

Colossians 1

1 Paul, an **apostle** of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and **Timothy** our brother,
2 To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ who are at **Colossae**: Grace to you and peace from God our Father.
3 We **give** thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you,
4 since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and the love which you have for all the saints;
5 because of the hope laid up for you in heaven, of which you **previously** heard in the word of truth, the gospel
6 which has come to you, just as in all the world also it is **constantly** bearing fruit and increasing, even as it has been **doing** in you also since the day you heard of it and **understood** the grace of God in truth;
7 just as you **learned** it from Epaphras, our beloved fellow bond-servant, who is a faithful servant of Christ on our behalf,
8 and he also **informed** us of your love in the Spirit.
9 For this **reason** also, since the day we heard of it, we have not **ceased** to **pray** for you and to **ask** that you may be **filled** with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,
10 so that you will walk in a **manner worthy** of the Lord, to please Him in all **respects**, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;
11 **strengthened** with all power, according to His **glorious** might, for the attaining of all **steadfastness** and patience; **joyously**
12 giving thanks to the Father, who has **qualified** us to share in the inheritance of the saints in **Light**.
13 For He **rescued** us from the **domain** of **darkness**, and **transferred** us to 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 by Him all things were created, **both** 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 head of the body, the church; and He is the **beginning**, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have **first place** in **everything**.
19 For it was the **Father's** good **pleasure** for all the fullness to dwell in Him,
20 and through Him to **reconcile** all things to Himself, having made peace through the **blood** of His cross; through Him, I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven.
21 And **although** you were **formerly alienated** and hostile in mind, **engaged** in evil **deeds**,
22 **yet** He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through **death**, in order to present you before Him holy and **blameless** and beyond **reproach**—
23 if indeed you **continue** in the faith firmly established and **steadfast**, and not **moved away** from the hope of the gospel that you have heard, which was **proclaimed** in all creation **under** heaven, and of which I, Paul, was made a minister.
24 Now I **rejoice** in my **sufferings** for your **sake**, and in my flesh I do my share on behalf of His body, which is the church, in **filling** up what is **lacking** in **Christ's** afflictions.
25 Of this church I was made a minister according to the **stewardship** from God **bestowed** on me for your **benefit**, so that I might fully **carry out** the **preaching** of the word of God,
26 that is, the mystery which has been hidden from the **past ages** and **generations**, but has now been **manifested** 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.
28 We **proclaim** Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man **complete** in Christ.
29 For this purpose also I **labor**, **striving** according to His power, which **mightily works** within me.

Colossians 2

1 For I **want** you to know how **great** a **struggle** I have on your behalf and for those who are at Laodicea, and for all those who have not **personally** seen my face,
2 that **their** hearts may be **encouraged**, having been **knit** together in love, and attaining to all the **wealth** that comes from the **full assurance** of understanding, **resulting** in a true knowledge of **God's** mystery, that is, Christ Himself,
3 in whom are hidden all the **treasures** of wisdom and knowledge.
4 I say this so that no one will **delude** you with **persuasive argument**.
5 For even though I am **absent** in body, **nevertheless** I am with you in spirit, **rejoicing** to see your good **discipline** and the **stability** of your faith in Christ.
6 Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him,
7 having been firmly **rooted** and now being **built up** in Him and established in your faith, just as you were **instructed**, and **overflowing** with **gratitude**.
8 See to it that no one **takes** you **captive** through **philosophy** and **empty deception**, according to the **tradition** of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ.
9 For in Him all the fullness of **Deity dwells** in **bodily form**,
10 and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and **authority**;
11 and in Him you were also circumcised with a circumcision made without **hands**, in the **removal** of the body of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ;
12 having been **buried** with Him in **baptism**, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the **working** of God, who raised Him from the dead.
13 When you were dead in your transgressions and the **uncircumcision** of your flesh, He made you **alive** together with Him, having **forgiven** us all our transgressions,

14 having **canceled out** the **certificate of debt** consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has **taken** it out of the way, having **nailed** it to the cross.
15 When He **had disarmed** the rulers and authorities, He made a **public display** of them, having **triumphed** over them through Him.
16 Therefore no one is to act as your **judge** in **regard** to **food** or **drink** or in **respect** to a **festival** or a new **moon** or a **Sabbath** day—
17 things which are a **mere shadow** of what is to come; but the **substance** belongs to Christ.
18 Let no one keep **defrauding** you of your **prize** by **delighting** in self-abasement and the **worship** of the **angels**, **taking** his stand on **visions** he has seen, **inflated** without **cause** by his fleshly mind,
19 and not **holding fast** to the head, from whom the **entire body**, being **supplied** and held together by the **joints** and **ligaments**, **grows** with a growth which is from God.
20 If you have died with Christ to the elementary principles of the world, **why**, as if you were living in the world, do you **submit yourself** to decrees, **such as**,
21 "Do not handle, do not **taste**, do not **touch**!"
22 (which all **refer** to things destined to **perish** with **use**)—in **accordance** with the **commandments** and **teachings** of men?
23 These are matters which have, to be **sure**, the appearance of wisdom in **self-made religion** and self-abasement and **severe** treatment of the body, but are of no **value** against fleshly indulgence.