

THE EPISTLE OF PAUL TO THE COLOSSIANS

¹ Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ through the will of God, and Timothy our brother, ² to the saints and faithful brethren in Christ *that are* at Colossae: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

³ We give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, ⁴ having heard of your faith in Christ Jesus, and of your love toward all the saints, ⁵ because of the hope which is laid up for you in the heavens, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel, ⁶ which is come unto you; even as it is also in all the world, and is bearing fruit and increasing, as *it doth* in you also, since the day ye heard and knew the grace of God in truth; ⁷ even as ye also learned of Epaphras our beloved fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf, ⁸ who also declared unto us your love in the Spirit.

⁹ For this cause we also, since the day we heard *it*, do not cease to pray and make request for you, that ye may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, ¹⁰ that ye may walk worthily of the Lord unto all pleasing, bearing fruit in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; ¹¹ strengthened with all power, according

to the might of his glory, unto all patience and long-suffering with joy; ¹² giving thanks unto the Father, who made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light; ¹³ who delivered us out of the power of darkness, and translated us into the kingdom of the Son of his love; ¹⁴ in whom we have our redemption, the forgiveness of our sins: ¹⁵ who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; ¹⁶ for by him were all things created, things in the heavens and things upon the earth, things visible and things invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers; all things have been created through him, and unto 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 might have the preeminence. ¹⁹ For it was the good pleasure *of the Father* that in him should all the fullness dwell; ²⁰ and through him to reconcile all things unto himself, having made peace through the blood of his cross; through him, *I say*, whether things upon the earth, or things in the heavens. ²¹ And you, being in time past alienated and enemies in your mind in your evil works, yet now hath he reconciled ²² in the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and without blemish and unreprouable before him: ²³ if so be that ye continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and not moved away from the hope of the gospel which ye heard, which was preached

in all the creation under heaven; whereof I Paul was made a minister.

²⁴ Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and fill up on my part that which is lacking of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the church; ²⁵ whereof I was made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which was given me to you-ward, to fulfill the word of God, ²⁶ *even* the mystery which hath been hidden for ages and generations: but now hath been manifested to his saints, ²⁷ to whom God was pleased 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: ²⁸ whom we proclaim, admonishing every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus; ²⁹ whereunto I labor also, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily.

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¹ For I would have you know what great conflict I have for you, and for them 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 unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, that they may know the mystery of God, even the Father, and of Christ, ³ in whom are all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge hidden. ⁴ And this I say, lest any man should delude you with persuasiveness of speech. ⁵ For though I am absent in the flesh, yet am I with you in the spirit, joying and beholding

your order, and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ.

⁶ As therefore ye received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, ⁷ rooted and built up in him, and established in your faith, even as ye were taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.

⁸ Take heed lest there shall be anyone that maketh spoil of you through his philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ: ⁹ for in him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily, ¹⁰ and in him ye are made full, who is the head of all principality and power: ¹¹ in whom ye were also circumcised with a circumcision not made with hands, in the putting off of the body of the sins of the flesh, in the circumcision of Christ; ¹² having been buried with him in baptism, wherein ye were also 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, you, *I say*, did he make alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses; ¹⁴ having blotted out the bond written in ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us: and he hath taken it out of the way, nailing it to the cross; ¹⁵ having despoiled the principalities and the powers, he made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

¹⁶ Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of a feast day or a new moon or a sabbath day: ¹⁷ which are a shadow of

the things to come; but the body is Christ's. ¹⁸ Let no man rob you of your prize by a voluntary humility and worshiping of the angels, dwelling in things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind, ¹⁹ and not holding fast the Head, from whom all the body, being supplied and knit together through the joints and bands, increaseth with the increase of God.

²⁰ If ye died with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in the world, do ye subject yourselves to ordinances, ²¹ Handle not, nor taste, nor touch ²² (all which things are to perish with the using), after the precepts and doctrines of men? ²³ Which things have indeed a show of wisdom in will-worship, and humility, and severity to the body; *but are* not of any value against the indulgence of the flesh.

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¹ If then ye were raised together with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated on the right hand of God. ² Set your mind on the things that are above, not on the things that are upon the earth. ³ For ye died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ, *who is* our life, shall be manifested, then shall ye also with him be manifested in glory.

⁵ Put to death therefore your members which are upon the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry; ⁶ for which things' sake cometh the wrath of God upon the sons of disobedience:

⁷ wherein ye also once walked, when ye lived in them; ⁸ but now do ye also put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, railing, shameful speaking out of your mouth: ⁹ lie not one to another; seeing that ye have put off the old man with his doings, ¹⁰ and have put on the new man, that is being renewed unto knowledge after the image of him that created him: ¹¹ where there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, bondman, freeman; but Christ is all, and in all.

¹² Put on therefore, as God's elect, holy and beloved, a heart of mercy, kindness, lowliness, meekness, long-suffering; ¹³ forbearing one another, and forgiving each other, if any man have a complaint against any; even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye: ¹⁴ and above all these things *put on* love, which is the bond of perfectness. ¹⁵ And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also ye were called in one body; and be ye thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; in all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your heart unto the Lord. ¹⁷ And whatsoever ye do, in word or in deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God, even the Father, through him.

¹⁸ Wives, be in subjection to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. ¹⁹ Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them. ²⁰ Children, obey your parents in all things, for

this is well-pleasing in the Lord. ²¹ Fathers, provoke not your children, that they be not discouraged. ²² Servants, obey in all things them that are your masters according to the flesh; not with eye-service, as men-pleasers, but in singleness of heart, fearing God: ²³ and whatsoever ye do, work heartily, as unto the Lord, and not unto men; ²⁴ knowing that from the Lord ye shall receive the recompense of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ. ²⁵ But he that doeth wrong shall receive again for the wrong that he hath done: and there is no respect of persons.

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¹ Masters, render unto your servants that which is just and equal; knowing that ye also have a Master in heaven.

² Continue steadfastly in prayer, watching therein with thanksgiving; ³ withal praying for us also, that God may open unto us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds; ⁴ that I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak. ⁵ Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time. ⁶ Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer each one.

⁷ All my affairs shall Tychicus make known unto you, the beloved brother and faithful minister and fellow servant in the Lord: ⁸ whom I have

sent unto you for this very purpose, that he may know your state, and that he may comfort your hearts; ⁹ together with Onesimus, the faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you. They shall make known unto you all things that *are done* here.

¹⁰ Aristarchus my fellow prisoner saluteth you, and Mark, the cousin of Barnabas (touching whom ye received commandments; if he come unto you, receive him), ¹¹ and Jesus that is called Justus, who are of the circumcision: these only *are my* fellow workers unto the kingdom of God, men that have been a comfort unto me.

¹² Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ, saluteth you, always striving for you in his prayers, that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God. ¹³ For I bear him witness, that he hath much zeal for you, and for them in Laodicea, and for them in Hierapolis. ¹⁴ Luke, the beloved physician, and Demas salute you.

¹⁵ Salute the brethren that are in Laodicea, and Nymphas, and the church that is in his house.

¹⁶ And when this epistle hath been read among you, cause that it be read also in the church of the Laodiceans; and that ye also read the epistle from Laodicea. ¹⁷ And say to Archippus, Take heed to the ministry which thou hast received in the Lord, that thou fulfill it.

¹⁸ The salutation of me Paul with mine own hand. Remember my bonds. Grace be with you. Amen.

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