Colossians

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of
God, and Timothy our brother,
2 to the saints and faithful brothers and sisters
in Christ who are in Colossae: grace to you and
peace from God our Father.
3 We give thanks to God, the Father of our
Lord Jesus Christ, always praying for you,
4 since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus
and the love you have for all the saints,
5 because of the hope reserved for you in the
heavens. You heard of it before in the word of
truth, the gospel
6 that has come to you. Just as it is bearing
fruit and growing throughout the whole world,
so it is among you, from the day you heard and
truly came to know the grace of God.
7 You learned it from Epaphras, our beloved
fellow slave, who is a faithful minister of Christ
on our behalf,
8 and who also made known to us your love in
the Spirit.
9 For this reason, from the day we heard, we
too have not ceased 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,
pleasing him in every way, bearing fruit in
every good work and growing in the knowledge
of God,

11 being strengthened with all power
according to his glorious might, for all
endurance and patience with joy,
12 giving thanks to the Father, who has
qualified you to share in the inheritance of the
saints in the light.
13 He rescued us from the authority of
darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of
his beloved Son,
14 in whom we have redemption, the
forgiveness of sins.
15 He is the image of the invisible God, the
firstborn of all creation,
16 for in him all things were created in the
heavens and on earth, visible and
invisible, whether thrones or dominions
or rulers or authorities.
All things have been created through him
and for him.
17 He is before all things, and in him all things
hold together.
18 He is also the head of the body, the church.
He is the beginning, the firstborn from the
dead, so that he himself may have first
place in everything.
19 For God was pleased to have all the fullness
dwell in him
20 and through him to reconcile all things to
himself, making peace through the blood
of his cross—through him, whether things
on earth or things in the heavens.
21 And you, who once were alienated and
enemies in your mind in your evil works,

22 have now been reconciled in his body of
flesh through death, to present you holy and
blameless and beyond accusation before him,
23 if indeed you continue in the faith,
grounded and steadfast, not shifting away from
the hope of the gospel you heard, which was
proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of
which I, Paul, became a minister.
24 Now I rejoice in my sufferings for you, and
in my flesh I fill up what is lacking in the
afflictions of Christ for the sake of his body,
which is the church.
25 I became its minister according to the
stewardship God gave me for you, to make the
word of God fully known:
26 the mystery hidden for ages and
generations, but now revealed to his saints.
27 To them God wished to make known the
riches of the glory of this mystery among the
Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of
glory.
28 We proclaim him, admonishing everyone
and teaching everyone in all wisdom, so that we
may present everyone mature in Christ.
29 For this I also labor, striving according to his
working, which works powerfully in me.

2

1 For I want you to know how great a struggle
I have for you, for those in Laodicea, and for all
who have not seen my face in the flesh,
2 so that their hearts may be encouraged and
they may be joined together in love, attaining all

the riches of fully assured understanding, to the knowledge of God's mystery, Christ,
3 in whom all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden.
4 I say this so that no one may deceive you with persuasive arguments.
5 For though I am absent in the flesh, I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the firmness of your faith in Christ.
6 Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, walk in him,
7 rooted and being built up in him, and being established in the faith just as you were taught, overflowing with thanksgiving.
8 Take care that no one carries you off as plunder through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elements of the world, and not according to Christ.
9 For in him all the fullness of deity dwells bodily,
10 and you have been filled in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority.
11 In him you were also circumcised with a circumcision not made by human hands, in the stripping off of the body of flesh, in the circumcision of Christ.
12 You were buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead.
13 And you, being dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, he made alive

together with him, forgiving us all our trespasses,
14 erasing the record of debt with its decrees
that was against us and hostile to us. He has
taken it away, nailing it to the cross.
15 Having stripped the rulers and authorities,
he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing
over them by the cross.

16 Therefore let no one judge you in food or
drink or with regard to a festival or a new moon
or Sabbaths.
17 These are a shadow of things to come, but
the substance belongs to Christ.
18 Let no one disqualify you, delighting in
humility and worship of angels, dwelling on
what he has seen, puffed up without cause by
his fleshly mind,
19 and not holding fast to the head, from
whom the whole body, supplied and joined
together through its joints and ligaments, grows
with the growth that comes from God.

20 If you died with Christ to the elements of the
world, why, as though still living in the world,
do you submit to regulations
21 such as “Do not handle, do not taste, do not
touch”
22 —all of which concern things that perish
with use—according to human commandments
and teachings?
23 These indeed have an appearance of
wisdom in worship of their own choosing,
humility, and harsh treatment of the body, but

have no value in restraining indulgence of the flesh.

3

1 Therefore, if you have been raised with
Christ, seek the things above, where Christ is,
seated at the right hand of God.
2 Set your minds on the things above, not on
the things on earth,
3 for you died, and your life is hidden with
Christ in God.
4 When Christ, your life, is revealed, then you
too will be revealed with him in glory.
5 Put to death, therefore, what is earthly in
you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil
desire, and greed, which is idolatry.
6 Because of these things the wrath of God
comes upon the sons of disobedience.
7 You too once walked in these things, when
you lived in them.
8 But now you too must put away all these:
anger, rage, malice, slander, and obscene
language from your mouth.
9 Do not lie to one another, since you have
stripped off the old self with its practices
10 and put on the new, which is being renewed
in knowledge according to the image of its
Creator.
11 Here there is no Greek or Jew, circumcision
or uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, or
free, but Christ is all and in all.
12 Therefore, as God's chosen ones, holy and
beloved, clothe yourselves with deep

compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and
patience,
13 bearing with one another and forgiving one
another if anyone has a complaint against
another. Just as the Lord forgave you, so you
must also do.
14 And above all these put on love, which is the
bond of perfection.
15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,
to which you were also called in one body. And
be thankful.
16 Let the word of Christ dwell richly among
you in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing
one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual
songs, singing to God with gratitude in your
hearts.
17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do
everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving
thanks to God the Father through him.

18 Wives, submit to your 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 everything,
for this is pleasing in the Lord.
21 Fathers, do not provoke your children, so
that they do not lose heart.
22 Slaves, obey your earthly masters in
everything, not only when watched, as people
pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing the
Lord.
23 Whatever you do, work wholeheartedly, as
for the Lord and not for people,

24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive
the inheritance as your reward. You serve the
Lord Christ.
25 For the one who does wrong will receive
back the wrong he has done, and there is no
partiality.

4

1 Masters, give your slaves what is just and
fair, knowing that you too have a Master in
heaven.
2 Persevere in prayer, staying alert in it with
thanksgiving,
3 praying at the same time for us as well, that
God may open for us a door for the word, to
speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also
in chains,
4 so that I may make it known as I ought to
speak.
5 Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making
the most of the time.
6 Let your speech always be gracious,
seasoned with salt, so that you may know how
you ought to answer each person.
7 Tychicus, the beloved brother and faithful
minister and fellow slave in the Lord, will tell
you everything about my situation.
8 I sent him to you for this very purpose, so
that you may know about us and he may
encourage your hearts,
9 together with Onesimus, the faithful and
beloved brother who is one of you. They will tell
you everything happening here.

10 Aristarchus, my fellow prisoner, greets you,
as does Mark, the cousin of Barnabas, about
whom you received instructions: if he comes to
you, welcome him.
11 And Jesus, who is called Justus, greets you.
These are the only ones of the circumcision who
are my fellow workers for the kingdom of God,
and they have been a comfort to me.
12 Epaphras, who is one of you, a slave of
Christ, greets you, always striving for you in his
prayers, so that you may stand mature and fully
assured in all the will of God.
13 For I testify for him that he labors greatly
for you and for those in Laodicea and Hierapolis.
14 Luke, the beloved physician, and Demas
greet you.
15 Greet the brothers and sisters in Laodicea,
and Nympha and the church in her house.
16 When this letter has been read among you,
see that it is also read in the church of the
Laodiceans, and that you too read the letter
from Laodicea.
17 And say to Archippus, “Take care to fulfill
the ministry you received in the Lord.”
18 I, Paul, write this greeting in my own hand.
Remember my chains. Grace be with you.

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