

COLOSSIANS

1:1 Paul, *an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God*, and Timothy *our brother*, ²*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

³We are giving-thanks *to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ*, always while praying for you, ⁴having heard-of your faith in Christ Jesus and the love which you have for all the saints ⁵because of the hope being reserved *for you in the heavens*, which you previously-heard-of in the word *of the truth*— the good-news ⁶coming 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*, ⁷just as you learned *it* from Epaphras, our beloved fellow-slave who is *a faithful servant of Christ on your behalf*, ⁸the *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

⁹For 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*, ¹⁰*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*; ¹¹being empowered with all power according-to the might *of His glory, toward total endurance and patience*; with joy ¹²giving-thanks *to the Father* having qualified you for *your part of the share of the saints in the light*, ¹³Who delivered us out of the authority *of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of the Son of His love*, ¹⁴in Whom we have the redemption, the forgiveness *of sins*—

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

¹⁵... Who is *the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation*, ¹⁶because 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. ¹⁷And He Himself is before all *things*, and all *things* have existence in Him. ¹⁸And 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*, ¹⁹because *the Father* was well-pleased *that all the fullness should dwell in Him* ²⁰and *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

²¹Indeed you *were* formerly being excluded, and *were* enemies *in the mind in-connection-with evil works*. ²²But 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*— ²³if 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

²⁴Now 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*, ²⁵*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*— ²⁶the mystery having been hidden from the *past ages and from the past generations*. But now it was revealed *to His saints*, ²⁷*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*, ²⁸Whom **we** are proclaiming, admonishing every person, and teaching every person with all wisdom, in order that we may present every person mature in Christ, ²⁹for 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*, ²in 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*, ³in Whom are all the treasures *of wisdom and knowledge, hidden-away*. ⁴I am saying this in order that no one may be deluding you with persuasive-argument. ⁵For 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

⁶As then you received Christ Jesus the Lord, be walking in Him—⁷having 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

⁸Be 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, ⁹because in Him dwells all the fullness of the Deity bodily.

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

¹⁰And in Him you are complete, Who is the head of all rule and authority, ¹¹in 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—¹²having 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

¹³Indeed, 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, ¹⁴having 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! ¹⁵Having 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

¹⁶Therefore let no one judge you in eating and in drinking, or in respect to a feast or new-moon or Sabbath, ¹⁷which are a shadow of the coming *things*, but the body is Christ's. ¹⁸Let 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, ¹⁹and 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

²⁰If you died with Christ from the elemental *things* of the world, why, as-though living in *the* world, do you submit-to-decrees (²¹“Do not handle, nor taste, nor touch”; ²²*Things* which are all for perishing in the use!) according-to the commandments and teachings of humans?—²³which 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. ²Be thinking the *things* above, not the *things* upon the earth. ³For you died, and your life has been hidden with Christ in God. ⁴When 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

⁵Therefore, put-to-death *your* body-part *things* on earth— sexual-immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which is idolatry— ⁶because of which *things* the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, ⁷in which *things* **you** also formerly walked when you were living in these *things*. ⁸But now **you** also, lay-aside all *these things*— wrath, anger, malice, blasphemy, filthy-language from your mouth; ⁹do not be lying to one another— having stripped-off the old person with his practices, ¹⁰and having put-on the new *person* being renewed to knowledge in-accordance-with *the* image of the *One* having created him, ¹¹where 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

¹²Therefore, as chosen *ones* of God, holy and having been loved, put-on deep-feelings of compassion, kindness, humblemindedness, gentleness, patience, ¹³bearing-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*. ¹⁴And over all these *things* put on love, which is *the* bond of perfection. ¹⁵And let the peace of Christ be arbitrating in your hearts— into which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶Let 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. ¹⁷And 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

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

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

Work As For The Lord, Not For People

²²Slaves, 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. ²³Whatever you do, be working from *the* soul as *for* the Lord and not *for* people, ²⁴knowing that from *the* Lord you will receive the payback of the inheritance. You are serving the Lord Christ! ²⁵For 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

²Be devoting-yourselves *to* prayer, keeping-watch in it with thanksgiving, ³praying 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, ⁴that I may make it clear, as I ought-to speak.

Walk With Wisdom And Grace In This World

⁵Be walking with wisdom toward the *ones* outside, redeeming the time, ⁶*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

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

¹⁰Aristarchus, 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), ¹¹and 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). ¹²Epaphras 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. ¹³For I testify *concerning* him that he has great pain for you, and the *ones* in Laodicea, and the *ones* in Hierapolis. ¹⁴Luke, the beloved physician, greets you, and Demas.

¹⁵Greet the brothers in Laodicea, and Nymphas and the church at her house. ¹⁶And 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. ¹⁷And say *to* Archippus— “See-*to* the ministry which you received in *the* Lord, in order that you may be fulfilling it”.

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