

COLOSSIANS

Chapter 1

Thankfulness for Spiritual Attainments

^{1a}Paul, ^ban apostle of Christ Jesus ^{1c}by the will of God, and ^dTimothy ²our brother,

²To the ^{1a}^b **saints** and **faithful brothers and sisters in Christ** *who are at Colossae*: ^bGrace to you and peace from God our Father.

^{3a}We ¹give thanks to God, ^bthe Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, ⁴^asince we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and the ^b^c **love which you have ¹for ^call the ²saints**; ⁵because of the ^a^b hope reserved for you in ¹heaven, of which you previously ^cheard in the word of truth, ²the gospel ⁶ which has come to you, just as ^{1a}in all the world also it is bearing ^bfruit and ²increasing, even as *it has been doing* in you also since the day you ^cheard it and ³understood the grace of God in truth; ⁷ just as you learned it from ^aEpaphras, our ^bbeloved fellow bond-servant, who is a faithful servant of Christ on our behalf, ⁸ and he also informed us of your ^alove in the Spirit.

¹Lit through

²Lit the

¹Lit holy ones; i.e., God's people

¹Or always give ... praying for you

¹Or toward

²Lit holy ones; i.e., God's people

¹Lit the heavens

²Or of the gospel

¹Or it is in all the world also, bearing

²Or spreading abroad

³Or came to fully know

⁹For this reason we also, ^asince the day we heard about it, ^bhave not ceased praying for you and asking ^cthat you may be filled with the ^{1c}knowledge of His will in all spiritual ^dwisdom and understanding, ¹⁰ so that you will ^awalk in a manner worthy of the Lord, ^{1b}to please Him in all respects, ^c^{1.} bearing fruit **in every good work** and ²increasing in the ³knowledge of God; ¹¹ ^a^{2.} strengthened with all power, according to ¹His glorious might, ²for the attaining of all ^{3.} perseverance and ³patience; ^bjoyously ¹² ^{4.} giving thanks to ^athe Father, who has qualified us ¹to share in ^bthe inheritance of the ²saints in ^clight.

The Incomparable Christ

¹³¹ For He rescued us from the ^{2a}domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of ^{3b}His beloved Son, ¹⁴ ^ain whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

¹⁵¹He is the ^aimage of the ^binvisible God, the ^cfirstborn of all creation: ¹⁶ for ^{1a}by Him all things were created, ^aboth in the heavens and on earth, **visible and invisible, whether ^bthrones, or**

¹Or real knowledge

¹Lit unto all pleasing

²Or growing by the knowledge

³Or real knowledge

¹Lit the might of His glory

²Lit unto all

³Or patience with joy

¹Lit unto the portion of

²Lit holy ones; i.e., God's people

¹Lit Who rescued

²Lit authority

³Lit the Son of His love

¹Lit Who is

¹Or in

dominions, or rulers, or authorities—^call things have been created through Him and for Him. ¹⁷ He ^{1a}is before all things, and in Him all things ²hold together. ¹⁸ He is also the ^ahead of ^bthe body, the church; and He is ^cthe beginning, ^dthe firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything. ¹⁹ For ¹it was ^athe Father's good pleasure for all ^bthe fullness to dwell in Him, ²⁰ and through Him to ^areconcile all things to Himself, ^bwhether things on earth or things in ¹heaven, having made ^cpeace through ^dthe blood of His cross.

²¹ And although you were ^apreviously alienated and hostile in attitude, engaged in evil deeds, ²² yet He has now ^areconciled you in His ^bbody of flesh through death, in order to ^cpresent you before Him ^dholy and blameless and beyond reproach—²³ if indeed you continue in ¹the faith firmly ^aestablished and steadfast, and not shifting from the ^bhope of the gospel that you have heard, which was proclaimed ^cin all creation under heaven, ^dand of which I, Paul, ²was made a ^{3e}minister.

²⁴ ^aNow I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh ^bI am supplementing what is lacking ¹in Christ's afflictions in behalf of ^cHis body, which is the church. ²⁵ ^aI ¹was made a minister of this church according to the ^bcommission from God granted to me for your benefit, so

¹Or has existed prior to

²Or endure

¹Or all the fullness was pleased to dwell

²I.e., fullness of deity

¹Lit the heavens

¹Or in faith

²Lit became

³Or servant

¹Lit of

¹Lit became

that I might ²fully carry out the preaching of the word of God, ²⁶ that is, ^athe mystery which had been hidden from the past ages and generations, but now has been revealed to His ¹saints, ²⁷ to whom ^aGod willed to make known what ^bthe wealth of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles is, the mystery that is ^cChrist in you, the ^dhope of glory. ²⁸ We proclaim Him, ^aadmonishing every person and teaching every person ¹with all ^bwisdom, so that we may ^cpresent every person ^{2d}complete in Christ. ²⁹ For this purpose I also ^alabor, ^bstriving ^caccording to His ¹power which ²works mightily within me.

Chapter 2

You Are Built Up in Christ

¹For I want you to know how great a ^astruggle I have in your behalf and for those who are at ^bLaodicea, and for all those who have not ¹personally seen my face, ² that their ^ahearts may be encouraged, having been ^bknit together in love, and that they would attain to all ^cthe wealth ¹that comes from the full assurance of understanding, resulting in a ^dtrue knowledge of ^eGod's mystery, that is, Christ Himself, ³ in whom are hidden all ^athe treasures of wisdom and knowledge. ⁴ ^aI say this so that no one will deceive you with ^bpersuasive arguments. ⁵ For even though I am ^aabsent in

²Lit make full the word of God

¹Lit holy ones; i.e., God's people

¹Lit in

²Or perfect

¹Lit working

²Lit in power

¹Lit in the flesh

¹Lit of the full assurance

body, I am nevertheless with you in spirit, rejoicing ¹to see ²your ^borderly manner and the ^cstability of your faith in Christ.

⁶Therefore, as you have received ^aChrist Jesus the Lord, so ^{1b}walk in Him, ⁷ having been firmly ^arooted and now being ^bbuilt up in Him and ^cestablished ¹in ²your faith, just as you ^dwere instructed, and overflowing ³with gratitude.

^{8a}See to it that there is no one who takes you captive through ^bphilosophy and empty deception in accordance with human tradition, in accordance with the ^celementary principles of the world, ¹rather than in accordance with Christ. ⁹For in Him all the ^afullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, ¹⁰ and in Him you have been ^amade ¹complete, and ^bHe is the head ²over every ^cruler and authority; ¹¹ and in Him ^ayou were also ¹circumcised with a circumcision performed without hands, in the removal of ^bthe body of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ, ¹² having been ^aburied with Him in baptism, in which you were also ^braised with Him through faith in the working of God, who ^craised Him from the dead. ¹³ And ¹when you were ^adead ²in your wrongdoings and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He ^bmade you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our wrongdoings, ¹⁴ having canceled ^athe certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and ^bHe has taken it out of the way, having

¹Lit and seeing

²Or your good order

¹Or lead your life

¹Or by

²Or the faith

³One early ms in it with

¹Lit and not

¹Lit full

²Lit of

¹Or although

²Or by reason of

nailed it to the cross. ¹⁵ When He had ^{1a}disarmed the ^brulers and authorities, He ^amade a public display of them, having ^ctriumphed over them through ²Him.

¹⁶ Therefore, no one is to ^{1a}act as your judge in regard to ^bfood and ^bdrink, or in respect to a ^cfestival or a ^dnew moon, or a ^eSabbath ²day—¹⁷ things which are only a ^ashadow of what is to come; but the ¹substance ²belongs to Christ. ¹⁸ Take care that no one keeps ^{1a}defrauding you of your prize by ^bdelighting in humility and the worship of the angels, ²taking his stand on visions he has seen, ^{3c}inflated without cause by his ^dfleshly mind, ¹⁹ and not holding firmly to ^athe head, from whom ^bthe entire body, being supplied and held together by the joints and ¹ligaments, grows with a growth ²which is from God.

^{20a} If you have died with Christ ¹to the ^belementary principles of the world, ^cwhy, as if you were living in the world, do you submit yourself to ^ddecrees, such as, ²¹ “Do not handle, do not taste, do not touch!” ²² (which all refer ^ato things destined to perish ¹with use)—in accordance with the ^bcommandments and teachings of man? ²³ These are matters which do have the ¹appearance of wisdom in ^{2a}self-made religion and humility

¹Or divested Himself of

²Or it; i.e., the cross

¹Lit judge you

²Or days

¹Lit body

²Lit of Christ

¹Or deciding against you

²Or going into detail about

³Or conceited

¹Lit bonds

²Lit of God

¹Lit from

¹Or by being consumed

¹Lit report; Gr logos

and ^bsevere treatment of the body, but are of no value against ^cfleshly indulgence.

Chapter 3

Put On the New Self

¹Therefore, if you have been ^araised with Christ, **keep seeking the things that are above, where Christ is, ^bseated at the right hand of God.** ² ^{1a}Set your minds on the things *that are* above, not on the things that are on earth. ³ For you have ^adied, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ, ^awho is our life, is revealed, ^bthen you also will be revealed with Him in glory.

^{5a}Therefore, ¹treat ^bthe parts of your **earthly body as dead** to ^csexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, **which ²amounts to idolatry.** ⁶ For it is because of these things *that* ^athe wrath of God is coming ¹upon the ²sons of disobedience, ⁷ and ^a**in them you also once walked**, when you were living ¹in them. ⁸ But now you also, ^arid yourselves of all of them: ^banger, wrath, malice, slander, and ^cobscene speech from your mouth. ⁹ ^{1a}Do not lie to one another, since you ^bstripped off the old ²self with its *evil* practices, ¹⁰ and have ^aput on the new self,

²Or *would-be religion*

¹Or *Be intent on*

¹Lit *put to death the parts of your body which are upon the earth*

²Lit *is*

¹Two early *mss* do not contain *upon the sons of disobedience*

²I.e., people opposed to God

¹Or *among these*

¹Or *Stop lying*

²Lit *person*

which is being ^{1b}renewed to a **true knowledge** ^caccording to the image of the One who ^dcreated it—¹¹ *a renewal* in which ^athere is no **distinction between Greek and Jew**, ^bcircumcised and uncircumcised, ^{1c}barbarian, ²Scythian, ^dslave, and free, but ^eChrist is all, and in all.

¹² So, as those who have been ^a**chosen** of God, holy and **beloved**, ^bput on a ^cheart of compassion, kindness, ^dhumility, gentleness, and ^{1e}patience; ¹³ ^abearing with one another, and ^bforgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; ^bjust as the Lord forgave you, so *must you do* also. ¹⁴ In addition to all these things *put on* love, which is ^{1a}the perfect bond of ^bunity. ¹⁵ Let ^athe peace of Christ, to which you were ¹indeed called in ^bone body, ²rule in your hearts; and ³be thankful. ¹⁶ **Let ^athe word of ¹Christ richly dwell within you**, ²with all wisdom ^bteaching and admonishing ³one another ^cwith psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, ^dsinging with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷ **^aWhatever you do in word or deed, *do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus*, ^bgiving thanks through Him to God the Father.**

Family Relations

¹⁸ ^a**Wives**, ^bbe subject to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. ¹⁹ ^a**Husbands**, love your wives

¹Lit *renovated*

¹I.e., uncultured

²I.e., a member of an ancient people near the Black Sea, often considered unrefined

¹I.e., forbearance toward others

¹Lit *the uniting bond of perfection*

¹Or *also*

²Or *be in control in*

³Or *show yourselves thankful*

¹One early *ms* *the Lord*

²Or *in*

³Or *one another, singing with psalms ...*

and do not become bitter against them. ²⁰ ^aChildren, obey your parents in everything, for this is pleasing ¹to the Lord. ²¹ ^aFathers, do not ¹antagonize your children, so that they will not become discouraged.

²² ^{1a}Slaves, obey those who are your ²human masters in everything, ^bnot with ³eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord. ²³ Whatever you do, do your work ¹heartily, ^aas for the Lord and not for people, ²⁴ ^aknowing that *it is from the Lord that you will receive the reward* ¹of ^bthe inheritance. *It is the Lord Christ whom you* ^cserve. ²⁵ For ^athe one who does wrong will receive the consequences of the wrong which he has done, ^{and} ^{1b}that without partiality.

Chapter 4

¹ Masters, grant your slaves justice and fairness, ^aknowing that you also have a Master in heaven.

² ^a Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving; ³ praying at the same time ^afor us as well, that God will open up to us a ^bdoor for ^cthe word, so that we may proclaim ^dthe mystery of Christ, for which I have also ^ebeen imprisoned; ⁴ that I may make it clear ^ain the way that I ought to proclaim it.

⁵ ^{1a} Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward

^boutsiders, ^{2c}making the most of the opportunity. ⁶ ^aYour speech *must* always be ¹with grace, *as though* seasoned with ^bsalt, so that you will know how you should ^crespond to each person.

⁷ ^aAs to all my affairs, ^bTychicus, *our* ^cbeloved brother and faithful servant and fellow bond-servant in the Lord, will bring you information. ⁸ ^aFor I have sent him to you for this very purpose, that you may know about our circumstances and that he may ^bencourage your hearts; ⁹ ¹and with him is ^aOnesimus, *our* faithful and ^bbeloved brother, ^cwho is one of your *own*. They will inform you about the whole situation here.

¹⁰ ^aAristarchus, my ^bfellow prisoner, sends you his greetings; and *also* ^cBarnabas' cousin Mark (about whom you received ¹instructions; ^dif he comes to you, welcome him); ¹¹ and *also* Jesus who is called Justus; these are the only ^afellow workers for the kingdom of God ^bwho are from the circumcision, and they have proved to be an encouragement to me. ¹² ^aEpaphras, ^bwho is one of your *own*, a bond-servant of Christ Jesus, sends you his greetings, always ^cstriving earnestly for you in his prayers, that you may ¹stand ^{2d}mature and ³fully assured in all the will of God. ¹³ For I testify for him that he has ^{1a} a deep concern for you and for those who are in ^aLaodicea and Hierapolis. ¹⁴ ^aLuke, the beloved physician, sends you his greetings, and ^bDemas *does also*. ¹⁵ Greet the brothers *and sisters* who are in ^aLaodicea and also ¹Nympha and ^bthe church

¹ Lit in

¹ Or *provoke to anger*

¹ I.e., slaves in first-century Roman culture

² Lit *masters according to flesh*

³ I.e., working only when watched

¹ Lit *from the soul*

¹ I.e., consisting of

¹ Lit *there is no partiality*

¹ Lit *Walk*

² Lit *redeeming the time*

¹ Or *gracious*

¹ Lit *along with Onesimus*

¹ Or *orders*

¹ Or *stand firm*

² Or *fully developed*

³ Or *made complete*

¹ Or *much toil; or great pain*

that is in ²her house. ¹⁶ ^aWhen ¹this letter is read among you, have it also read in the church of the Laodiceans; and you, for your part, ^aread ¹my letter *that is coming* from ^bLaodicea. ¹⁷ Tell ^aArchippus, “See to the ^bministry which you have received in the Lord, so that you may ¹fulfill it.”

¹⁸ ¹I, Paul, ^awrite this greeting with my own hand. ^bRemember my ^{2c}imprisonment. ^dGrace be with you.

¹Or *Nymphas* (masc)

²One early *ms* *their*

¹Lit *the*

¹Or *continually fulfill*

¹Lit *The greeting by my hand of Paul*

²Lit *bonds*

PHILEMON

Chapter 1

Salutation

^{1a}Paul, ^ba prisoner of ^cChrist Jesus, and
^dTimothy ¹our brother,

To Philemon our beloved brother and ^efellow worker, ²and to Apphia ^{1a}our sister, and to ^bArchippus our ^cfellow soldier, and to ^dthe church in your house: ³^aGrace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Philemon's Love and Faith

^{4a}I thank my God always, making mention of you in my prayers, ⁵because I ^ahear of your love and of the faith which you have toward the Lord Jesus and toward all the ¹saints; ⁶and I pray that the fellowship of your faith may become effective ¹through the ^aknowledge of every good thing which is in you ²for the sake of Christ. ⁷For I have had great ^ajoy and comfort in your love, because the ¹hearts of the ²saints have been ^brefreshed through you, brother.

⁸Therefore, ^athough I have ¹enough confidence in Christ to order you to do what is ^bproper, ⁹yet for love's sake I rather ^aappeal to you—since I am such a person as Paul, ^{1a}n ^bold

¹Lit the

¹Lit the

¹Lit holy ones; i.e., God's people

¹Or in

²Lit toward Christ

¹Lit inward parts

²See note v 5

¹Lit much

¹Or an ambassador

man, and now also ^ca prisoner of ^dChrist Jesus—

Plea for Onesimus, a Free Man

¹⁰I ^aappeal to you for my ^{b1}son ^{2c}Onesimus, whom I ³fathered in my ⁴imprisonment, ¹¹who previously was useless to you, but now is useful both to you and to me. ¹²I have sent him back to you in person, that is, sending my very heart, ¹³whom I wanted to keep with me, so that in your behalf he might be at my service in my ^{1a}imprisonment for the gospel; ¹⁴but I did not want to do anything without your consent, so that your goodness would ^anot be, in effect, by compulsion, but of your own free will. ¹⁵For perhaps it was ^afor this reason that he was separated from you for a while, that you would have him back forever, ¹⁶^ano longer as a slave, but more than a slave, ^ba beloved brother, especially to me, but how much more to you, both ^cin the flesh and in the Lord.

¹⁷If then you regard me as a ^apartner, accept him as you would me. ¹⁸But if he has wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge that to my account; ¹⁹^aI, Paul, have written this with my own hand, I will repay it (^bnot to ¹mention to you that you owe to me even your own self as well). ²⁰Yes, brother, let me benefit from you in the Lord; ^arefresh my heart in Christ.

^{21a}Having confidence in your obedience, I write to you, since I know that you will do even more than what I say.

²²At the same time also prepare me a ^aguest room, for ^bI hope that through ^cyour prayers ^dI will be given to you.

¹Or child

²I.e., useful

³I.e., led to the Lord

⁴Lit bonds

¹Lit bonds

¹Lit say

²³ ^aEpaphras, my ^bfellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, greets you, ²⁴ *as do* ^aMark, ^bAristarchus, ^cDemas, *and* ^cLuke, my ^dfellow workers.
²⁵ ^aThe grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be ^bwith your spirit.¹

¹One early *ms* adds *Amen*