

The Book of Colossians - Chapters 1 through 4.

1. Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timotheus our brother, **2.** To the saints and **faithful brethren in Christ** which are at Colosse: **Grace be unto you**, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. **3.** We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you,

4. Since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus, and of the love which you have to all the saints,

5. For the **hope** which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof you heard before in the **word of the truth** of the gospel; **6.** Which is come unto you, as it is in all the world; **and brings forth fruit**, as it does also in you, since the day you heard of it, and knew the **grace of God in truth**: **7.** As you also learned of **Epaphras** our dear fellow servant, who is for you a faithful minister of Christ; **8.** Who also declared unto us your **love in the Spirit**.

9. For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not **cease to pray for you**, and to desire that you might be **filled with the knowledge of His will** in all wisdom and **spiritual understanding**;

10. That you might **walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing**, being **fruitful** in every good work, and **increasing in the knowledge of God**; **11. Strengthened** with all might, **according to His** glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness; **12.** Giving **thanks** unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the **inheritance of the saints in light**:

13. Who hath *delivered* us from the power of darkness and has *translated* us into the kingdom of His dear Son:

14. In whom we have redemption through His blood, even the forgiveness of sins:

15. Who is the **image of the invisible God**, the **firstborn** of every creature:

16. For by **Him** were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: **all things were created by Him, and for Him**:

17. And He is before all things, and by Him all things consist.

18. And **He** is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the **firstborn** from the dead; that in all things **He** might have the preeminence.

19. For it pleased the Father that in Him should all fulness dwell; (Col 2:9)

20. And, **having made peace through the Blood of His cross**, by **Him** to reconcile all things unto **Himself**; by **Him**, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.

21. And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, **you now hath He reconciled**. **22. In the body of His flesh through death**, to present you holy and unblameable and unreprouable in **His sight**:

23. If you continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the **hope of the gospel**, which you have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;

24. Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the church: **25.** Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God;

26. Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to His saints: **27. To whom God would 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. Whom we preach, **warning every man**, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man **perfect in Christ Jesus**: **29.** Whereunto I also labour, striving according to His working, which worketh in me mightily.

Chapter 2

1. For I would that you knew what great conflict I have for you, and for them at **Laodicea**, and for as many as have not seen my face in the flesh;
2. That their hearts might be comforted, being **knit together in love**, and unto all riches of the **full assurance of understanding**, to the **acknowledgement** of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ;
3. **In whom** (Jesus) are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.
4. **And this I say, lest any man should beguile you with enticing words.**
5. For though I be absent in the flesh, you are with me in the spirit, joying and beholding your order, and the **steadfastness** of your **faith in Christ**.
6. **As you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk you in Him:**
7. **Rooted and built up** in Him, and **stablished in the faith**, as you have been taught, abounding therein with **thanksgiving**.
8. **Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.**
9. **For in Him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. (Col 1:19)**
10. **And you are complete in Him, which is the head of all principality and power:**
11. In whom also you are **circumcised with the circumcision** made without hands, **in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh** by the circumcision of Christ:
12. **Buried with Him in baptism**, wherein also you are risen with Him **through the faith** of the operation of God, who hath raised Him from the dead.
13. And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, **hath He quickened together** with Him, having forgiven you **all** trespasses;
14. **Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to His cross;**
15. **And having spoiled principalities and powers, He made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.**
16. **Let no man therefore judge you** in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days:
17. Which are a shadow of things to come; but the **body is of Christ**.
18. **Let no man beguile you of your reward** in a voluntary humility and *worshipping of angels*, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind,
19. And not holding the Head, from which all the body by joints and bands having nourishment ministered, and knit together, increases with the increase of God.
20. **Wherefore if you be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world**, why, as though living in the world, are you subject to ordinances,
21. (Touch not; taste not; handle not;
22. Which all are to perish with the using;) **after the commandments and doctrines of men?**
23. Which things have indeed a shew of wisdom in will worship, and humility, and neglecting of the body; not in any honour to the satisfying of the flesh.

Chapter 3

1. If you then be risen with Christ, **seek those things which are above**, where **Christ sits** on the right hand of God.
2. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.
3. For you are **dead**, and your life is hid with Christ in God.
4. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, **then shall you also appear with Him in glory**.
5. **Mortify** therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:
6. For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience:
7. In the which you also walked some time, when you lived in them.
8. **But now** you also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth.
9. Lie not one to another, seeing that you have **put off** the old man with his deeds;
10. And have **put on** the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of Him that created Him:
11. Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: **but Christ is all, and in all**.
12. Put on therefore, **as the elect of God**, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;
13. Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do you.
14. **And above all** these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.
15. **And let** the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also you are called in **one body**; and be you thankful.
16. **Let the** Word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.
17. And whatsoever you do in word or deed, **do all in the name of the Lord Jesus**, giving thanks to God and the Father by Him.
18. **Wives**, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord.
19. **Husbands**, love your wives, and be not bitter against them.
20. **Children**, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord.
21. **Fathers**, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged.
22. **Servants**, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as men pleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God;
23. And whatsoever you do, do it heartily, **as to the Lord**, and not unto men;
24. Knowing that of the Lord you shall receive the reward of the inheritance: **for you serve** the Lord Christ.
25. But he that does wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: **and there is no respect of persons**.

Chapter 4.

1. **Masters**, give unto your servants that which is just and equal; knowing that ye also have a Master in heaven.
2. **Continue in prayer, and watch** in the same with thanksgiving;
3. **Withal praying also for us**, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds:
4. That I may **make it manifest**, as I ought to speak.
5. **Walk in wisdom** toward them that are without, redeeming the time.
6. **Let your speech** be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer every man.
7. All my state shall **Tychicus** declare unto you, who is a beloved brother, and a faithful minister and fellowservant in the Lord:
8. Whom I have sent unto you for the same purpose, that he might know your estate, and comfort your hearts;
9. With **Onesimus**, a faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you. They shall make known unto you all things which are done here.
10. **Aristarchus** my fellow prisoner salutes you, and Marcus, sister's son to Barnabas, (touching whom ye received commandments: if he come unto you, receive him;)
11. And Jesus, which is called **Justus**, who are of the circumcision. These only are my fellow workers unto the kingdom of God, which have been a comfort unto me.
12. **Epaphras, who is one of you**, a servant of Christ, salutes you, always labouring fervently for you in prayers, that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.
13. For I bear him record, that he hath a great zeal for you, and them that are in Laodicea, and them in Hierapolis.
14. **Luke, the beloved physician**, and Demas, greet you.
15. Salute the **brethren which are in Laodicea**, and **Nymphas**, and the church which is **in his house**.
16. And when this epistle **is read among you, cause that it be read also** in the church of the Laodiceans; and that you likewise read the epistle from Laodicea.
17. And say to **Archippus**, take heed to the ministry which you have received in the Lord, that you fulfil it.
18. The salutation by the hand of me Paul. Remember my bonds. **Grace be with you**. Amen.