

unfoldingWord® Literal Text

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Colossians

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Colossians

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

[3] We give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus
Christ, always praying for you, [4] having heard of your faith
in Christ Jesus and the love that you have for all the saints,
[5] because of the hope that is being reserved for you in the
heavens, which you heard before in the word of truth, the
gospel, [6] which 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, [7] just as you learned *it* from Epaphras, our
beloved fellow servant, who is a faithful servant of Christ
on our behalf,[b] [8] and the one having made known to us your
love in the Spirit.

[9] Because 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, [10] to walk worthily of the Lord in
every pleasing *way*, bearing fruit in every good deed and
growing in the knowledge of God, [11] being strengthened with
all power according to the power of his glory to all endurance
and patience with joy, [12] giving thanks to the Father, the one
having made you able to share the inheritance of the saints in
the light. [c13] He rescued us from the authority of the darkness
and transferred *us* to the kingdom of his beloved Son, [14] in
whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. [d15] 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 the earth, the visible and the invisible. Whether thrones
or dominions or governments or authorities, all things have
been created though him and for him. [17] And he is before
all things, and in him all things hold together. [18] And 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. [19] For in him all the fullness
was pleased to dwell, [20] and 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. [21] At one time you also were alienated
and enemies in thought, in evil deeds. [22] But now you have
been reconciled by the body of his flesh through death to
present you holy and blameless and above reproach before
him, [23] if indeed you continue in the faith, founded and firm
and not being moved from the hope of the gospel that you
heard, the one having been proclaimed to every creature
that is under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a servant.

[24] Now 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, [25] of which I became a
servant according to the stewardship of God, the one having
been given to me for you, to fulfill the word of God, [26] the
mystery that had been hidden from the ages and from the
generations, but now having been revealed to his saints, [27] to
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. [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 also
I labor, striving according to his working, the one working
in me in power.

2 For I want you to know how great a struggle I have
for you and the ones at Laodicea and as many as have
not seen my face in the flesh [2] so 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, [3] in whom all the
treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden. [4] I say this
so that no one might deceive you with persuasive speech.
[5] For 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.

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

[8] Beware lest someone will be the one taking 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. [9] For in him all the
fullness of deity dwells in bodily form, [10] and you are filled
in him, who is the head of all rule and authority, [11] in whom
you were also circumcised with a circumcision made without
hands in the removal of the body of flesh in the circumcision
of Christ, [12] having been buried with him in baptism and in
whom you were raised up through faith in the power of God,
the one having raised him from the dead. [13] And 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, [e14] having 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;
[15] having stripped the rulers and the authorities, he made a
public spectacle of *them*, having triumphed over them in it.

[16] Therefore, do not let anyone judge you in food or in
drink or in regard to a festival or a new moon or Sabbaths,
[17] which are a shadow of the things coming, but the body
is of Christ. [18] Let 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 [19] and 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.

[20] If 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!" [22] which are all for destruction with the use,
according to the commands and teachings of men; [23] which,
having indeed a word of wisdom in self-made religion and

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[a] Some early copies leave out *and the Lord Jesus Christ.* [b] Some versions read, *on your behalf.* [c] Some versions read, *the one having made us able to have a share.* [d] Some versions read, *in whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins.* [e] Some older versions read, *having forgiven you all of your trespasses.*

false humility *and* severity of the body, are not of any value against indulgence of the flesh.

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

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

[12] Therefore, as chosen ones of God, holy and beloved, put on inner parts of mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, *and* patience, [13] bearing 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. [14] But above all these things, love, which is the bond of perfection. [15] And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body, and become thankful. [16] Let 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. [17] And 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.

[18] Wives, be subjected to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. [19] Husbands, love your wives, and do not be embittered against them. [20] Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is pleasing in the Lord. [21] Fathers, do not provoke your children, so that they may not be discouraged. [22] Slaves, obey your masters according to the flesh in all things, not with eyeservice as people pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord. [23] Whatever you might do, work from the soul as to the Lord and not to men, [24] knowing that you will receive from the Lord the reward of the inheritance. You are serving the Lord Christ. [25] For the one doing unrighteousness will receive what he did unrighteously, and there is no favoritism.

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

[2] Continue steadfastly in prayer, staying alert in it in thanksgiving, [3] praying 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, [4] in order that I may make it clear, as I ought to speak. [5] Walk in wisdom toward the ones outside, redeeming the time, [6] your words always with grace, seasoned with salt, to know how it is necessary for you to answer each one.

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

[10] Aristarchus, my fellow prisoner, greets you, and Mark, the cousin of Barnabas (about whom you received orders; if he may come to you, receive him), [11] and Jesus, the one called Justus. These *are* the only fellow workers for the kingdom of God being from the circumcision, who were a comfort to me. [12] Epaphras 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. [13] For I testify for him that he has much hard labor on behalf of you and of the ones in Laodicea and of the ones in Hierapolis. [14] Luke, the beloved physician, greets you, and also Demas. [15] Greet the brothers in Laodicea, and Nympha, and the church in her house. [16] And 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. [17] And say to Archippus, “Look to the ministry that you have received in the Lord so that you may fulfill it.”

[18] This greeting *is* by my *own* hand—Paul. Remember my chains. Grace *be* with you.

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[a] Some versions read, *our life,*

[b] Some ancient copies add *on the sons of disobedience.*

[c] Some older versions read, *so that he might know the things concerning you*