

# COLOSSIANS

**1:1** Paul, *an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God*, and Timothy *our brother*, <sup>2</sup>*to the saints and faithful brothers in Christ in Colossae: Grace to you and peace from God our Father.*

## *We Thank God For Your Faith And Love*

<sup>3</sup>We are giving-thanks *to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ*, always while praying for you, <sup>4</sup>having heard-of your faith in Christ Jesus and the love which you have for all the saints <sup>5</sup>because of the hope being reserved *for you in the heavens*, which you previously-heard-of in the word *of the truth*— the good-news <sup>6</sup>coming to you, just as also in all the world it is bearing-fruit and growing, just as *it is doing* also in you from which day you heard and understood the grace *of God in truth*, <sup>7</sup>just as you learned *it* from Epaphras, our beloved fellow-slave who is *a faithful servant of Christ on your behalf*, <sup>8</sup>the *one* also having made-clear *to us your love in the Spirit*.

## *May You Walk Worthily of God, Who Transferred Us Into The Kingdom of His Son*

<sup>9</sup>For this reason **we** also, from which day we heard, do not cease praying for you and asking that you may be filled *with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding*, <sup>10</sup>*so that you may walk worthily of the Lord, toward total pleasing [of Him]*— bearing-fruit in every good work and growing *in the knowledge of God*; <sup>11</sup>being empowered with all power according-to the might *of His glory, toward total endurance and patience*; with joy <sup>12</sup>giving-thanks *to the Father* having qualified you for *your part of the share of the saints in the light*, <sup>13</sup>Who delivered us out of the authority *of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of the Son of His love*, <sup>14</sup>in Whom we have the redemption, the forgiveness *of sins*—

## *The Son Is The Preeminent Head of All Creation, Because He Created All Things*

<sup>15</sup>... Who is *the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation*, <sup>16</sup>because all *things* were created by Him in the heavens and on the earth, the visible *things* and the invisible *things*— whether thrones or lordships or rulers or authorities. All *things* have been created through Him and for Him. <sup>17</sup>And He Himself is before all *things*, and all *things* have existence in Him. <sup>18</sup>And He Himself is the head *of the body, the church*.

## *The Son Is First In Everything, Because God Reconciled All Things Through Him*

... Who is *the beginning, the firstborn from the dead*, in order that He Himself might come-to-be holding-first-place in all *things*, <sup>19</sup>because *the Father* was well-pleased *that all the fullness should dwell in Him* <sup>20</sup>and *that He should reconcile all things* through Him 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.

## *Indeed, You Yourselves Were Reconciled By Him*

<sup>21</sup>Indeed you *were* formerly being excluded, and *were* enemies *in the mind in-connection-with evil works*. <sup>22</sup>But now He reconciled *you* in the body *of His flesh through His death, that He might present you holy and without-blemish and blameless in His presence*— <sup>23</sup>if indeed you continue *in the faith, having been founded, and steadfast, and not being moved-away from the hope of the good-news which you heard*, the *one* having been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, *of which I, Paul, became a minister*.

## *I Am Suffering To Fulfill My Stewardship of God's Now Revealed Mystery: Christ In You*

<sup>24</sup>Now I am rejoicing in *my sufferings for your sake*, and in my flesh I am filling-up-in-turn the *things lacking from the afflictions of Christ, for the sake of His body, which is the church*, <sup>25</sup>*of which I became a minister according-to the stewardship of God having been given to me for you, that I might fulfill the word of God*— <sup>26</sup>the mystery having been hidden from the *past ages and from the past generations*. But now it was revealed *to His saints*, <sup>27</sup>*to whom God willed to make-known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles*— which is Christ in you, the hope *of glory*, <sup>28</sup>Whom **we** are proclaiming, admonishing every person, and teaching every person with all wisdom, in order that we may present every person mature in Christ, <sup>29</sup>for which I also am laboring, struggling according to His working being at-work in me with power.

## *I Am Struggling Greatly For an Increase In Your Assurance And Knowledge of Christ*

**2:1** For I want you to know how great *a struggle I am having for your sake and the ones in Laodicea, and all-who have not seen my face in the flesh*, <sup>2</sup>in order that their hearts might be encouraged— *they* having been brought-together in love and for all *the riches of the full-assurance of understanding, for the full-knowledge of the mystery of God— Christ*, <sup>3</sup>in Whom are all the treasures *of wisdom and knowledge, hidden-away*. <sup>4</sup>I am saying this in order that no one may be deluding you with persuasive-argument. <sup>5</sup>For even though I am absent *in the flesh, nevertheless I am with you in the spirit, rejoicing and seeing your order and the firmness of your faith in Christ*.

### *So Be Walking In Christ And Established In The Faith You Were Taught*

<sup>6</sup>As then you received Christ Jesus the Lord, be walking in Him—<sup>7</sup>having been rooted, and being built-up in Him, and being established in the faith just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

### *Don't Be Taken Captive By Human Thinking, Because All God's Fullness Is In Christ*

<sup>8</sup>Be watching-out *that* there will not be anyone taking you captive through philosophy and empty deception according-to the tradition of humans, according to the elemental *things* of the world, and not according to Christ, <sup>9</sup>because in Him dwells all the fullness of the Deity bodily.

### *You Are Complete In Christ, With Whom You Have Been Buried And Raised Up*

<sup>10</sup>And in Him you are complete, Who is the head of all rule and authority, <sup>11</sup>in Whom you also were circumcised *with a* circumcision not-done-by-human-hands, in the taking-off of the body of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ—<sup>12</sup>having been buried-with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised-with Him through faith in the working of God, the *One* having raised Him from *the* dead.

### *Indeed, God Made Us Alive With Christ, Having Forgiven All Our Trespasses*

<sup>13</sup>Indeed, you being dead in the trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh— He made you alive-together with Him, having forgiven us all the trespasses, <sup>14</sup>having wiped-out the written-document against us *with its* decrees, which was opposed to us. Indeed, He has taken it out of the middle, having nailed it to the cross! <sup>15</sup>Having stripped the rulers and the authorities, He exposed *them* in public, having celebrated-a-triumph-over them in Him!

### *Let No One Judge Your Behavior By False Standards*

<sup>16</sup>Therefore let no one judge you in eating and in drinking, or in respect to a feast or new-moon or Sabbath, <sup>17</sup>which are a shadow of the coming *things*, but the body is Christ's. <sup>18</sup>Let no one decide-against you *while* delighting in humility and worship of angels, dwelling-upon *things* which he has seen, being puffed-up in-vain by the mind of his flesh, <sup>19</sup>and not holding-on-to the head— from Whom the whole body, being supplied and held-together by the joints and ligaments, is growing the growth of God.

### *Since You Died With Christ, Do Not Submit To Human Decrees*

<sup>20</sup>If you died with Christ from the elemental *things* of the world, why, as-though living in *the* world, do you submit-to-decrees (<sup>21</sup>“Do not handle, nor taste, nor touch”; <sup>22</sup>*Things* which are all for perishing in the use!) according-to the commandments and teachings of humans?—<sup>23</sup>which are indeed having the talk of wisdom in-connection-with will-worship and humility and harsh-treatment of *the* body, not in-connection-with any [real] value against *the* indulgence of the flesh.

### *Since You Were Raised With Christ, Be Seeking His Things*

**3:1** If then you were raised-with Christ, be seeking the *things* above where Christ is, sitting at *the* right hand of God. <sup>2</sup>Be thinking the *things* above, not the *things* upon the earth. <sup>3</sup>For you died, and your life has been hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup>When Christ appears— your life— then **you** also will appear with Him in glory.

### *Put To Death The Practices of The Old Person And Put On The New Person*

<sup>5</sup>Therefore, put-to-death *your* body-part *things* on earth— sexual-immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which is idolatry— <sup>6</sup>because of which *things* the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, <sup>7</sup>in which *things* **you** also formerly walked when you were living in these *things*. <sup>8</sup>But now **you** also, lay-aside all *these things*— wrath, anger, malice, blasphemy, filthy-language from your mouth; <sup>9</sup>do not be lying to one another— having stripped-off the old person with his practices, <sup>10</sup>and having put-on the new *person* being renewed to knowledge in-accordance-with *the* image of the *One* having created him, <sup>11</sup>where there is no Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free, but Christ is all *things* and in all *persons*.

### *Therefore, Clothe Yourself In Love, Christ's Peace, God's Word, And Thankfulness*

<sup>12</sup>Therefore, as chosen *ones* of God, holy and having been loved, put-on deep-feelings of compassion, kindness, humblemindedness, gentleness, patience, <sup>13</sup>bearing-with one another, and forgiving each other— if anyone has a complaint against anyone. Just as indeed the Lord forgave you, so also you *forgive*. <sup>14</sup>And over all these *things* put on love, which is *the* bond of perfection. <sup>15</sup>And let the peace of Christ be arbitrating in your hearts— into which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup>Let the word of Christ be dwelling in you richly, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing each other *with* psalms, hymns, spiritual songs; with gratitude singing with your hearts to God. <sup>17</sup>And everything, whatever thing you may do in word or in deed, *do* all *things* in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving-thanks to God the Father through Him.

### *Behave In a Godly Manner In Your Family*

<sup>18</sup>Wives, be subject to *your* husbands, as it is fitting in *the* Lord. <sup>19</sup>Husbands, be loving *your* wives, and do not be bitter toward them.

<sup>20</sup>Children, be obeying *your* parents in all *things*, for this is pleasing in *the* Lord. <sup>21</sup>Fathers, do not be provoking your children, in order that they may not be discouraged.

#### *Work As For The Lord, Not For People*

<sup>22</sup>Slaves, be obeying *your* masters according-to *the* flesh in all *things*, not with eye-service as people-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord. <sup>23</sup>Whatever you do, be working from *the* soul as *for* the Lord and not *for* people, <sup>24</sup>knowing that from *the* Lord you will receive the payback of the inheritance. You are serving the Lord Christ! <sup>25</sup>For the *one* doing-wrong will receive-back what he did-wrong, and there is no respect-of-persons. **4:1** Masters, be granting *to your* slaves the just *thing* and equality, knowing that **you** also have *a* Master in heaven.

#### *Devote Yourselves To Prayer*

<sup>2</sup>Be devoting-yourselves *to* prayer, keeping-watch in it with thanksgiving, <sup>3</sup>praying at the same time also for us— that God may open *to us a door for* the word *that we may* speak the mystery of Christ because of which I also have been bound, <sup>4</sup>that I may make it clear, as I ought-to speak.

#### *Walk With Wisdom And Grace In This World*

<sup>5</sup>Be walking with wisdom toward the *ones* outside, redeeming the time, <sup>6</sup>*your* speech always *being* with grace, having been seasoned with salt, *that you may* know how you ought-to answer each one.

#### *Closing Remarks And Greetings*

<sup>7</sup>All the *things* concerning me Tychicus will make-known *to* you, the beloved brother and faithful minister and fellow-slave in *the* Lord <sup>8</sup>whom I sent to you for this very *reason*— in order that you may know the *things* concerning us and he may encourage your hearts— <sup>9</sup>together-with Onesimus, the faithful and beloved brother who is from-*among* you. They will make all the *things* here known *to* you.

<sup>10</sup>Aristarchus, my fellow-captive, greets you, and *so does* Mark, the cousin of Barnabas, concerning whom you received commands (if he comes to you, welcome him), <sup>11</sup>and Jesus, the *one* being called Justus— the *ones* being from *the* circumcision (these alone *are* fellow-workers for the kingdom of God, who proved-to-be *a* comfort *to* me). <sup>12</sup>Epaphras greets you— the *one* from-*among* you, *a* slave of Christ Jesus always struggling for you in *his* prayers in-order-that you might stand mature and having been fully-assured in all *the* will of God. <sup>13</sup>For I testify *concerning* him that he has great pain for you, and the *ones* in Laodicea, and the *ones* in Hierapolis. <sup>14</sup>Luke, the beloved physician, greets you, and Demas.

<sup>15</sup>Greet the brothers in Laodicea, and Nymphas and the church at her house. <sup>16</sup>And when *this* letter is read among you, cause that it also be read in the church of *the* Laodiceans, and that **you** also read the *letter* from Laodicea. <sup>17</sup>And say *to* Archippus— “See-*to* the ministry which you received in *the* Lord, in order that you may be fulfilling it”.

<sup>18</sup>The greeting of Paul *by my own* hand— remember my imprisonment. Grace *be* with you.