



COLOSSIANS

Chapter 1

Thanksgiving and Prayer

1 ¶ Paul, ^aan apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy *our* brother,

2 to the saints ^band faithful brethren in Christ who are at Colosse: ^cGrace to you and peace from God our Father.

3 ¶ ^dWe give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you,

4 ^esince we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of ^fthe love *that you have* for all the saints;

5 for the hope ^gthat is laid up for you in heaven, of which you heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel

6 that has come to you. ^hEven in all the world *this gospel* ⁱis bringing forth fruit, just as *it does* also in you since the day you heard and knew ^jthe grace of God in truth.

7 You learned *it* from ^kEpaphras our dear fellow bondservant, who is for you ^la faithful servant of Christ,

8 who also declared to us your ^mlove in the Spirit.

9 ¶ ⁿFor this cause we also, since the day we heard *it*, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire ^othat you might be filled with ^pthe knowledge of His will ^qin all wisdom and spiritual understanding,

10 ^rso that you might walk worthy of the Lord to ^sfully please *Him*, ^tbeing fruitful in every good work and increasing in the ^uknowledge of God,

11 ^vstrengthened with all power according to His glorious power, ^wfor all patience and longsuffering ^xwith joy,

12 ^ygiving thanks to the Father who has made us to be partakers of ^zthe inheritance of the saints in light.

13 He has delivered us from ^athe power of darkness and ^bhas transferred *us* unto the kingdom of His dear Son,

14 ^cin whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.

The Preeminence of Christ

15 ¶ He is ^dthe image of the invisible God, ^ethe firstborn of all creation.

16 For ^fby Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or ^gdominions or principalities or powers. All things were created ^hthrough Him and for Him.

17 And ⁱHe is above all things and by Him ^jall things hold together.

18 And ^kHe is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, ^lthe firstborn from the dead, so that in all

Chapter 1: a Ep 1:1 b 1 Co 4:17 c Gl 1:3 d Ph 1:3 e Ep 1:15 f Hb 6:10 g 1 Pt 1:4 h Mt 24:14 i Jn 15:16 j Ep 3:2 k Pl 23 l 2 Co 11:23 m Rm 15:30 n Ep 1:15-17 o 1 Co 1:5 p Rm 12:2 q Ep 1:8 r Ep 4:1 s 1 Th 4:1 t Hb 13:21 u 2 Pt 3:18 v Ep 3:16; 6:10 w Ep 4:2 x At 5:41 y Ep 5:20 z Ep 1:11 a Ep 6:12 b 2 Pt 1:11 c Ep 1:7 d 2 Co 4:4 e Rv 3:14 f Hb 1:2,3 g Ep 1:20,21 h Hb 2:10 i Jn 17:5 j Hb 1:3 k Ep 1:22 l Rv 1:5

things He might have the preeminence.

19 ¶ For it pleased *the Father* that ^min Him should all the fullness dwell, **20** and ⁿthrough Him to reconcile ^oall things to Himself, ^phaving made peace through the blood of His cross, through Him, *I say*, whether things on earth or things in heaven.

21 ¶ And you ^qwho were formerly alienated and enemies in *your* mind ^rby wicked works, yet now He has ^sreconciled

22 ^tin the body of His flesh through death, ^uto present you holy and blameless and beyond reproach in His sight;

23 if you continue ^vin the faith grounded and steadfast, and ^wnot moved away from the hope of the gospel that you have heard, ^xwhich was preached to every creature that is under heaven, ^yof which I, Paul, was made a servant.

Christ's Ministry through Paul

24 ¶ ^zWho now rejoice in my sufferings ^afor you, and fill up in my flesh ^bwhat is *still* lacking in the afflictions of Christ, for ^cthe sake of His body, which is the church,

25 of which I was made a servant according to ^dthe stewardship of God that is given to me for you, to fulfill the word of God,

26 ^ethe mystery that has been hidden from *past* ages and from generations, ^fbut now has been manifested

to His saints.

27 ^gTo them God willed to make known what is ^hthe riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is ⁱChrist in you, ^jthe hope of glory.

28 Him we preach, ^kwarning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, so ^lthat we may present every man complete in Christ Jesus.

29 For this purpose I also labor, striving according to His working that ^mpowerfully works in me.

Chapter 2

1 ¶ For I want you to know how great a ^astruggle I have for you and *for* those at Laodicea and *for* as many as have not seen my face in the flesh,

2 that their hearts may be comforted, being knit together in love, and *attaining* to all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the full knowledge of the mystery of God, *that is*, Christ,

3 ^bin whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

4 ¶ And this I say ^cso that no one should deceive you with persuasive words.

5 For ^dthough I am absent in the flesh, yet I am with you in the spirit, rejoicing to see ^eyour order and the ^fsteadfastness of your faith in Christ.

Freedom in Christ

6 ¶ ^gAs you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, *so* walk in Him,

m Jn 1:16 n Ep 2:14 o 2 Co 5:18 p Ep 1:10 q Ep 2:1 r Ti 1:15 s 2 Co 5:18,19 t 2 Co 5:18 u Ep 5:27 v Ep 3:17 w Jn 15:6 x Cl 1:6 y Cl 1:25 z 2 Co 7:4 a Ep 3:1,13 b 2 Co 1:5; 12:15 c Ep 1:23 d Gl 2:7 e 1 Co 2:7 f 2 Tm 1:10 g 2 Co 2:14 h Rm 9:23 i Rm 8:10,11 j 1 Tm 1:1 k At 20:20 l Ep 5:27 m Ep 3:7 Chapter 2: a Ph 1:30 b 1 Co 1:24,30 c Rm 16:18 d 1 Th 2:17 e 1 Co 14:40 f 1 Pt 5:9 g 1 Th 4:1

7 ^hrooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.

8 ¶ Beware lest anyone take you captive through philosophy and vain deceit according to ^tthe tradition of men, according to ^jthe elementary principles of the world, and not according to Christ.

9 For ^kin Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily *form*.

10 And you are complete in Him, who is the ^hhead of all principality and power.

11 ¶ In Him you were also circumcised with the ^mcircumcision not made with hands, in ⁿthe removal of the body of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ;

12 ^ohaving been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised with *Him* through ^pfaith in the working of God ^qwho 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 us all trespasses,

14 ^rwiping out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us. And *He* took it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.

15 ^sAnd having disarmed ^tprincipalities and powers, He made a public display of them, triumphing over them in it.

16 ¶ Therefore, let no one ^ujudge you in food or in drink, or in respect to a festival, or of a new moon, or of sabbaths,

17 ^vwhich are a shadow of things to come. But the body *is* of Christ.

18 Let no man disqualify you of your reward by delighting in *false* humility and the worship of angels, intruding into those things that he has not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind,

19 and not holding fast to ^wthe head, from whom all the body, being nourished and held together by the joints and ligaments, ^xgrows with the increase of God.

20 ¶ Therefore, if you ^ydied with Christ from the elementary principles of the world, ^zwhy, as if you were living in the world, do you submit yourselves to ordinances?

21 ^a“Do not touch. Do not taste. Do not handle.”

22 All these concern things that perish with the using, ^bafter the commandments and doctrines of men.

23 ^cThese things have indeed a show of wisdom in self-made religion and self-abasement and neglect of the body, *but* not in any value in restraining the indulgence of the flesh.

Chapter 3

Living as a Disciple

1 ¶ If you then were ^araised with Christ, seek those things that are above, ^bwhere Christ is sitting at the right hand of God.

h Ep 2:21 **i** Gl 1:14 **j** Gl 4:3,9,10 **k** Jn 1:14 **l** Ep 1:20,21 **m** Dt 10:16 **n** Rm 6:6; 7:24 **o** Rm 6:4 **p** Ep 1:19,20 **q** At 2:24 **r** Ep 2:15,16 **s** Is 53:12 **t** Ep 6:12 **u** Rm 14:3 **v** Hb 8:5; 10:1 **w** Ep 4:15 **x** Ep 1:23; 4:16 **y** Rm 6:2-5 **z** Gl 4:3,9 **a** 1 Tm 4:3 **b** Ti 1:14 **c** 1 Tm 4:8 **Chapter 3: a** Cl 2:12 **b** Ps 68:18; 110:1; Ep 1:20

2 Set your mind on things above, not on things on the ^eearth.

3 ^dFor you are dead, ^eand your life is hidden with Christ in God.

4 ^fWhen Christ *who is* ^gour life is revealed, then you also will appear with Him in ^hglory.

5 ¶ ⁱTherefore, put to death ^jyour members that are on the earth: ^kfornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, ^lwhich is idolatry.

6 ^mBecause of these things the wrath of God is coming on ⁿthe sons of disobedience.

7 ^oIn these you also once walked when you lived in them.

8 ¶ ^pBut now you also put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy speech 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 ^qis renewed in knowledge ^rafter the image of Him who ^screated him,

11 where there is neither ^tGreek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, bondservant *nor* free. ^uBut Christ *is* all and in all.

12 ¶ Therefore, put on ^vas the elect of God, holy and beloved, ^wa heart of compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering;

13 ^xforbearing one another and forgiving one another. If anyone has a

complaint against any, even as Christ forgave you, so also *should* you.

14 And ^yabove all these things ^zput on love, which is the ^{aa}bond of perfect unity.

15 And let ^{ab}the peace of God rule in your hearts, ^{ac}to which also you are called ^{ad}in one body. And ^{ae}be thankful.

16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another ^{af}in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

17 And ^{ag}whatever you do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

Christ in the Home

18 ¶ ^{ah}Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands, ^{ai}as it is fitting in the Lord.

19 ¶ ^{aj}Husbands, love *your* wives and do not be ^{ak}harsh toward them.

20 ¶ ^{al}Children, obey *your* parents ^{am}in all things, for this is well-pleasing to the Lord.

21 ¶ ^{an}Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.

22 ¶ ^{ao}Bondservants, in all things obey *your* masters according to the flesh, not with eyeservice as menpleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God.

23 And ^{ap}whatever you do, *do it* heartily as to the Lord and not to men,

c Mt 6:19-21 d Rm 6:2 e 2 Co 5:7 f 1 Jn 3:2 g Jn 14:6 h 1 Co 15:43 i Rm 8:13 j Rm 6:13 k Ep 5:3 l Ep 4:19; 5:3,5 m Rm 1:18 n Ep 2:2 o 1 Co 6:11 p Ep 4:22 q Rm 12:2 r Rm 8:29 s Ep 2:10 t Gl 3:27,28 u Ep 1:23 v 1 Pt 1:2 w 1 Jn 3:17 x Mk 11:25 y 1 Pt 4:8 z 1 Co 13 a Ep 4:3 b Jn 14:27 c 1 Co 7:15 d Ep 4:4 e 1 Th 5:18 f Ep 5:19 g 1 Co 10:31 h 1 Pt 3:1 i Ep 5:22 - 6:9 j Ep 5:25 k Ep 4:31 l Ep 6:1 m Ep 5:24 n Ep 6:4 o Ep 6:5 p Ec 9:10

24 ^aknowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance, ^rfor you serve the Lord Christ.

25 But he who does wrong will receive for the wrong what he has done. And ^sthere is no respect of persons.

Chapter 4

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

Christian Conduct

2 ¶ ^bContinue in prayer, keeping alert in it ^cwith thanksgiving.

3 ^dAlso *continue* praying for us so that God may ^eopen to us a door for the word, to speak ^fthe mystery of Christ, ^gfor which I am also in chains, 4 and that I may make it manifest as I ought to speak.

5 ¶ ^hWalk in ⁱwisdom toward those who are outside, ^jmaking the most of every opportunity.

6 Let your speech always *be* ^kwith grace, ^lseasoned with salt, so ^mthat you may know how you ought to answer everyone.

Farewell Greetings

7 ¶ All my affairs, ⁿTychicus, a beloved brother and faithful servant in the Lord, will declare to you.

8 ^oI have sent him to you for the same purpose, so that you may know our circumstances and comfort your hearts,

9 with ^pOnesimus, a faithful and be-

loved brother, who is *one* of you. They will make known to you all things that *are happening* here.

10 ¶ ^qAristarchus, my fellow prisoner, greets you, with ^rMark the cousin of Barnabas. (You have received instructions about him. If he comes to you, receive him.)

11 And Jesus who is called Justus, *also greets you*. These are the only fellow workers for the kingdom of God who are of the circumcision. They have been a comfort to me.

12 ¶ ^sEpaphras, who is *one* of you, a bondservant of Christ, salutes you, always ^tlaboring fervently for you in prayers so that you may stand ^uperfect and complete in all the will of God.

13 For I bear him witness that he has a great zeal for you, and *for* those *who are* in Laodicea and those in Hierapolis.

14 ^vLuke, the beloved physician, and ^wDemas, greet you.

15 Greet the brethren who are in Laodicea, and Nympha and ^xthe church that *is* in her house.

16 ¶ And when ^ythis letter is read among you, see that it is also read in the church of the Laodiceans, and that you likewise read *the letter* from Laodicea.

17 And say to ^zArchippus, “Take heed to ^athe ministry which you have received in the Lord, that you fulfill it.”

18 ¶ I, Paul, ^bwrite this greeting by my own hand. ^cRemember my chains. Grace *be* with you. Amen.

q Ep 6:8 r 1 Co 7:22 s Rm 2:11 Chapter 4: a Ep 6:9 b Lk 18:1 c Cl 2:7 d Ep 6:19 e 1 Co 16:9 f Ep 3:3,4; 6:19 g Ep 6:20 h Ep 5:15 i Mt 10:16 j Ep 5:16 k Ec 10:12 l Mk 9:50 m 1 Pt 3:15 n 2 Tm 4:12 o Ep 6:22 p Pl 10 q At 19:29; 20:4; 27:2 r 2 Tm 4:11 s Pl 23 t Rm 15:30 u Mt 5:48 v 2 Tm 4:11 w 2 Tm 4:10 x Rm 16:5 y 1 Th 5:27 z Pl 2 a 2 Tm 4:5 b 1 Co 16:2 c Hb 13:3