

COLOSSIANS

Col. 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the sovereign will of God [the Father], and Timothy our brother,

Col. 1:2 To the saints in Colossae, particularly to the faithful brethren [those continuing to be strong in doctrine] in Christ. Grace to you and prosperity from God our Father.

Col. 1:3 We keep on giving thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, at all times concerning you, offering face-to-face prayer,

Col. 1:4 Having heard of your doctrinal application in the sphere of Christ Jesus [experiential sanctification] and the virtue love which you have towards all the saints,

Col. 1:5 Because of the assurance which is reserved for you in the heavens [both eternal life & our inheritance from Christ], which you have heard before in the Word of Truth [doctrine], i.e., the gospel,

Col. 1:6 Which is present in you [importance of doctrine in your soul], just as it is also in all the world [by evangelistic proclamation], continually bearing fruit [divine good] and increasing [spiritual growth] just as it is also in you [produced in you by the Spirit], from the day you initially heard then came to fully understand the grace apparatus [spiritual mechanics] from God in the sphere of Truth [Bible doctrine],

Col. 1:7 Just as you learned [previously] from Epaphras [functioning as your pastor or teacher], our beloved, fellow bonds slave, who is a consistently faithful minister of Christ on your behalf,

Col. 1:8 Who has also reported to us [Paul's team in Rome] concerning your virtue love in the Spirit.

Col. 1:9 Because of this [positive report], we also from the day that we heard [from Epaphras], do not cease praying and offering petitions [to the Father] on your behalf, so that you [the deficiency of your soul] might be filled to the point of overflowing with the full knowledge [from doctrine] of His sovereign will by means of all wisdom [applied doctrine] and spiritual understanding [discernment between good & evil],

Col. 1:10 So that you might begin to walk [function in the sphere of divine power] worthy [with integrity, dignity, and character] of the Lord with the view of pleasing Him in everything [the super-abounding grace life], being fruitful in every good work [ambassadorship] and receiving continual spiritual growth by means of the full knowledge from God [maximum doctrine in the soul],

Col. 1:11 Constantly being strengthened by means of every enabling power [filled with the Spirit] according to the standard of the ruling power of His glory [divine sovereignty and

omnipotence] resulting in all patience [faith rest] and endurance [stability through testing] associated with inner happiness [super-abounding grace life],

Col. 1:12 Constantly giving thanks to the Father who authorized you [by inheritance] for a share of the assigned portion [of escrow blessings] of the saints in the sphere of light [attained by continued residence and function inside the divine system],

Col. 1:13 Who delivered us [all believers] out from the tyranny of the darkness [dictatorship of Satan's cosmic system] and transferred us into the kingdom [the realm of royal power during the Church Age] belonging to the Son of His virtue love,

Col. 1:14 By means of Whom we have redemption [by His paying a ransom and purchasing us out of the slave market of sin], the cancellation of our sins,

Col. 1:15 Who [Jesus Christ] is and always was the exact image [shares the same divine essence] of the unseen [invisible] God [deity of Christ], the firstborn [humanity of Christ at the virgin birth] with reference to all creation [hypostatic union],

Col. 1:16 Because by means of Him [Jesus Christ] all things in the heavens and upon the earth were created, the visible things [like man] and the invisible things [like the angelic host], whether they are human governments [thrones] or constituted authorities [dominions] or angelic rulers [principalities] or demon commissioned officers [potentates]. All things stand created by Him [Jesus Christ] and for Him [His divine purpose].

Col. 1:17 Furthermore, He [Jesus Christ] was before all things [eternal existence] and all things hold together by Him [divine omnipotence sustains the universe].

Col. 1:18 Furthermore, He [Jesus Christ] is now and always will be the Head over the Body [federal headship], the Church, Who was the beginning [eternal existence], the first born out from the dead [resurrection] so that He might become the One who is pre-eminent [ultimate authority] in all things.

Col. 1:19 (Because He [God the Father] determined with pleasure that all the fullness [spiritual blessings & happiness] should have permanent residence and function in Him [Jesus Christ],

Col. 1:20 And through Him [Jesus Christ] to reconcile all [believers] to Himself [reconciliation as an accomplished fact, not a hypothetical], having concluded peace [again, an accomplished fact, not a hypothetical] through the blood [spiritual death] of His cross [definite atonement], through Him only [exclusively through Jesus Christ], whether things on earth [elect believers] or things in the heavens [elect angels].

Col. 1:21 And you [Christians] who were at one time [before the new birth] settled in a state of alienation [positional residence: total inability] and were hostile [enemies] in your thinking associated with wicked works [experiential function: total depravity],

Col. 1:22 Yet now [at the cross] He has completed reconciliation by means of the body of His flesh [Jesus Christ as true humanity] through spiritual death), for the purpose of presenting you holy [positional sanctification] and blameless [ultimate sanctification] and irreproachable [experiential sanctification] in His sight,

Col. 1:23 If indeed [assuming that] you continue to persist [daily] in doctrine, having laid a strong foundation [in the basics], both stabilized [not controlled by your emotions] and not being swerved [into reversionism] from the ultimate source of the confidence of the message which you have heard [grace as opposed to legalism or works], which was publicly proclaimed to every creature [His sheep] who is under heaven, concerning which I, Paul, have become a minister.

Col. 1:24 I now keep on rejoicing [inner happiness] in my sufferings on behalf of you [pressures in the ministry which come from the sheep], and am filling up [by taking in more doctrine] the deficiency [Paul needed more truth on the launching pad of his soul] with reference to the pressures of Christ in my flesh on behalf of His Body [Paul is back in fellowship after some difficult times], which is the Church,

Col. 1:25 Concerning which [Body of Christ] I have become a minister according to the dispensation [stewardship] of God which was given to me [as revelator of Church Age doctrine] for your benefit for the purpose of fulfilling the Word of God [completing what was hidden in the Old Testament],

Col. 1:26 The mystery [of Church Age doctrine] having been concealed from the ages [theocratic dispensations] and from [prior] generations, but now [during the Church Age] has been revealed to His saints [Church Age believers],

Col. 1:27 To whom God decreed [in eternity past] to make known [through pastors & teachers] what is the wealth of the glory of this mystery [Church Age doctrines] among the Gentiles [in contrast to the exclusiveness of prior Jewish dispensations], which continues to be Christ in you [indwelling of the Shekinah glory], the confidence of glory [guarantee of eternal life],

Col. 1:28 Whom [Jesus Christ] we continue to proclaim [evangelism], repeatedly warning every man [those with negative volition] and repeatedly instructing every man [those with positive volition] in all wisdom [whole realm of doctrine], so that we might render every man fully mature in Christ,

Col. 1:29 To which [objective] I am constantly working even to the point of exhaustion, straining every muscle [like a gladiator or professional athlete], according to the standard of His omnipotent [prototype] power which is supernaturally working in me on a continual basis in the sphere of enabling [operational] power.

Col. 2:1 For I want you to know about the great combat [intercessory prayer struggles] I continually have on your behalf and for those in Laodicea and as many as have not seen me face-to-face in my flesh [non-resident congregations],

Col. 2:2 So that the mentality of your souls might be stabilized [during times of great pressure], while you are being taught inside the love complex, namely, every category of wealth [maximum doctrine in the soul] related to the full assurances which comes from the source of comprehensive knowledge [complete systematic theology], resulting in a full knowledge of the mystery of God, from the source of Christ,

Col. 2:3 In Whom [Jesus Christ] all the treasures of wisdom [applied doctrine] and knowledge [raw doctrinal principles] are stored up [on reserve].

Col. 2:4 I am telling you this so that no one may deceive you with distorted doctrines by means of plausible but false discourse [subtle, distorted, persuasive speech].

Col. 2:5 For, as is the case, I am in fact absent [from you] in the flesh, nevertheless, I am continually with you by means of the Spirit [non-resident pastor-teacher], constantly filled with inner happiness [from doctrine] even while inspecting your solid front in combat rank [in the Christian life] and your doctrinal fortification in Christ [battle lines in the angelic conflict].

Col. 2:6 Therefore, in the same manner in which you accepted Christ Jesus the Lord [by enabling grace], keep on walking in it [the sphere of divine power],

Col. 2:7 Having been rooted [in spiritual childhood] and firmly anchored [in spiritual adolescence] and having been constantly built-up [construction of an edification complex in the soul] in it [spiritual maturity in the sphere of power], and having been repeatedly established by means of doctrine [passing momentum tests], just as you were instructed [by qualified pastors and teachers], keep on overflowing with thanksgiving [gratitude every step of the way].

Col. 2:8 Constantly be on guard [beware] so that there is not anyone who can capture and carry you away as a slave [from truth into the slavery of error] through human speculation [philosophical sophistry], even through empty deceit [seductive fallacies], according to the traditions of men [legalism and liberalism], according to the rudimentary teachings [beggarly elements] from the cosmic system and not according to the standards of Christ.

Col. 2:9 For in Him dwells permanently [in hypostatic union] all the fullness [divine essence] of the Godhead [deity of Christ] bodily [humanity of Christ];

Col. 2:10 Furthermore, you are in Him [positional truth], being completely filled [by the baptism of the Holy Spirit], who [Jesus Christ] is the Head [sovereign ruler] over every principality [angelic realm] and authority [earthly sphere],

Col. 2:11 In Whom you were indeed circumcised by means of a circumcision not made with hands [spiritual, not ritual circumcision], by the renunciation of the body of the flesh [the sin nature], by means of the circumcision of Christ [identification with Christ on the cross],

Col. 2:12 Having been buried with Him [union with Christ] by means of identification [baptism of the Holy Spirit], by means of which you have also been raised up with Him through faith

[promise of resurrection life] by means of the sovereign [operational] power of God, Who raised Him out from the deaths [both spiritual and physical].

Col. 2:13 And as for you, being dead in transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh [the sin nature], He [God the Father], having graciously forgiven us all our transgressions, has made you alive together with Him [divine life imparted to the believer at the moment of regeneration],

Col. 2:14 Having cancelled the hand-written certificate of indebtedness against us, which kept on being hostile toward us [because of the sin nature], and He [the Father] removed it [the debt or IOU] permanently from our midst by nailing it to the cross,

Col. 2:15 Having disarmed the arch-principalities [chief demon war-makers] and [demon] commissioned officers, exposing them [angelic captives] to public mockery and disgrace, having celebrated a triumphal procession over them by means of Him [Jesus Christ],

Col. 2:16 Consequently, stop allowing anyone [self-righteous, legalistic believers] to judge you in the act of eating or drinking or in matters related to feasts [holidays] or festivals [celebrations] or Sabbaths [worship schedule],

Col. 2:17 Which [three previously mentioned special categories of days] were a shadow of things which were about to come, but the substance [reality] is of Christ.

Col. 2:18 Let no one rob you of your reward, taking pleasure in the false humility of asceticism or in the worship of angels [demon influence], going into detail on those things he has seen [dreams, trances, hallucinations], being inflated with arrogance to no avail [without cause] under the influence of the thinking from the source of his flesh [sin nature],

Col. 2:19 And not apprehending the Head [authority of Jesus Christ], from Whom the entire body [of believers] through joints and ligaments [daily Bible study builds spiritual strength], being graciously provided [doctrine should be as free as possible] and repeatedly taught [by well-trained pastors & teachers], keeps on growing with the growth from God.

Col. 2:20 If you have died together with Christ [retroactive positional truth] to the fundamental precepts [rudimentary elements] of the cosmic system, then why, as though living like a person in the cosmic system, are you submitting to legalistic rules and regulations?

Col. 2:21 For instance [an example of three legalistic taboos]: You shall not have sexual relations [celibacy], neither shall you eat certain foods [vegetarianism], nor shall you touch anything with hostility [pacifism],

Col. 2:22 All of which [taboos] are consuming to the point of destruction [legalism destroys your spiritual life], according to the ordinances [precepts] and teachings [doctrines] of men [not from God],

Col. 2:23 Which classification of things [taboos] currently exist, on the one hand, having a reputation [appearance] of wisdom by means of a self-made system of religion [superstition] and

by means of an emotionally subjective false humility [self-effacement] and by means of a severe non-indulgence of the body [extreme asceticism], but on the other hand, nothing of value [worth respect] against gratification of the flesh [taboos are unable to control the sin nature].

Col. 3:1 If therefore, you have been raised together with Christ [positional truth], then keep on endeavoring to obtain and possess the above things [Bible doctrine], where the Christ is sitting [session] at the right hand of God [the Father].

Col. 3:2 Keep on thinking objectively about [concentrate on] the above things [divine viewpoint], not the things upon the earth [human viewpoint],

Col. 3:3 For you have died [separated from your former life], and your spiritual life has been hidden together with Christ by means of the God [the veil which now shrouds your higher life from others will one day be withdrawn].

Col. 3:4 On the occasion [at the rapture] when the Christ, our life, shall appear [when the Groom returns for His bride], at that time you also shall be made manifest with Him in the sphere of glory.

Col. 3:5 Start putting to death [recovery from sexual reversionism], therefore, the members [sexual organs], the things upon the earth [specifically]: heterosexual immorality [fornication], homosexuality [perverted sex], abnormal passion [pathological], evil [demonically inspired] lusts and insatiableness [frantic search for happiness], which category of things keeps on being [a form of] idolatry,

Col. 3:6 Because of which things [sexual sins] the wrath of God [divine discipline] comes upon the sons of disobedience [sexual reversionists],

Col. 3:7 In the sphere of which things [cosmos diabolicus] you also walked as a pattern of life [modus operandi] when you once functioned in them [residence and function in Satan's cosmic system].

Col. 3:8 But now [as believers] you should also begin to lay aside all these [other categories of sin]: anger, rage, wicked depravity, slandering, and foul language from your mouth.

Col. 3:9 Stop lying to one another of the same kind [particularly to fellow Christians], having disarmed the old man [relationship in Adam] together with his activity [cosmic modus operandi],

Col. 3:10 And having put on the new in point of time [clothed the soul of the new man with an edifying doctrinal structure], being renewed [because the doctrine you once knew was destroyed by reversionism] by the full knowledge [metabolized Bible doctrine] which is according to the image of the One [Jesus Christ] who created him [the believer],

Col. 3:11 In which place [union with Christ] there no longer exists Greek or Jew [no racial inferiority], circumcision or uncircumcision [rituals and religious background is irrelevant], Barbarian, Scythian [cultural background is irrelevant], slavery, state of freedom [social status is

irrelevant], since Christ is all things [the grace source of all we have] and the cause of all things [divine sovereignty and omnipotence].

Col. 3:12 Keep on clothing yourself [dressing your soul with doctrine], therefore, as chosen ones of God [elect in eternity past], (having been loved in the past with the result that you will be loved forever), with affections [capacity for love & life], a gracious disposition [inner happiness & kindness], a relaxed mental attitude, genuine humility, and steadfastness [patience from mastery of the details of life],

Col. 3:13 Patiently tolerating one another of the same kind [mental separation from obnoxious believers] and graciously forgiving others [unbelievers]. If anyone has a complaint against anyone, even as the Lord graciously forgave you, in this way also you [forgive];

Col. 3:14 Furthermore, upon all these [spiritual qualities], virtue love [outer garment] - which is the binding agent [cement] of maturity [spiritual completeness].

Col. 3:15 And spiritual prosperity from Christ. Let that continually rule the mentality of your soul, into which [spiritual status] you were called [the purpose of your election], as well as into one body [the corporate church]. Therefore, keep on being thankful ones [gratitude: capacity for life].

Col. 3:16 Let the doctrine from Christ keep on dwelling inside you abundantly [saturate your inner life] in the sphere of all wisdom [ready to apply to daily life]. You [pastors & teachers], teach with authority and admonish yourselves [pastors aren't exempt from application] by means of psalms [David's experiential theology], hymns [grace-oriented songs], odes [stories & poems], and singing with gratitude in the mentality of your soul [songs that originate from thought, not emotional subjectivity] to God,

Col. 3:17 And whatever you habitually do in the sphere of word [conversation] or deed [behavior], do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus [self-motivation from occupation with Christ], continually giving thanks to God the Father [expression of gratitude] through Him [Jesus Christ].

Col. 3:18 Wives, always submit to the authority of your husbands, as it should be protocol to do in the Lord.

Col. 3:19 Husbands, always love your wives [impersonal love as a problem-solving device] and stop being bitter against them.

Col. 3:20 Children, always obey your parents with respect to all things, for this [authority orientation] is pleasing to the Lord.

Col. 3:21 Fathers, do not provoke bitterness in your children, so that they may not become discouraged [from too much system testing].

Col. 3:22 Labor, always obey management according to the flesh [excludes spiritual matters] in all types of things [related to the job], not with eye service as men-pleasers [not as brown-

nosing, patronizing politicians], but with a virtuous mentality of the soul [from doctrinal thinking], always respecting the Lord.

Col. 3:23 Whatever you do, keep functioning from the soul [in spiritual adolescence] as unto the Lord and not to man,

Col. 3:24 Since you [growing Christians] know that you will receive the reward of your inheritance [wages earned, not a gift] from the Lord [your ultimate reward comes from the Lord, not the human organization you work for]: Always be serving the Lord Christ,

Col. 3:25 For anyone who habitually does wrong [injury or injustice] will receive the consequences of his wrongdoing [self-induced misery & divine discipline], since there is no partiality [under the law of volitional responsibility].

Col. 4:1 Management, always pay just [honest] and equitable [fair] wages to your employees, knowing that you also have management in heaven.

Col. 4:2 Be continually devoted to [vigilant in] prayer, constantly being alert by means of the same [prayer] in the sphere of thanksgiving [gratitude].

Col. 4:3 At the same time [simultaneously] be continually praying also for us [teamwork], so that God might open a door for doctrine to us, for the purpose of communicating the mystery [Church Age doctrine] of Christ, because of which I also have been chained [to soldiers of the Praetorian Guard],

Col. 4:4 In order that I might reveal by teaching the same [mystery doctrine], as it is necessary for me [my responsibility] to communicate.

Col. 4:5 Keep on walking in the sphere of wisdom towards the ones on the outside [unbelievers], continually redeeming [logging] the time,

Col. 4:6 Your word always in the sphere of grace [divine viewpoint], having been seasoned with salt [palatable to the hearer], so that you may know [having studied beforehand] how each one [questions from every quarter] should be answered by you.

Col. 4:7 All things pertaining to me [my current circumstances] Tychicus shall declare to you, a beloved brother and faithful minister and fellow servant in the Lord [Paul's 3-fold introduction and commendation],

Col. 4:8 Whom I have sent face-to-face to you for this same purpose, in order that you might come to know our situation [things concerning us], and that he might encourage the mentality of your soul [comfort your thinking],

Col. 4:9 Along with Onesimus, a faithful and beloved brother, who is from among you [from Colossae]. They will report to you the entire situation here.

Col. 4:10 Aristarchus, my fellow prisoner, salutes you, also Mark, the cousin of Barnabas (concerning whom you have received orders: if he comes face-to-face to you, welcome him),

Col. 4:11 Also Jesus, who is called the just [Paul's lawyer]. These, who are out from the circumcision [Jews], are my only co-workers with reference to the Kingdom of God, who are of such a character [super-abounding grace believers] as to have become a comfort to me [refreshment from friends].

Col. 4:12 Epaphrus, who is from among you [from Colossae], a slave of Christ Jesus, salutes you, who is always struggling on your behalf by means of his prayers [he is their absent pastor-teacher who is visiting Paul in prison], in order that the mature ones [super-abounding grace believers] may hold their ground [stand firm while he is away] and be completely filled up [saturated] with all things [every category of doctrine] pertaining to the will of God;

Col. 4:13 For I solemnly testify with reference to this same one [Epaphrus], that he continues to have great distress on your behalf and for those in Laodicea [who are constantly in trouble] and those in Hierapolis [the local hot springs medical center].

Col. 4:14 Luke, the [my] beloved physician, and Demas, also salute you.

Col. 4:15 Salute the brethren in Laodicea, especially Nymphas and the assembly of believers at her house [home church].

Col. 4:16 And when this letter [Epistle to the Colossians] has been read and taught in your presence, do it thoroughly [verse-by-verse exegesis], so that it may also be read and taught in the church of the Laodiceans, and that you [Colossian believers] likewise read and teach the one from the Laodiceans [Epistle to the Ephesians].

Col. 4:17 Also tell Archippus: Pay attention to the ministry which you received from the Lord, in order that you might fulfill it [complete in every detail].

Col. 4:18 This salutation is by my hand: Paul. Keep remembering my chains. Grace be with you.