

The Epistle of Paul to the Colossians

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and the brother Timothy, ²to the holy ones and faithful brothers in Christ *who are* at Colossae: Grace to you and peace from God our Father.

³We always give thanks to God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ when we pray for you, ⁴for we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus, and of the love that you have for all the holy ones ⁵because of the hope that is being stored up for you in the heavens. You previously heard about this *hope* in the word of the truth, namely, the Good News, ⁶which has come to you, as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and growing, just as it has also among you from the day you heard *it* and understood the grace of God in truth, ⁷as you learned *it* from Epaphras our beloved fellow-servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf, ⁸who also made known to us your love in spirit.

⁹For this reason, we also from the day we heard *it* do not cease praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding, ¹⁰so that you may walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing *to*

him: bearing fruit in every good work and growing in the clear knowledge of God; ¹¹empowered with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and longsuffering; ¹²giving thanks with joy to the Father, who has qualified you for your part of the allotment of the holy ones in the light, ¹³who rescued us out of the authority of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

¹⁵He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶For in him all things were created in the heavens and on the earth, things visible and things invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers, through him and for him all things have been created, ¹⁷and he is before all things, and in him all things are held together. ¹⁸And he is the head of the body, the congregation, he who is *its* beginning, *the* firstborn out from among the dead, so that he might be preeminent in everything. ¹⁹For in him all the fullness was pleased to dwell, ²⁰and through him to reconcile all things to himself, making peace through the blood of his cross—through him, whether things on the earth, or things in the heavens.

²¹And you, were once alienated and enemies in your mind,

engaged in evil works. ²²But now he has reconciled *you* in the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and without blemish and blameless before him, ²³if so be that you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and not moved away from the hope of the Good News which you heard, which was preached in all creation under heaven, of which I Paul was made a minister.

²⁴Now I rejoice in my sufferings for you, and, I fill up in my flesh that which is lacking of the afflictions of Christ. *I do this* for his body's sake, which is the congregation, ²⁵of which I was made a minister, according to the administration of God which was given to me for you, to fulfill the word of God, ²⁶the sacred secret, which has been hidden for ages and generations, but now has been revealed to his holy ones, ²⁷to whom God was pleased to make known what is the riches of the glory of this sacred secret among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. ²⁸We proclaim him, admonishing every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man mature in Christ. ²⁹To this *end* I also labor, striving according to his working, which works in me mightily.

2 For I want you to know how greatly I exert myself for you, and for them at Laodicea, and for as many as have not seen my face in person, ²so that their hearts may be encouraged (they, having been knit together in love), even to *attaining* all *the* riches of the full assurance of understanding, resulting in the knowledge of the sacred secret of the Christ of God, ³in which are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. ⁴This I say, that no one may delude you with persuasiveness of speech. ⁵For though I am absent in the flesh, yet I am with you in the spirit, rejoicing and beholding your good order, and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ.

⁶Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, walk in him, ⁷rooted and built up in him, and established in your faith even as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

⁸See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the rudiments of the world, and not according to Christ, ⁹for in him dwells all the fullness of the divine nature bodily, ¹⁰and in him you have been made complete—*he* who is the head of all principality and power, ¹¹in whom you were also circumcised with a circumcision not made with hands, by the putting off of the body of the flesh, by the

circumcision of Christ, ¹²having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the working of God, who raised him out from among *the* dead. ¹³And you, being dead through your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, *even* you he made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, ¹⁴having blotted out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us, and he has taken it out the way by having nailed it to the cross. ¹⁵He disarmed the principalities and the authorities, *and* he exposed *them* in public, triumphing over them in it.

¹⁶Therefore, let no man judge you with respect to food or drink, or with respect of a feast day or a new moon or a Sabbath day, ¹⁷which are a shadow of the things to come, but the reality is Christ. ¹⁸Let no one disqualify you for the prize by devoting himself to false humility and *the* worshipping of angels, dwelling on those *visions* that he has seen, puffed up without reason by his fleshly mind, ¹⁹and not holding fast to the Head, from whom the entire body, being supplied and held together through the joints and ligaments, grow with a growth that is from God.

²⁰Since you died with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in the world, are you being pestered by

ordinances, ²¹(“Do not handle, nor taste, nor touch,” ²²all which things are to perish with the using), after the commandments and doctrines of men? ²³These have indeed an appearance of wisdom in promoting self-imposed piety, and humility, and severe treatment of the body, *but are* not of any value against fleshly indulgence.

3 Since, then, you were raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is seated on the right hand of God. ²Set your mind on the things that are above, not on the things that are on the earth, ³for you died, and your life has been hidden with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ—our life—appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

⁵Therefore, put to death whatever in you is earthly: sexual immorality, uncleanness, lust, evil desire, and *especially* covetousness (which is idolatry). ⁶Because of these, the wrath of God is coming [upon the sons of disobedience]. ⁷In these you also once walked when you were living in them, ⁸but now put away—even you—all these things: anger, wrath, malice, slander, shameful speaking out of your mouth. ⁹Do not lie to one to another, seeing that you have put off the old man with his practices, ¹⁰and have put on the new *man* who is being renewed to a *true* knowledge—

according to the image of the one who created him. ¹¹In this renewal there is not “Greek and Jew,” “circumcision and uncircumcision,” “uncivilized,” “Scythian *savages*,” “slave,” “freeman;” but everything, and in all things—Christ!

¹²Therefore, as God’s holy and beloved chosen *ones*, clothe yourselves with bowels of compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; ¹³bearing with one another and forgiving each other. If any man has a complaint against any, even as the Lord forgave you, so also you *must forgive*. ¹⁴And above all these things *put on* love, which is the perfect bond. ¹⁵And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful! ¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another with all wisdom, with psalms, hymns, *and* spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷And whatever you do, in word or in deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

¹⁸Wives, be in subjection to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. ¹⁹Husbands, love your wives, and do not be bitter against them.

²⁰Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well-pleasing in the Lord. ²¹Fathers, do not provoke your children, so that they are not

discouraged. ²²Servants, obey in all things those who are your masters according to the flesh, not only to win their approval when their eye is on you, but in singleness of heart, fearing the Lord. ²³Whatever you do, work heartily, as to the Lord, and not to men, ²⁴knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward, namely, the inheritance. You are serving the Lord Christ. ²⁵For he who does wrong will be paid back for what he did wrong, and there is no respect of persons.

4 Masters, render to your slaves that which is right and fair, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.

²Continue steadfastly in prayer, staying alert in it with thanksgiving, ³at the same time praying for us also, that God may open to us a door for the word, to speak the sacred secret of Christ (because of which I am even imprisoned) ⁴that I may make it clear, as I ought to speak.

⁵Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, making the best use of the time. ⁶Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, in order that you may know how you ought to answer each one.

⁷All the things about me, Tychicus, the beloved brother and faithful minister and fellow-servant in the Lord, will make known to

you, ⁸whom I have sent to you for this very purpose, that you may know our state, and that he may encourage your hearts, ⁹together with Onesimus, the faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you. They will make known to you all the things *happening* here.

¹⁰Aristarchus, my fellow-prisoner, greets you, and Mark, the cousin of Barnabas (concerning whom you received commandments. If he comes to you, receive him), ¹¹and Jesus, who is called Justus, who are of the circumcision, these only *are my* fellow-workers for the kingdom of God, men who have been a comfort to me.

¹²Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ Jesus, greets you, always striving for you in his prayers, that you may stand mature and fully assured in all the will of God. ¹³For I testify for him, that he has deep concern for you, and for those in Laodicea, and for those in Hierapolis.

¹⁴Luke, the beloved physician, and Demas greet you.

¹⁵Greet the brothers who are in Laodicea, and Nymphas, and the congregation that is in their house.

¹⁶And when this letter has been read among you, have it also read among the congregation of the Laodiceans, and that you also read the letter from Laodicea. ¹⁷And say to Archippus, “See that you complete the service that you have received in the Lord.”

¹⁸The salutation of Paul, *written* with my own hand. Remember my bonds. Grace be with you.

