

unfoldingWord® Literal Text

v92

Colossians

Copyright & Licensing

unfoldingWord® Literal Text

Copyright © 2026 by unfoldingWord

This work is made available under the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International License. To view a copy of this license, visit https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/ or send a letter to Creative Commons, PO Box 1866, Mountain View, CA 94042, USA.

unfoldingWord® is a registered trademark of unfoldingWord. Use of the unfoldingWord name or logo requires the written permission of unfoldingWord. Under the terms of the CC BY-SA license, you may copy and redistribute this unmodified work as long as you keep the unfoldingWord® trademark intact. If you modify a copy or translate this work, thereby creating a derivative work, you must remove the unfoldingWord® trademark.

On the derivative work, you must indicate what changes you have made and attribute the work as follows: “The original work by unfoldingWord is available from unfoldingword.org/ult”. You must also make your derivative work available under the same license (CC BY-SA).

If you would like to notify unfoldingWord regarding your translation of this work, please contact us at unfoldingword.org/contact/.

The unfoldingWord® Literal Text is based on *The American Standard Version*, which is in the public domain.

Table of Contents

Colossians 1
Chapter 1 1
Chapter 2 1
Chapter 3 2
Chapter 4 2

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!"

---

[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.*

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 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.

---

[a] Some versions read, *our life,* *things* *concerning you*

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

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