke the beloved physician** and Demas greet you. 15 Greet the brethren who are in **Laodicea**, and Nymphas and the church that *is* in his house.

Closing Exhortations and Blessing

★ **16 Now when this epistle is read among you, see that it is read also in the church of the Laodiceans,** and that you likewise read the *epistle* from Laodicea. **17 And say to Archippus, "Take heed to the ministry which you have received in the Lord, that you may fulfill it."**
★ 18 This salutation by my own hand—Paul. **Remember my chains.** Grace *be* with you. Amen.

4:2 Giving God thanksgiving is very important in prayer. In prayer, you praise and worship God and thank Him and give Him the honor, respect and love He is due because He is the only true God and He is your God.