

# The Book of Colossians

## Chapter One

Verse 1. Paul, from one sent to spread the special message about the Life of Christ by God's will, and from our brother Timothy.

Verse 2. This is written to the ones who are set apart for this message: those believing and faithful brothers and sisters who now live in Christ who are at Colossae: This grace and peaceful union are from God our Father through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Verse 3. We regularly thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, that there are people like you and our prayers are with you.

Verse 4. For we have heard how your faith rests in Christ and not in an earth existence, and of your outpoured love on all who embrace this message.

Verse 5. Doing this because of the full reality you trust to be ours in heavenly places. You live with expectation because you received it when you first heard the true message that the Gospel brings

Verse 6. which came to you by those who received it before you. All over the world, for those who receive it, this message of Life is bearing fruit and increasing in the same way it did with you when you first heard and came to lay hold of the grace of God found in this truth.

Verse 7. The vessel that delivered Christ to you in this way was Epaphras, a well-loved laborer in the message.

He is faithful to minister Christ when we cannot be there with you.

Verse 8. Likewise he tells us of your love of this message as it is revealed in the power of the Spirit.

Verse 9. Because of your affinity for the true depths of Christ, from the day we knew about such hunger, we have not ceased to pray to God and ask this special request for you becoming filled full with the knowledge of His eternal plan in true spiritual wisdom and understanding

Verse 10. and that the way you live be based on the worthy Lord, pleasing only Him, and bearing His fruit in your work that comes as a result of increasingly knowing Him as the life of your walk.

Verse 11. We want you strengthened with all the power of the riches of Christ within giving you resources of patience and joy.

Verse 12. These resources of Christ cause us to give thanks to the one who Fathered them in us, by which means we who were so lacking now share in this great inheritance designated for those separated unto it by light dividing darkness.

Verse 13. Our new Father has delivered us from a relationship that allowed for the power of darkness in our lives, and He has now translated us into a place of oneness and government had by the Son that He will always love.

Verse 14. In union with Whom we have what we have including redemption through His blood resulting in total forgiveness of acts under the old government.

Verse 15. The one we are joined to is the vehicle of expression for the unseen God and is the visible touchstone for what is invisible; He is God's Firstborn over all other created things.

Verse 16. He is what God had in mind all along. All other things in heaven or earth, seen and unseen, no matter if it was thrones, or dominions, kings or authorities, all were made as a vague representation and only exist because of Him and for Him and all point to Him.

Verse 17. God's concept for Him being ALL existed before all things and without them representing Him would all fly apart for lack of any real meaning.

Verse. 18. Also and besides temporal representations, He is the Head of the Church, the group that specifically functions as His body and vehicle. With them He is the beginning of everything; He is the Firstborn that represents the whole that does not include the dead whom He left behind so that in any consideration he is the starting point and the pre-eminence of it.

Verse 19. For it pleased the Father that all His personal divine fulness, including His nature, power, and attributes would inhabit Christ, the risen man.

Verse 20. And God purposed that by means of a man as His vessel, all things would be brought back to what God originally had in mind, taking the main thought away from

heaven or earth but reconciling them to the plan by means of the blood of His cross.

Verse 21. You see, though at one time you were alienated from Him as the center and as all by a wrong view and a wrong way, yet now, you are become one in this enterprise

Verse 22. By becoming His body and vehicle. How did He do this? By putting the old to death and making you clean with God by His fitness imparted to you.

Verse 23. If you continue with faith grounded and settled on union and not moved away from the hope that the message of Life brings, which your ears were opened unto and what is destined to be preached to every creature that is still under the heavenlies for which I, Paul, am made to reach them with it.

Verse 24. I rejoice in any suffering to reach people with this liberating message. In my own body I suffer in the travail of Christ to make up what yet lacks in His body, which is the Church.

Verse 25. As a minister I do this in one accord with the ministry of dispensing Christ which was given to me for the hungry in order to make the message fully known to you all.

Verse 26. The Word that I preach is the mystery that has been unknown and unappreciated for ages, but the veil is rent for those separated to it.

Verse 27. To the separated ones, God was so pleased to make known the real riches of God's glorious resources

in us which is Christ's life in us, our only hope for living gloriously.

Verse 28. It is THIS Christ we preach, warning with instruction everyone using this wisdom and not the world's in order to present every recipient to God filled full and functioning by the reality of union in Christ.

Verse 29. It is this end that I strive and labor, working by the same power and fulness that I wish to work in others.

## **Chapter Two**

Verse 1. I wish you knew the degree of commitment I have to you, Laodicea, and any other hungry souls that I have not met face to face.

Verse 2. I will go through any obstacles just to comfort hearts, which takes place by being knit together in God's nature of love, and also to bring all into God's riches, such as full unwavering calmness in understanding leading right on in to all acknowledging the mystery involving God as Father and Christ as in us.

Verse 3. For in the comprehension of this One alone are hidden treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

Verse 4. Now I want to talk to you to keep you from deception woven by well designed and motivational words,

Verse 5. For my contact with you now is not based on outward words or personal presence; but in one joyous spirit I clearly see that the order of your lives and the

steadfastness of your faith is founded in union with the life of Christ.

Verse 6. Therefore as you have let this reality of Christ have Lordship over your understanding, now walk in Him in this same way also.

Verse 7. Your faith is in Him, your walk is in Him, so now be rooted in Him, and let your foundation be poured in Him too, so that all that is built is also established by this faith; if you have learned this from us, then really give thanks for it.

Verse 8. Be careful so that no one gets you off track through clever philosophical arguments and deceits that appeal to men's vanity, ideals which are all based on common religious tradition which themselves are based on basic worldly viewpoints and ways, for their final goal does not end with Christ as the fullness.

Verse 9. For in the person of Christ, the raised man, is the complete fullness of all that is available to the Godhead, so that it takes up residence within Christ's body.

Verse 10. And your completion is only found by being in union with the risen Christ, Who Himself has authority over anything that would trouble you.

Verse 11. In Christ we experience the true circumcision that doesn't require the touch of human effort but which cuts off the vehicle of the fruits of the flesh by means of the circumcision of Christ.

Verse 12. Which happened by us being taken down into His death and burial; but then in Christ we are raised as our faith accepts God's action of having raised Him (and therefore us) out from those who don't have His life.

Verse 13. Though we were once with them in sins and our flesh was as yet unremoved, He has now imparted His life by making us one, and then He forgave us of all we did before.

Verse 14. He blotted out all record that was kept against us along with the commandments we could never keep. This was accomplished through the means of killing the offender, which sets aside any obligation for punishment or expectation of righteousness.

Verse 15. Through this method He ruined the plans of the enemy by removing the vehicle he worked through, suddenly opening up and showing His adversary a means of triumph that caught him off guard.

Verse 16. Don't fall sway to people's judgements about what is acceptable concerning religious observances such as food or drink, or whether you should honor certain days as holy, such as the new moon, or respecting the sabbath days,

Verse 17. Which were a lifeless copy of Who would come and fulfill them, but the raised Body is the actual vehicle of His very life.

Verse 18. Don't let anyone rob you of your reward by substituting what appears to be humility because it bows to and honors God's angels but really intrudes into areas in which they are completely ignorant, for their false

presentation of deep knowledge makes their carnal mind swell with superiority.

Verse 19. But they are not holding fast to the Head, the source for all the rest of the Body, through which our union in Him gets its nourishment and oneness, whereby the increase taking place in us is God Himself.

Verse 20. If you truly died with Christ to the early lessons that only pertain to outward religion, why, as if you still lived based on these requirements, do you bow down to rituals, commandments, and acts of acceptable religious worship;

Verse 21. (don't touch this, don't taste that, stay away from being involved with that)

Verse 22. Which all disappear after they are used since their source is from man who sets up doctrines and commandments?

Verse 23. All these religious things present a form of wisdom seen in the human will and false humility which display hard treatment of the body, but none of this remedies the indulgences of the nature of the flesh.

### **Chapter Three**

Verse 1. Since, in reality, you are raised up with Christ, seek the things that are in your sphere, where Christ is exalted and honored above other things.



Verse 2. Set your affections up into that realm as well, instead of going after things that are not out from His fullness.

Verse 3. Why not involve yourself in earth things?

Because you are more than committed — you are dead. You should now be on a search to discover and identify with your true life in union with Christ in God.

Verse 4. When the life of the risen body of Christ appears, then we discover our identity is with Him in glorious oneness.

Verse 5. Put to death (not just deny) your earth body, which manifests its union with the old through fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil desire, and covetousness (which is idolatry).

Verse 6. It is because of these things that God's wrath comes on the sons of the rebellion who won't obey by leaving their earth identity.

Verse 7. And we all, at one time, walked in these things, when our life was earth-based.

Verse 8. But now we put off these things: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communications out of your mouth.

Verse 9. Don't lie to one another — and you won't if you see that the Cross cut off our old nature and its fruit with it.

Verse 10. But, more than that, we have also clothed ourselves with the new identity of the “above man” and are having our minds renewed to heavenly knowledge that brings us into the image of the very One Who desired the New Creation in the first place.

Verse 11. In which New Creation there are no cultural differences, for there are no cultures; there are no religious differences, for there are no religions; there are no nations and classes of people because Christ is all that was raised, and anyone joined to Him has only His life and nature.

Verse 12. If this is all true, then put on, as those chosen for such a union, tender mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, long suffering.

Verse 13. Don't just forgive one another, but put up with one another. If anyone has a point of dispute with someone else, just like Christ forgave you, do this by that same life in you also.

Verse 14. But above being forgiving and putting up with one another, put on His sacrificial love nature which is the mortar that holds the whole building and city together.

Verse 15. And let the peace of the New Jerusalem guard the walls of your city, for you are the Body of One. So be thankful for that fact.

Verse 16. Let the word of the message of Christ richly live in you by the wisdom that is from above, teaching and exhorting all the inhabitants of the heavenly city, breaking out in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs because of

the graciousness that has overcome your hearts concerning the Lord.

Verse 17. And whatever you do or whatever you speak, do it by the name of your Husband as one with Him, so that even your thanks to the Father is coming from His Son through you.

Verse 18. Married women, submit yourselves into the oneness with your husbands, because this is the way it is in the Lord.

Verse 19. Men in union, love what is connected to you and allow no bitterness to divide what God has joined.

Verse 20. For the fruit of your union called children, stay in the flow of oneness in all things, for God loves to see His principles at work among you all.

Verse 21. To those who father fruitfulness and multiply, don't do things to discourage in your offspring the very things that caused you to want to bring them forth.

Verse 22. If you are going to serve, flow with the Head in all things, not breaking oneness; not doing your assignments in a correct way only when they are looking, with the motive of making those over you happy with you, because one single heart motive should drive you: because you reverence the spirit of the Lord's order.

Verse 23. In fact, not just when He is looking but whatever you do, no matter how small or big, do it from a passionate heart that is bowed to the Lord's spirit and attitude.

Verse 24. We do this at all times, aware that we can draw from the wealth of the inheritance by union with the Lord, for our physical members serve the nature of Christ to the benefit of others.

Verse 25. But he that doesn't live by inward life principle shall be treated like a runaway slave, for judgement is not based on persons but on principle.

## **Chapter Four**

Verse 1. Those of position and power, treat those under you just in equal measure to the way the Master of all treats you, knowing that His order of life should rule all.

Verse 2. Continue to pray, watch and give thanks for the same spirit to fill you.

Verse 3. Include us in those prayers that doors of understanding might be opened through the Word preached to those yet veiled to the mystery; because this message has me in its grasp.

Verse 4. I pray that my sharing will do the truth justice.

Verse 5. Walk wisely with those who are still outside the veil, looking for the timing of God to speak.

Verse 6. And when you finally do speak, let His grace guide your tongue, sprinkled with seasoning so that they can finally swallow it.

Verse 7. Instead of wasting this letter writing about me and how I am doing, Tychicus will tell you. He is a

brother greatly loved, stable in what he ministers; he serves with me a lot in the Lord.

Verse 8. So I have sent him to you to take your spiritual temperature and to pour some of his special ministry upon you.

Verse 9. Another stable and sweet—spirited brother named Onesimus, who joined us from your group, is coming with him. They will let you know about our part in the big picture of God's plan.

Verse 10. There is a guy I have been talking to about Jesus here in prison with me whose name is Aristarchus who told me to tell you all “Hello” and so does Mark, the son of Barnabus'sister. Remember the stern instructions I originally wrote to you about him? If he comes to your gathering receive him.

Verse 11. Also greetings from Jesus who changed his name to Justus who also is Jewish. The ones I just named are my committed companions in Kingdom spreading, who have really comforted me in my present situation.

Verse 12. Epaphras, your representative and vessel of Christ sends greetings and is always diligently praying for you all, that you stand in Christ's completed work in all maturity, which is the will of God.

Verse 13. For I have regularly seen his total commitment that you, Laodicea, and Hierapolis might grow to be fully mature in what it is that we spread to all others.

Verse 14. Luke, our loved doctor, and Demas said to send their greetings also.

Verse 15. Be sure and greet the brothers in arms at Laodicea; and don't leave out Nymphas and the group that gathers in his own home.

Verse 16. And after you read this letter to your committed ones, make sure it is read by the Laodicean church and that you read their letter also.

Verse 17. Also tell Archippus I encourage him to be active and involved in the specific ministry God gave to him.

Verse 18. This greeting was written by me (Paul) personally. Don't forget about my physical imprisonment even as I desire grace for all of you in your situations.  
Amen.