

The Epistle of Paul to the

COLOSSIANS

The Faith Translation

*An expanded translation that expounds upon
“The Faith” of Christ in all the scriptures*

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Chapter 1

1 Paul, an apostle (*and messenger of the gospel*) of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,

2 To those who have been set apart (*for His life*), the believing brethren (*who share in the faith*) of Christ which are at Co-los'se: (*His*) grace be with you and the peace which comes from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

3 We give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying for you continually,

4 Having heard of the faith you share in Christ Jesus, and the love that you have towards all the fellow believers there,

5 Because of the (*sure*) hope that is reserved for you in (*Christ Jesus*) in the heavens, which you have heard in the word of truth of the gospel;

6 Which (*truth*) has come to you, as it has in all the world bearing fruit and increasing, as it also has in you since the day you heard and knew (*with certainty*) the blessing and life that has been brought to you (*by Jesus Christ*) from God in truth;

7 Just as you have learned from Ep'a-phras our beloved fellow worker (*in the gospel*), who is a trustworthy minister of Christ on our behalf,

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8 Who has also declared to us your love (*which fruit*) the Spirit (*has brought forth in you*).

9 For this reason also since the day we heard of your love, we have not ceased praying for you, asking that you would be filled full (*knowing that you are complete in Him*) in the knowledge of His will (*to give you His blessing and life as an inheritance*) and in all spiritual wisdom and understanding (*which comes from being persuaded of that*),

10 So that you might walk in a manner that is fitting of the life which the Lord takes pleasure to serve you with, and in every good work (*which He has prepared beforehand for you to walk in*) bearing the fruit (*of His life*) and in the knowledge of God;

11 Strengthened with all power (*in the inner man with hope*), according to the might (*and strength displayed*) in His glory, which (*brings forth*) all patience and longsuffering with joy;

12 Giving thanks to the Father, who formed us (*in His image*) so that we might be partakers of the inheritance that He has set apart for His children (*to stand before Him*) in the light (*of His life*):

13 Who has delivered us from the power of death and darkness, and has translated us (*from death and corruption*) unto the kingdom (*of light and life*) of the Son in His love;

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14 In whom we have redemption (*from death*) through His blood, divorcing us from the death (*which had us in bondage all our days, to labor and toil in our flesh to preserve our own lives*):

15 Who is the (*expressed and exact image*) of the invisible God (*in immortal flesh and bone*), the firstborn (*from the dead*) of every creature:

16 Because by Him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones (*where kings are seated with footstools*), or dominion (*powers that exert authority*), or the origin of all rulership, or powers: (*the beginning of*) all things that were created (*were created*) by Him, and for Him:

17 And He is (*I AM*) before all things, and by Him do all things exist (*and are held together*).

18 And He is (*and was and will forever be*) the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning (*and the completion of creation*), the firstborn from the dead; so that in all things He might hold preeminence (*the chief place of influence*).

19 For it pleased the Father that in Him should all the fullness (*of the Godhead*) dwell (*bodily*);

20 And, having made peace (*and unity between those were far off and those who were near to God*) through the blood of His cross (*by destroying the death that was against them both in His flesh*), by Him (*in order*) to reconcile (*and unite*) all things

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(back) to Himself; by Him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.

21 And you (*Gentiles*), who were at one time excluded (*from the commonwealth of Israel feeling estranged from the promises, having no hope*) and openly hostile (*toward God*) the understanding of your minds darkened through your wicked imaginations (*to preserve your own lives*), yet now has He reconciled (*you and united all men in the one new man Christ Jesus*)

22 In the body of His flesh through (*the*) death (*of death*), to present you (*His children*) set apart (*for His life*) and unblemished (*from death's marring effects*) and blameless (*from any accusation*) before Him (*in His love*):

23 If you abide in the faith (*revealed in Jesus Christ*) established and settled (*in it*), and (*so that you are*) not able to be moved from the hope of the gospel (*which is the certainty of the same life*), which you have heard, and which was declared (*in the death, burial, resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ*) to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;

24 And even now do I rejoice for you in (*the midst of*) my afflictions, and being filled up (*complete in Him, and coming behind in no good thing*) sharing in the sufferings of Christ in my flesh (*which He suffered*) for His body's sake, which is the church:

25 Of which I am made a minister, according to the administration of God which He has given me

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for you (*in the revelation of Jesus Christ*), to fulfill the word of God;

26 Even the mystery which has been hidden from ages and generations but now has been made manifest to (us) His saints (*in the word made immortal flesh in Jesus Christ*):

27 To (us) who God would reveal (*in His Son made immortal flesh*) what is the riches of the glory of this mystery (*even*) among the Gentiles, which is (*the life of*) Christ (*abiding*) in you, the hope of glory (*which is the certainty of the same life and immortality revealed in His resurrection in immortal flesh and bone*):

28 (*Christ*) who we preach (*and who is the very logic of God*) by which we reason with every man, teaching every man in all wisdom (*through Him who is the full counsel and wisdom of God*): so that we may prove to every man (*that their*) perfection (*is only found*) in Christ Jesus:

29 And (*who is the wisdom from which*) I also labor (*in the gospel*), according to the wisdom and knowledge of Him which works mightily in me.

Chapter 2

1 For I would like you to know how great a fight (*of passion*) I have for you and for those who are in La-od-i-ce'a and even for all those who have never seen my face in person.

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2 That their hearts may be comforted (*and encouraged*), having been braided together in (*His*) love, and into all the riches (*of His glory*) from the certainty (*and confidence*) that comes from understanding unto the knowledge of the mystery of God that is (*revealed*) in Christ;

3 In whom all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge (*which can be found*) are hidden.

4 And I say this so that no man may deceive you with persuasive (*but misleading*) words.

5 Because even though I am absent in the flesh, I am with you in the spirit, and I rejoice in seeing the way you order your lives and how that you have the solid foundation of your faith in Christ.

6 In the same way therefore that you have received Christ Jesus the Lord (*by hearing the faith*), walk, the same way (*by continually hearing the faith*) of Him:

7 Being planted firmly and built up (*in the faith of*) Him and being established (*and strengthened*) in the faith just as you were taught (*of Him*), (*with that which makes your cup*) overflow with thanksgiving.

8 Take heed (*to hear and keep on hearing the faith*) so that no man is able to take you captive through philosophy (*and the love of their own wisdom*) and (*with*) empty (*worthless*) deceitful words, (*which are*) according to the traditions of men, and founded upon the basic principles contained in

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the world (*being subject to its ordinances of touch not, taste not, handle not*) and not according to (*the faith contained in*) Jesus Christ.

9 Because in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead in (*an immortal flesh and bone*) body.

10 And you are complete in Him (*lacking nothing you need for His life and Godlikeness*), who is the head of all rule and authority:

11 In whom also you are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in cutting off the body of death in the flesh by the circumcision of Christ (*in condemning death in the flesh*):

12 Buried with Him in (*the*) baptism (*of His death*), wherein you also are risen with Him (*to new life*) through the faith of the righteous act of God, the One who has raised Him from the dead.

13 And while you were yet dead in the offenses (*that came through the death that entered into the world and reigned over you, causing you to deviate from the truth, laboring in vain to preserve your own life*) in your uncircumcised (*dying*) flesh, He has quickened you together (*to new life*) with Him, having sent away from you (*the death that reigned over you and which was the cause of*) all offenses;

14 Blotting out (*the debt of offenses that were created, contained in*) the handwritten ordinances (*which death used to accuse our hearts in the law of commandments and in the basic principles of the world*) that were against us, which were

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contrary *(to the way unto life and)* to us *(having the incorruptible life He designed us for)*, and He took them out of the way in destroying death *(abolishing it in His flesh)*, nailing it to the cross *(like the proclamation of a debt that's been settled)*;

15 And having *(done so He)* disarmed all rulers and authorities *(stripping them of the weapon they used to deceive)*, putting it on open display, showing *(that the end of)* their way only leads to death, *(and how that He)* triumphed over death *(in the victory)* of the cross *(being raised immortal)*.

16 Therefore let no man judge you by *(the)* meat *(you eat or avoid)*, or by *(the)* drink *(you drink or avoid)*, or in regard to *(setting apart certain)* days as holy, such as the *(day of a)* new moon, or about the sabbath days *(but only by Christ)*:

17 *(Because)* all these things *(were given as)* a foreshadow *(pointing to)* things to come; but the substance *(of them)* is Christ.

18 Let no man deprive *(or disqualify)* you from your reward *(which is freely given in Christ)*, *(from one)* coming *(to you)* with a false humility and giving *(more)* reverence to angels *(than is due)*, and going into details regarding things which he has never seen, having an inflated *(view of himself)* without cause through *(the knowledge of good and evil)* in his carnal mind,

19 And not beholding *(and grabbing hold of)* the Head *(who is Christ)*, from where all the *(members of the)* body *(which is the church)* with its joints

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and ligaments are supplied (*and receive*) the food (*and nourishment*) that ministers (*His life*), and knits (*them*) together (*in His love*) and increases with increased (*fruit*) which comes from God.

20 Therefore if you are dead with Christ from the basic principles of the world, why (*would you live*) as though your life is still found in the world, being subject to its ordinances of,

21 (Touch not; taste not; handle not;

22 Which all are to (*decay and*) perish with use;) according to the (*carnal*) commandments and doctrines of men?

23 Which things do have the appearance of wisdom in the worship of your own will power (*which is self-worship that cannot ever bring forth the life and the fruit of God*), in false humility, and in harsh treatment of the body: not having any value (*in its ability*) to (*ever truly*) satisfy the flesh (*with the certainty of immortality*).

Chapter 3

1 If then you have been raised with Christ, seek (*meditate and reason on*) those things which are above, (*in heaven*) where Christ sits (*in a glorified human body*) on the right hand of God.

2 Set your mind (*and affection*) on (*the incorruptible*) things (*in heaven*) above, not on (*the corruptible*) things on the earth.

3 Because you are dead (*to the corruptible life in the world*), and your life is hidden (*incorruptible*) with Christ in God (*undefiled and where it never fades away*).

4 Therefore when Christ is revealed (*from heaven*) with the life (*and inheritance*) which He has reserved for you, then will you also appear with Him (*the sons of God*) in (*the same life and*) glory (*in immortality*).

5 Consider therefore the (*corruptible*) members (*contained in your flesh*) which are upon the earth, already dead (*in the death you died with Christ, along with the fruit of death which they can sting you with*); fornication (*being intimate with the works of your hands*), uncleanness (*touching death*), consumed by excessive (*and tormenting*) passions, an unrestrained lust (*for the life you can gather to yourself*), and covetousness, (*always greedily desiring for more and never quenching that feeling you lack*), which things are idolatry (*that set up the works of your hands as your god unto your own destruction*):

6 For this reason has God sworn in His wrath to destroy death (*taking vengeance upon*) those things which come upon the children who refuse to be persuaded (*that He conquered their death and has given them His life so that they might cease from those things which only lead to destruction*):

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7 In those things which you also walked at one time (*in the way that leads to destruction*), when you lived (*as the old man, being dead and laboring for life in vain according to the strength contained*) in your dying flesh.

8 But now (*as the new man who is dead to death*) lay aside (*and no longer consider the death in your flesh which formerly worked in your members to produce*) anger, (*outbursts of*) rage, hatred, slanderous lies (*against God*), speaking (*with filthy communication*) the lies that dwell in your heart out of your mouth.

9 (*But now knowing the truth*) do not (*speak*) lies to one another seeing as you have laid aside (*and considered*) the old man (*dead*) along with his deeds (*which were animated by the death that reigned over him*);

10 And now you have considered yourself (*made alive in Him and*) clothed upon by the new man (*who can never die*), which (*through the knowledge of Christ*) has renewed (*man back*) to the image of Him that created him (*to be a partaker of His life and immortality*):

11 Where there is no (*distinction between*) Greek or Jew, circumcision, or uncircumcision, (*uncivilized*) Bar-ba'ri-an, savage, slave or free: but (*only*) Christ (*who*) is (*for*) all, and in all.

12 Be clothed upon therefore (*with His life*) knowing that God has always purposed and desired it for you (*from the beginning*) setting you

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apart (*for that life*) and (*even when you were dead*) loving you in the bowels of His tender mercies (*to serve you with all the fruit of His life*) kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;

13 (*Whereby you can come alongside*) having patience with one another's (*faults*) and forgiving one another, (*so that*) if any man has a conflict with another: just as Christ has sent away (*and divorced you from death*), (*seeing them in Christ separated from death*) you also would send away (*not crediting*) their offense (*to their account*).

14 And above all things be clothed upon with His life (*allowing Him to serve you*) with His love, (*which love*) is the very thing that braids us together with Him in perfection.

15 And allow the peace (*and rest*) that comes from God (*and from abiding in His life*) to rule in our hearts (*presiding over our lives*), unto the life and peace which He has also called you and united us in one body and (*where you may be ever*) filled with gratefulness (*and thanksgiving*).

16 Allow (*therefore*) the word (*that God has spoken in*) Christ to abide in you abundantly (*where you are fully supplied with*) all wisdom; teaching and encouraging (*yourself and*) one another with psalms and hymns and songs that impart the spirit of faith, singing to the Lord (*with gratitude*) about the blessing and life (*He has influenced upon*) your hearts (*through Jesus Christ*).

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17 And *(so that)* in whatever things *(you may be occupied)* whether it is in word or in doings, that they all may *(be persuaded by Him)* giving all glory to *(and exalting)* the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and to the Father *(who brings forth His life in us)* through Him.

18 Wives, submit yourselves *(as one flesh in union)* to your own husbands, just as you are *(one body)* in *(union with)* the Lord.

19 Husbands, love your wives *(just as Christ loves us, seeing we are bone of His bone and flesh of His flesh)*, and *(where in seeing you are one flesh)* you are not harsh *(impatient or bitter)* toward them.

20 Children, obey *(listening diligently)* to your parents in all things: for this *(same diligence)* is well pleasing to *(those who as little children harken to)* the Lord *(and His instruction unto life)*.

21 Fathers, do not provoke your children *(to anger)*, *(but let your correction nurture them with the life and the hope that is in Christ)* so that you do not discourage them.

22 Servants, *(listen carefully to)* follow *(the instructions of)* your masters in all things according to the flesh; not just with *(the obedience)* that can be seen with the eye, which only pleases men; but with the singleness *(and sincerity)* of the heart which *(gives all diligence to the faith of our Lord Jesus)* totally reliant upon Him in reverence to God;

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23 And (*where*) whatever you do, (*you would*) do (*from a*) heart (*that being born of the Spirit has been stung by His life*), as (*one giving glory*) to the Lord, and not to that which (*only exalts and*) pleases men;

24 Knowing (*with certainty*) that from the Lord you will receive (*as your inheritance*) the (*same*) reward of the life and immortality (*found in Him*): because you have harkened to (*being obedient to*) the faith of the Lord Jesus Christ.

25 But (*know also that*) he that (*does not harken to the faith of the Lord Jesus*) takes the wrong way unto life (*and has gone aside to his own way*) and will (*from that wrong way*) receive the (*only*) reward it can serve him with (*which way perishes in death*), and there is (*not some different way unto life or*) partiality for (*any*) persons (*whether they are Jew, Gentile, bond or free*).

Chapter 4

1 Masters, give to your servants that which is just and equal; knowing that you also have One greater (*in rule and authority*) than you (*your Father*) in heaven (*who has come to serve us all equally with His justice in Christ Jesus our Lord, giving us His life and immortality as an inheritance by Him*).

2 Continue praying (*at all times*) staying alert in prayer and giving thanks to God;

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3 And pray also for us, that God would open to us a door for the word, *(so that we may boldly)* declare the mystery of Christ, because of which *(word)* I am also imprisoned:

4 So that I may make the mystery *(of Christ clearly)* known *(to all people, freely)* speaking as I ought to speak.

5 Walk *(abiding)* in the wisdom *(of Christ)* toward those that are without *(having not yet heard or received the word of Christ)*, so that you make the most of every opportunity.

6 *(Where you)* allow the words you speak to be filled with *(His)* grace, seasoned with salt *(with the message of Gods righteousness to preserve your life from the death and corruption that is in the world)*, so that you might know how you ought to answer every man *(about the hope that is in you)*.

7 Tychicus will make tell you about all the things concerning me, he is a beloved brother and faithful minister of Christ and fellow helper *(with me)* in the gospel of the Lord:

8 Who I have sent to you for this very purpose, so that you might know the things concerning us and he might encourage your hearts *(in the truth)*;

9 *(Along)* with O'nes'i-mus, *(who is also)* a faithful and beloved brother and one of you. They will tell you of all the things that are done here.

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10 Ar-is-tar'chus my fellow prisoner greets you as does Mark, who is the cousin of Bar'na-bas, (concerning whom you have received my instructions: that if he comes to you, receive him;)

11 And also Jesus, who is called Jus'tus, who is from the circumcision. These men are (*not only*) my fellow laborers in the kingdom of God, but they have also been a comfort to me.

12 Ep'a-phras, who is one of you, a servant (*who willingly belongs*) to Jesus Christ, greets you, (*who is*) always earnestly contending for you in his prayers, that you may stand perfect and complete in all that God desires for you.

13 Because I bear witness of him, that he has a great care for you, and (*also*) for those that are in La-od-i-ce'a, and in Hi-e-rap'o-lis.

14 Luke, the beloved physician, and Demas, greet you.

15 Greet the brothers that are in Laodicea, along with Nym'phas and all the church that meets in his house.

16 And when this letter is read among you, see to it that it also be read in the church of the La-od-i-ce'ans; and that you also read the letter from La-od-i-ce'a.

17 And say to Ar-chip'pus, take care (*to keep your eyes upon*) the ministry which you have received from the Lord, so that you fulfill it.

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18 The greeting (*in this letter is*) by the hand of me, Paul. Remember my bonds. Grace be with you. Amen.