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Colossians

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Colossians

Chapter 1

¹Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus through the will of God, and Timothy {our} brother, ²to the saints and faithful brothers in Christ in Colossae. Grace to you, and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.^[1]

³We give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, always praying for you, ⁴having heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and the love that you have for all the saints, ⁵because of the hope that is being reserved for you in the heavens, which you heard before in the word of truth, the gospel, ⁶which being present among you just as also in all the world, is bearing fruit and growing, just as also in you, from the day you heard it and learned about the grace of God in truth, ⁷just as you learned it from Epaphras, our beloved fellow servant, who is a faithful servant of Christ on our behalf,^[2] ⁸and he has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

⁹Because of this, from the day we heard this, we also have not stopped praying for you and asking that you might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding, ¹⁰to walk worthily of the Lord in every pleasing way, bearing fruit in every good deed and growing in the knowledge of God, ¹¹being strengthened with all power according to the power of his glory to all endurance and patience with joy, ¹²giving thanks to the Father, who has made you able to share the inheritance of the saints in the light.^[3] ¹³He rescued us from the authority of the darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.^[4] 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, the visible and the invisible. Whether thrones or dominions or governments or authorities, all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from among the dead, so that he himself might become first among all things. ¹⁹For in him all the fullness was pleased to dwell, ²⁰and to reconcile through him all things to himself, having made peace through the blood of his cross, through him, whether the things on the earth or the things in the heavens. ²¹At one time you also were alienated and enemies in thought, in evil deeds. ²²But now you have been reconciled by the body of his flesh through death to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, ²³if indeed you continue in the faith, founded and firm and not being moved from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which was proclaimed to every creature that {is} under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a servant.

²⁴Now I rejoice in {my} sufferings for you, and I fill up in my flesh the lack of the afflictions of Christ for the sake of his body, which is the church, ²⁵of which I became a servant according to the stewardship of God that was given to me for you, to fulfill the word of God, ²⁶the mystery that has been hidden from the ages and from the generations, but now has been revealed to his saints, ²⁷to whom God desired 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. ²⁸We proclaim him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom so that we may present every man complete in Christ. ²⁹For this also I labor, striving according to his working that is working in me in power.

1:2 ^[1]

1:7 ^[2]

1:12 ^[3]

1:14 ^[4]

Chapter 2

¹For I want you to know how great a struggle I have for you and those at Laodicea and as many as have not seen my face in the flesh ²so that their hearts might be encouraged, having been brought together in love and into all the riches of the full assurance of understanding, into knowledge of the mystery of God, Christ, ³in whom all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden. ⁴I say this so that no one might deceive you with persuasive speech. ⁵For even if I am absent in the flesh, yet I am with you in the spirit, rejoicing and seeing your good order and the strength of your faith in Christ.

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

⁸Beware lest someone will be the one who takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the elemental teaching of the world, and not according to Christ. ⁹For in him all the fullness of deity dwells in bodily form, ¹⁰and you are filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority, ¹¹in whom you were also circumcised with a circumcision made without hands in the removal of the body of flesh in the circumcision of Christ, ¹²having been buried with him in baptism and in whom you were raised up through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. ¹³And you, being dead in the trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, he made you alive together with him, having forgiven us all of {our} trespasses,^[1] ¹⁴having canceled the written record of the decrees against us, which were opposed to us, and he has taken it out from {our} midst, having nailed it to the cross. ¹⁵Having stripped the rulers and the authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, having triumphed over them in the cross.

¹⁶Therefore, do not let anyone judge you in food or in drink or in regard to a festival or a new moon or Sabbaths, ¹⁷which are a shadow of the things coming, but the body {is} of Christ. ¹⁸Let no one delighting in false humility and worship of the angels deprive you of your prize, standing on things he has seen, becoming puffed up without cause by the mind of his flesh ¹⁹and not holding fast to the head, from which the whole body, being supplied and held together through the joints and ligaments, grows with the growth from God.

²⁰If you died with Christ from the elemental principles of the world, why, as living in the world, are you being subjected to its decrees: ²¹"You may not handle, nor taste, nor touch!" ²²which are all for destruction with the use, according to the commands and teachings of men; ²³which, having indeed a word of wisdom in self-made religion and false humility {and} severity of the body, are not of any value against the indulgence of the flesh.

2:13 ^[1]

Chapter 3

¹If, therefore, you were raised with Christ, seek the things above, where Christ is sitting at the right hand of God. ²Think about the things above, not the things on the earth. ³For you died, and your life has been hidden with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ, your life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.^[1]

⁵Put to death, therefore, the members that {are} on the earth—sexual immorality, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and envy, which is idolatry, ⁶because of which the wrath of God is coming,^[2] ⁷in which you also formerly walked when you were living in them. ⁸But now you must also lay aside all such things—wrath, anger, evil desire, slander, {and} obscene speech from your mouth. ⁹Do not lie to one another, having taken off the old man with its practices ¹⁰and having put on the new man who is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of the one who created it; ¹¹where there is no Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, freeman, but Christ {is} all, and in all.

¹²Therefore, as chosen ones of God, holy and beloved, put on inner parts of mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, {and} patience, ¹³bearing with one another and being gracious to each other if someone may have a complaint against someone else; just as also the Lord forgave you, so also should you. ¹⁴But above all these things, love, which is the bond of perfection. ¹⁵And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body, and become thankful. ¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, in all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms, hymns, {and} spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷And everything, whatever you might 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 subjected to {your} husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. ¹⁹Husbands, love {your} wives, and do not be embittered against them. ²⁰Children, obey {your} parents in all things, for this is pleasing in the Lord. ²¹Fathers, do not provoke your children, so that they may not be discouraged. ²²Slaves, obey {your} masters according to the flesh in all things, not with eyeservice as people pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord. ²³Whatever you might do, work from the soul as to the Lord and not to men, ²⁴knowing that you will receive from the Lord the reward of the inheritance. You are serving the Lord Christ. ²⁵For the one doing unrighteousness will receive what he did unrighteously, and there is no favoritism.

3:4 ^[1]

3:6 ^[2]

Chapter 4

¹Masters, give to {your} slaves what {is} right and fair, knowing that you also have a master in heaven.

²Continue steadfastly in prayer, staying alert in it in thanksgiving, ³praying together for us also so that God may open a door to us for the word to speak the mystery of Christ, on account of which also I have been bound, ⁴in order that I may make it clear, as I ought to speak. ⁵Walk in wisdom toward those outside, redeeming the time, ⁶your words always with grace, seasoned with salt, to know how it is necessary for you to answer each one.

⁷All the things concerning me, Tychicus will make known to you, the beloved brother and faithful servant and fellow slave in the Lord, ⁸whom I sent to you for this very {reason}, so that you might know the things concerning us and that he might encourage your hearts.^[1] ⁹Together with Onesimus, the faithful and beloved brother who is from among you, they will make known to you all the things here.

¹⁰Aristarchus, my fellow prisoner, greets you, and Mark, the cousin of Barnabas (about whom you received orders; if he may come to you, receive him), ¹¹and Jesus who is called Justus. These are the only fellow workers for the kingdom of God being from the circumcision, who have been a comfort to me. ¹²Epaphras greets you. He {is} from among you, a servant of Christ Jesus, always striving on behalf of you in prayers so that you may stand complete and fully assured in all the will of God. ¹³For I testify for him that he has much hard labor on behalf of you and of those in Laodicea and of those in Hierapolis. ¹⁴Luke, the beloved physician, greets you, and also Demas. ¹⁵Greet the brothers in Laodicea, and Nympha, and the church in her house. ¹⁶And when this letter has been read among you, make sure that it would be read also in the church of Laodicea and that you also would read the one from Laodicea. ¹⁷And say to Archippus, "Look to the ministry that you have received in the Lord so that you may fulfill it."

¹⁸This greeting {is} by my {own} hand—Paul. Remember my chains. Grace {be} with you.

4:8 ^[1]

Contributors

unfoldingWord® Literal Text Contributors

Nicholas Alsop
Scott Bayer
Larry T Brooks, M.Div., Assemblies of God Theological Seminary
Matt Carlton
George "Drew" Curley, M.Div., PhD, Professor of Biblical Languages
Dan Dennison
Jamie Duguid
Paul M Fahnestock, M.Div. Reformed Theological Seminary, D.Min. Pittsburgh Theological Seminary
Michael Francis
Laura Glassel, MA in Bible Translation
Jesse Griffin, BA Biblical Studies, MA Biblical Languages
Jesse Harris
C. Harry Harriss, M.Div.
Alrick G. Headley, M.Div., Th.M.
Bram van den Heuvel, M.A.
John Huffman
D. Allen Hutchison, MA in Old Testament, MA in New Testament
Jack Messarra
Gene Mullen
Adam W. Nagelvoort, M.Div. Academic Ministries, Columbia International University
Timothy Neu, Ph.D. Biblical Studies
Kristy Nickell
Tom Nickell
Elizabeth Oakes, BA in Religious Studies, Linguistics
Perry Oakes, PhD in Old Testament, MA in Linguistics
James N. Pohlig, M.Div., MA in Linguistics, D. Litt. in Biblical Languages
Ward Pyles, M.Div., Western Baptist Theological Seminary
Susan Quigley, MA in Linguistics
Dean Ropp
Joel D. Ruark, M.A.Th., Th.M., Ph.D. in Old Testament, University of Stellenbosch
Larry Sallee, Th.M Dallas Theological Seminary, D.Min. Columbia Biblical Seminary
Peter Smircich, BA Philosophy
Doug Smith, M.T.S., M.Div., Th.M., Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary
Leonard Smith
Suzanna Smith
Tim Span
Dave Statezni, BA Orig langs., M.Div. Fuller Theological Seminary
Maria Tijerina
David Trombold, M. Div.
Aaron Valdizan, M.Div., Th.M. in Old Testament, The Masters Seminary
James Vigen
Hendrik "Henry" de Vries
Thomas Warren, M.Div., Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, D.Min, Reformed Theological Seminary
Angela Westmoreland, M.A. in Theological Studies (Biblical Language track)
Henry Whitney, BA Linguistics
Benjamin Wright, MA Applied Linguistics, Dallas International University
Grant Ailie, BA Biblical Studies, M.Div.

