

The Epistle of Paul to the Colossians

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus through *the* will of God, and Timothy ¹*our* brother, ²to the saints and faithful brethren in Christ *that are* at Colossae: Grace to you and peace from God our Father³.

³ We give thanks to ⁴God *the* Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, ⁴having heard of your faith in Christ Jesus, and of the love which ye have toward all the saints, ⁵because of the hope which is laid up for you in the heavens, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the ⁵gospel, ⁶□which is come unto you; even as it is also in all the world bearing fruit and increasing, as *it doth* in you also, since the day ye heard and knew the grace of God in truth; ⁷□even as ye learned of Epaphras our beloved fellow-servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on ⁶your behalf, ⁸who 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 and make request for you, that ye may be filled *with* the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, ¹⁰to walk worthily of the Lord ⁷unto all pleasing, bearing fruit in every good work, and increasing ⁸in the knowledge of God; ¹¹□strengthened ¹⁰with all power, according to the might of his glory, unto all ¹¹patience and longsuffering with joy; ¹²giving thanks unto the Father, who made ¹²you meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light; ¹³who delivered us out of the ¹³power

of darkness, and ¹⁴removed *us* into the kingdom of the Son of his love; ¹⁴in whom we have our redemption, the forgiveness of *our* sins: ¹⁵who is an image of the invisible God, a firstborn of all creation; ¹⁶for in him were all things created, in the heavens and upon the earth, things visible and things invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers; all things have been created through him, and unto him; ¹⁷□and he is before all things, and in him all things ¹⁵consist. ¹⁸And he is the head of the body, the church: who is *the* beginning, a firstborn from the dead; ¹⁶that in all things he might have the preeminence. ¹⁹¹⁷For *it was the* good pleasure of *the* Father that in him should all the fullness dwell; ²⁰and through him to reconcile all things ¹⁸unto ¹⁹*himself*, having made peace through the blood of his cross; ²⁰through him, *I say*, whether things upon the earth, or things in the heavens. ²¹□And you, being in time past alienated and enemies in *your* mind ²¹in *your* evil works, ²²yet now ²²hath he reconciled in the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and without blemish and unprovable before him: ²³if so be that ye continue in the faith, grounded and stedfast, and not moved away from the hope of the gospel which ye heard, which was preached in all creation under heaven; whereof I Paul became a minister.

²⁴Now I rejoice in *my* sufferings for your sake, and fill up on my part that which is lacking of the afflictions of ²³Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the church; ²⁵whereof I became a minister, according to the ²⁴stewardship of God which was given me towards you, to fulfil the word of God, ²⁶*even* the mystery which hath been hid ²⁵for ages and generations: but now hath it been manifested to his saints, ²⁷□to whom

¹ *Gk.* the brother,

² *Or,* to those *that are* at Colossae, holy and faithful brethren in Christ:

³ *So* B 1739 33 81 1175 cop^{sa} vg. *SCAI and a majority of lesser Gk. mss., (cop^{bo}) add and the Lord Jesus Christ (Compare Ro 1:7, 1Co 1:3, etc.)*

⁴ *So* p⁶¹vid BC* 1739 cop^{sa,bo}. *SA I 33 81 and the majority of lesser Gk. mss., arm vg read the God and Father of*

⁵ *Gk.* good tidings, *And similarly everywhere; see marginal note on Mt 4:23.*

⁶ *So* C 1739 33 81 *and the majority of lesser Gk. mss., cop arm vg. But* p⁴⁶SB A D* *read our*

⁷ *Or,* unto all pleasing, in every good work, bearing fruit and increasing *etc.*

⁸ *Or,* by

⁹ *Gk.* made powerful

¹⁰ *Or,* in

¹¹ *Or,* steadfastness

¹² *So* NB 1739 1175 cop^{sa} arm. *But* CA 33 81^{vid} *and a majority of lesser Gk. mss., cop^{bo} vg read us*

¹³ *Gk.* authority

¹⁴ *Or,* translated

¹⁵ *That is,* hold together

¹⁶ *Or,* that among all he might have *etc.*

¹⁷ *Or,* For the whole fullness of *God* was pleased to dwell in him

¹⁸ *Or,* into him,

¹⁹ *Or,* him,

²⁰ *So* p⁴⁶SCA 048 33 *and a majority of lesser Gk. mss., cop^{bo}. But* B I 1739 81 1175 cop^{sa} arm vg *omit through him,*

²¹ *Or possibly,* in the works of the Evil One.

²² (p⁴⁶)B *almost alone read ye have been reconciled*

²³ *Or,* the Christ *or,* the Anointed

²⁴ *Or,* dispensation *But see* 1Co 9:17.

²⁵ *Gk.* from all ages *etc.* *Gk.* from the ages and from the generations:

God was pleased 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 whom we proclaim, admonishing every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ; 29 whereunto I labor also, striving according to his working, which worketh in me ²⁶mightily.

2 For I would have you know how greatly I strive for you, and *for* them at Laodicea, and *for* as many as have not seen my face *in the* flesh; 2 that their hearts may be comforted, they being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the ²⁷full assurance of understanding, that they may know the mystery ²⁸of God, *even* Christ, 3 in whom are all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge hidden. 4 This I say, that no one may delude you with persuasiveness of speech. 5 For though I am absent in the flesh, yet am I with you in the spirit, joying and beholding your order, and the stedfastness of your faith in Christ.

6 As therefore ye received Christ Jesus the Lord, *so* walk in him, 7 rooted and builded up in him, and established ²⁹in the faith, even as ye were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

8 ³⁰Take heed lest there shall be any one that maketh spoil of you through his philosophy and empty deceit, after the tradition of men, after the ³¹rudiments of the world, and not after Christ: 9 for in him dwelleth all the fullness of the divine nature bodily, 10 and in him ye are made full, who is the head of all principality and power: 11 in whom ye were also circumcised with a circumcision not made with hands, in the putting off of the body of the flesh, in the circumcision of Christ: 12 having been buried with him in baptism, wherein ye were also ³²awakened with *him* through faith in the working of God, who awakened him from *the* dead. 13 And you, being dead through your trespasses and

²⁶ Or, in power.

²⁷ Or, fulness

²⁸ So p⁴⁶B almost alone (or, of God the father of Christ,). N* 048 (CA cop^{bo}) vg read of God the father of Christ, 1739 81 almost alone read of Christ, D* almost alone reads of God, which is Christ, 33 alone reads of God in Christ, 1881 H P read of God, A majority of lesser Gk. mss. read of God even the Father, and of Christ,

²⁹ So B 33 81 vg (N 1739 and a majority of lesser Gk. mss., arm). AC I read in faith, 048^{vid} cop^{sa,bo} read in it in the faith,

³⁰ Or, See whether there shall be

³¹ Or, elements See Ga 4:3 margin.

³² Or, raised (twice) And in ch. 3:1.

the uncircumcision of your flesh, ³³you, *I say*, did he make alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses; 14 having blotted out ³⁴the bond written in ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us: and he hath taken it out of the way, nailing it to the cross: 15 ³⁵having despoiled the principalities and the powers, he made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

16 Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of a feast *day* or a new moon or sabbath *days*: 17 which are a shadow of the things to come; but the body *is* ³⁶Christ's. 18 Let no man rob you of your prize ³⁷by a voluntary humility and ³⁸worshipping of the ³⁹angels, trampling in the things ⁴⁰which he hath seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind, 19 and not holding fast *to* the Head, from whom all the body, being supplied and knit together through the joints and bands, will grow *with* the growth of God.

20 If ye died with Christ from the ⁴¹rudiments of the world, why, as though living in *the* world, do ye subject yourselves to ordinances: 21 Handle not, nor taste, nor touch 22 (all which things are to perish with the using), after the precepts and doctrines of men? 23 Which things have indeed a show of wisdom in self-imposed worship, and ⁴²humility, and severity to *the* body; *but* are not of any ⁴³value against *the* indulgence of the flesh.

3 If then ye were awakened together with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated on *the* right *hand* of God. 2 Set your mind on the things that are above, not on the things that are upon the earth. 3 For ye died, and your life is hid with Christ in God.

³³ So N*CA 1739 81 cop^{sa,bo}. p⁴⁶B 33 almost alone read us, D arm vg omit you, *I say*,

³⁴ Or, the bond *that was* against us by *its* ordinances, or, the handwriting of ordinances,

³⁵ Or, having put off from himself the principalities *etc.*

³⁶ Or, of the Christ.

³⁷ Or, of his own mere will, by humility *etc.*

³⁸ The Greek word denotes an act of reverence, whether paid to a creature, or to the Creator.

³⁹ Or, messengers,

⁴⁰ So p⁴⁶N*BA I 1739 33 and a few others, cop^{sa,bo}. C (81) 1175 and the majority of lesser Gk. mss., arm vg read which he hath not seen,

⁴¹ Or, elements See Ga 4:3 margin.

⁴² So NCA 33 81 and the majority of lesser Gk. mss., cop^{sa} arm vg. p⁴⁶B 1739 almost alone omit humility, and G and few others read humility of understanding, and cop^{bo} almost alone reads humility of understanding,

⁴³ Or, honor

4□ When Christ *who is* ⁴⁴your life, shall be manifested, then shall ye also with him be manifested in glory.

5 Put to death therefore *your* members which are upon the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry; 6□ for which things' sake cometh the wrath of God ⁴⁵upon the sons of the disobedience: 7 ⁴⁶wherein ye also once walked, when ye lived in these things; 8 but now do ye also put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, railing, shameful speaking out of your mouth: 9 lie not one to another; seeing that ye have put off the old man with his doings, 10 and have put on the new *man*, that is being renewed unto knowledge after *the* image of him that created him: 11 where there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, bondman, freeman: but Christ *is* all things, and in all.

12 Put on therefore, as God's elect, holy and beloved, a heart of compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, longsuffering; 13 forbearing one another, and forgiving each other, if any man have a complaint against any; even as ⁴⁷the Lord forgave you, so also *do* ye: 14□ and above all these things *put on* love, which is *the* bond of perfectness. 15 And let the peace of Christ ⁴⁸rule in your hearts, to *the* which also ye were called in one body; and be ye thankful. 16 Let the word ⁴⁹of Christ dwell in you ⁵⁰richly; in all wisdom teaching and admonishing ⁵¹one another with psalms *and* hymns *and* spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts unto God. 17 And whatsoever ye do, in word or in deed, *do* all in *the* name of *the* Lord Jesus, giving thanks to ⁵²God *the* Father through him.

18 Wives, be in subjection to *your* husbands, as is fitting in *the* Lord. 19 Husbands, love *your* wives, and be not bitter against them. 20 Children, obey *your*

⁴⁴ So p⁴⁶NC 33 81 cop^{bo} arm vg. B 1739 *and a majority of lesser Gk. mss.*, cop^{sa} read our life,

⁴⁵ So NC A I 1739 33 81 *and most*, cop^{bo} arm vg. p⁴⁶NC D*^{vid} cop^{sa} *almost alone omit* upon the sons of the disobedience See Ep 5:6.

⁴⁶ Or, amongst whom

⁴⁷ So p⁴⁶BA D* vg. C 1739 81 *and the majority of lesser Gk. mss.*, cop^{sa,bo} read Christ NC* *almost alone reads* God 33 arm *alone read* God in Christ

⁴⁸ Gk. arbitrate

⁴⁹ So p⁴⁶NC B 1739 81 *and a majority of lesser Gk. mss.*, cop^{sa} arm vg. C*A 33 *read* of God NC* I cop^{bo} *read* of the Lord

⁵⁰ Or, richly in all wisdom; teaching *etc.*

⁵¹ Or, yourselves

⁵² So p⁴⁶NC B C A 1739 81 cop^{sa,bo}. 33 (1175) *and a majority of lesser Gk. mss.*, arm vg *read* the God and Father or, God, even *the* Father

parents in all things, for this is well-pleasing in *the* Lord. 21 Fathers, ⁵³provoke not your children, that they be not discouraged. 22 ⁵⁴Servants, obey in all things them that are *your* ⁵⁵masters according to *the* flesh; not with eye-service, and men-pleasers, but in singleness of heart, fearing the Lord: 23 whatsoever ye do, work ⁵⁶heartily, as unto the Lord, and not unto men; 24□ knowing that from *the* Lord ye shall receive the recompense of the inheritance: ye serve the Lord Christ. 25 For he that doeth wrong shall ⁵⁷receive again *for* the wrong that he hath done: and there is no respect of persons.

4 ⁵⁸Masters, render unto *your* ⁵⁹servants that which is just and equal; knowing that ye also have a Master in heaven.

2 Continue stedfastly in prayer, watching therein with thanksgiving; 3 withal praying for us also, that God may open unto us a door for the word, 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, ⁶⁰redeeming the time. 6 *Let* your speech *be* always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer each one.

7 All my affairs shall Tychicus make known unto you, the beloved brother and faithful minister and fellow-servant in *the* Lord: 8 whom I have sent unto you for this very purpose, ⁶¹that ye might know our state, and that he might comfort your hearts; 9 together with Onesimus, the faithful and beloved brother, who is *one* of you. They shall make known unto you all things that *are done* here.

10 Aristarchus my fellow-prisoner saluteth you, and Mark, the cousin of Barnabas (touching whom ye received commandments; if he come unto you, receive him), 11 and Jesus that is called Justus, who are of *the* circumcision: these only *are my* fellow-workers unto the kingdom of God, men that have become a comfort unto me. 12 Epaphras, who is *one* of you, a ⁶²servant

⁵³ So p⁴⁶NC B 1739* *and a majority of lesser Gk. mss.*, vg. CA 33 81 arm *read* anger not

⁵⁴ Gk. Bondservants,

⁵⁵ Gk. lords

⁵⁶ Gk. from *the* soul,

⁵⁷ Gk. receive again the wrong

⁵⁸ Gk. Lords,

⁵⁹ Gk. bondservants

⁶⁰ Gk. buying up the opportunity.

⁶¹ So BA 048 33 81 arm. But p⁴⁶NC 1739 *and a majority of lesser Gk. mss.*, cop^{bo} vg *read* that he might know your state, NC* *almost alone reads* that ye might know your state,

⁶² Gk. bondservant

of Christ Jesus, saluteth you, always striving for you in his prayers, that ye may stand perfect and fully assured in all *the* will of God. 13 For I bear him witness, that he hath much labor for you, and for them in Laodicea, and for them in Hierapolis. 14 Luke, the beloved physician, and Demas salute you. 15 Salute the brethren that are in Laodicea, and ⁶³Nymphas, and the church that is at ⁶⁴their house. 16 And whenever ⁶⁵this epistle hath been read among you, cause that it be read also in the church of *the* Laodiceans; and that ye also read the *epistle* from Laodicea. 17 And say to Archippus, Take heed *to* the ministry which thou hast received in *the* Lord, that thou fulfil it.

18 The salutation of me Paul with mine own hand. Remember my bonds. Grace *be* with you.⁶⁶

End of the Epistle of Paul to the Colossians

⁶³ *The Greek may represent Nympha.*

⁶⁴ *So* \aleph CA 33 81 1175 cop^{bo}. *But* B 1739 1881 cop^{sa} *read* at her house. *D* and a majority of lesser *Gk.* *mss.* *read* at his house.

⁶⁵ *Gk.* *the*

⁶⁶ *So* \aleph *BCA 048 1739* 33 81 cop^{sa}. *D* and a majority of lesser *Gk.* *mss.*, arm vg *add* Amen.