

Parallel New Testament – Inductive Bible Study
Colossians 4:1-4:18

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<p>Greeting</p> <p>1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,</p> <p>²To the saints and faithful brothers^[a] in Christ at Colossae:</p> <p>Grace to you and peace from God our Father.</p> <p>Thanksgiving and Prayer</p> <p>³We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, ⁴since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, ⁵because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel, ⁶which has come to you, as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and increasing—as it also does among you, since the day you heard it and understood the grace of God in truth, ⁷just as you learned it from Epaphras our beloved fellow servant.^[b] He is a faithful minister of Christ on your^[c] behalf ⁸and has made known to us your love in the Spirit.</p> <p>⁹And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, ¹⁰so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the</p>	<p>Greeting</p> <p>1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,</p> <p>²To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ <i>who are</i> in Colosse:</p> <p>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.^[a]</p> <p>Their Faith in Christ</p> <p>³We give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, ⁴since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of your love for all the saints; ⁵because of the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, of which you heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel, ⁶which has come to you, as <i>it has</i> also in all the world, and is bringing forth fruit,^[b] as <i>it is</i> also among you since the day you heard and knew the grace of God in truth; ⁷as you also learned from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf, ⁸who also declared to us your love in the Spirit.</p> <p>Preeminence of Christ</p> <p>⁹For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; ¹⁰that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing <i>Him</i>, being fruitful in every good work and</p>		<p>1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,</p> <p>²To God’s holy people in Colossae, the faithful brothers and sisters^[a] in Christ:</p> <p>Grace and peace to you from God our Father.^[b]</p> <p>Thanksgiving and Prayer</p> <p>³We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, ⁴because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all God’s people— ⁵the faith and love that spring from the hope stored up for you in heaven and about which you have already heard in the true message of the gospel ⁶that has come to you. In the same way, the gospel is bearing fruit and growing throughout the whole world— just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and truly understood God’s grace. ⁷You learned it from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant,^[c] who is a faithful minister of Christ on our^[d] behalf, ⁸and who also told us of your love in the Spirit.</p> <p>⁹For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives,^[e] ¹⁰so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God,</p>

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<p>knowledge of God. ¹¹ May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy, ¹² giving thanks^[d] to the Father, who has qualified you^[e] to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. ¹³ He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.</p> <p>The Preeminence of Christ</p> <p>¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶ For by^[f] him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. ¹⁷ And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. ¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.</p> <p>²¹ And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, ²² he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, ²³ if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has</p>	<p>increasing in the knowledge of God; ¹¹ strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; ¹² giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. ¹³ He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed <i>us</i> into the kingdom of the Son of His love, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption through His blood,^[g] the forgiveness of sins.</p> <p>¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶ For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. ¹⁷ And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. ¹⁸ And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.</p> <p>Reconciled in Christ</p> <p>¹⁹ For it pleased <i>the Father that</i> in Him all the fullness should dwell, ²⁰ and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.</p> <p>²¹ And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled ²² in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight— ²³ if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to</p>		<p>¹¹ being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, ¹² and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you^[f] to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. ¹³ For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.</p> <p>The Supremacy of the Son of God</p> <p>¹⁵ The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶ For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷ He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. ¹⁹ For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.</p> <p>²¹ Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of^[g] your evil behavior. ²² But now he has reconciled you by Christ’s physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation— ²³ if you continue in your faith, established and firm, and do not move from the hope held out in the</p>

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<p>been proclaimed in all creation^[d] under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.</p> <p>Paul's Ministry to the Church</p> <p>²⁴ Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church,²⁵ of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known,²⁶ the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints.²⁷ To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.²⁸ Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ.²⁹ For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.</p> <p>2 For I want you to know how great a struggle I have for you and for those at Laodicea and for all who have not seen me face to face,² that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ,³ in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and</p>	<p>every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.</p> <p>Sacrificial Service for Christ</p> <p>²⁴ I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, for the sake of His body, which is the church,²⁵ of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God which was given to me for you, to fulfill the word of God,²⁶ the mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints.²⁷ To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which^[d] is Christ in you, the hope of glory.²⁸ Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.²⁹ To this <i>end</i> I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily.</p> <p>Not Philosophy but Christ</p> <p>2 For I want you to know what a great conflict I have for you and those in Laodicea, and <i>for</i> as many as have not seen my face in the flesh,² that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, and <i>attaining</i> to all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery of God, both of the Father and^[e] of Christ,³ in whom are</p>		<p>gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant.</p> <p>Paul's Labor for the Church</p> <p>²⁴ Now I rejoice in what I am suffering for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church.²⁵ I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness—²⁶ the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the Lord's people.²⁷ To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.</p> <p>²⁸ He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ.²⁹ To this end I strenuously contend with all the energy Christ so powerfully works in me.</p> <p>2 I want you to know how hard I am contending for you and for those at Laodicea, and for all who have not met me personally.² My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ,³ in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.⁴ I tell you this so that no one may</p>

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<p>knowledge. ⁴ I say this in order that no one may delude you with plausible arguments. ⁵ For though I am absent in body, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the firmness of your faith in Christ.</p> <p>Alive in Christ</p> <p>⁶ Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, ⁷ rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.</p> <p>⁸ See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits^[h] of the world, and not according to Christ. ⁹ For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, ¹⁰ and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority. ¹¹ In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, ¹² having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. ¹³ And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, ¹⁴ by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵ He disarmed the rulers and authorities^[i] and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in</p>	<p>hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.</p> <p>⁴ Now this I say lest anyone should deceive you with persuasive words. ⁵ For though I am absent in the flesh, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your <i>good</i> order and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ.</p> <p>⁶ As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, ⁷ rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it^[i] with thanksgiving.</p> <p>⁸ Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ. ⁹ For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; ¹⁰ and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.</p> <p>Not Legalism but Christ</p> <p>¹¹ In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins^[h] of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, ¹² buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with <i>Him</i> through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. ¹³ And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, ¹⁴ having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. ¹⁵ Having disarmed</p>		<p>deceive you by fine-sounding arguments. ⁵ For though I am absent from you in body, I am present with you in spirit and delight to see how disciplined you are and how firm your faith in Christ is.</p> <p>Spiritual Fullness in Christ</p> <p>⁶ So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, ⁷ rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.</p> <p>⁸ See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces^[h] of this world rather than on Christ.</p> <p>⁹ For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, ¹⁰ and in Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority. ¹¹ In him you were also circumcised with a circumcision not performed by human hands. Your whole self ruled by the flesh^[i] was put off when you were circumcised by^[j] Christ, ¹² having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead.</p> <p>¹³ When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you^[k] alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, ¹⁴ having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he</p>

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<p>him.^[1]</p> <p>Let No One Disqualify You</p> <p>¹⁶Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath. ¹⁷These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ. ¹⁸Let no one disqualify you, insisting on asceticism and worship of angels, going on in detail about visions,^[k] puffed up without reason by his sensuous mind, ¹⁹and not holding fast to the Head, from whom the whole body, nourished and knit together through its joints and ligaments, grows with a growth that is from God.</p> <p>²⁰If with Christ you died to the elemental spirits of the world, why, as if you were still alive in the world, do you submit to regulations— ²¹“Do not handle, Do not taste, Do not touch” ²²(referring to things that all perish as they are used)—according to human precepts and teachings? ²³These have indeed an appearance of wisdom in promoting self-made religion and asceticism and severity to the body, but they are of no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh.</p>	<p>principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.</p> <p>¹⁶So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths, ¹⁷which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ. ¹⁸Let no one cheat you of your reward, taking delight in <i>false</i> humility and worship of angels, intruding into those things which he has not^[h] seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind, ¹⁹and not holding fast to the Head, from whom all the body, nourished and knit together by joints and ligaments, grows with the increase <i>that is</i> from God.</p> <p>²⁰Therefore,^[i] if you died with Christ from the basic principles of the world, why, as <i>though</i> living in the world, do you subject yourselves to regulations— ²¹“Do not touch, do not taste, do not handle,” ²²which all concern things which perish with the using—according to the commandments and doctrines of men? ²³These things indeed have an appearance of wisdom in self-imposed religion, <i>false</i> humility, and neglect of the body, <i>but are</i> of no value against the indulgence of the flesh.</p>		<p>has taken it away, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.^[l]</p> <p>Freedom From Human Rules</p> <p>¹⁶Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. ¹⁷These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ. ¹⁸Do not let anyone who delights in false humility and the worship of angels disqualify you. Such a person also goes into great detail about what they have seen; they are puffed up with idle notions by their unspiritual mind. ¹⁹They have lost connection with the head, from whom the whole body, supported and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows as God causes it to grow.</p> <p>²⁰Since you died with Christ to the elemental spiritual forces of this world, why, as though you still belonged to the world, do you submit to its rules: ²¹“Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch!”? ²²These rules, which have to do with things that are all destined to perish with use, are based on merely human commands and teachings. ²³Such regulations indeed have an appearance of wisdom, with their self-imposed worship, their false humility and their harsh treatment of the body, but they lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence.</p>

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<p>Put On the New Self</p> <p>3 If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ²Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. ³For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ who is your^[m] life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.</p> <p>⁵ Put to death therefore what is earthly in you:^[m] sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. ⁶On account of these the wrath of God is coming.^[m] ⁷In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. ⁸But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. ⁹Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self^[o] with its practices ¹⁰and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. ¹¹Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave,^[p] free; but Christ is all, and in all.</p> <p>¹²Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, ¹³bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect</p>	<p>Not Carnality but Christ</p> <p>3 If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. ²Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. ³For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ <i>who is</i> our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.</p> <p>⁵ Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. ⁶Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, ⁷in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them.</p> <p>⁸ But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. ⁹Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, ¹⁰and have put on the new <i>man</i> who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, ¹¹where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave <i>nor</i> free, but Christ <i>is</i> all and in all.</p> <p>Character of the New Man</p> <p>¹² Therefore, as <i>the</i> elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; ¹³bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also <i>must do</i>. ¹⁴But above all these things put on love, which is the bond</p>		<p>Living as Those Made Alive in Christ</p> <p>3 Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ²Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. ³For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ, who is your^[m] life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.</p> <p>⁵ Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. ⁶Because of these, the wrath of God is coming.^[m] ⁷You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. ⁸But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. ⁹Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices ¹⁰and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. ¹¹Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.</p> <p>¹² Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ¹³Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.</p> <p>¹⁵ Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you</p>

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<p>harmony. ¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.</p> <p>Rules for Christian Households</p> <p>¹⁸ Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. ¹⁹ Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them. ²⁰ Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. ²¹ Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged. ²² Bondservants, ^[a] obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, ^[b] not by way of eyeservice, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord. ²³ Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, ²⁴ knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ. ²⁵ For the wrongdoer will be paid back for the wrong he has done, and there is no partiality.</p> <p>4 Masters, treat your bondservants justly and fairly, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.</p>	<p>of perfection. ¹⁵ And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. ¹⁷ And whatever you do in word or deed, <i>do</i> all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.</p> <p>The Christian Home</p> <p>¹⁸ Wives, submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.</p> <p>¹⁹ Husbands, love your wives and do not be bitter toward them.</p> <p>²⁰ Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord.</p> <p>²¹ Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.</p> <p>²² Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God. ²³ And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, ²⁴ knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for ^[c] you serve the Lord Christ. ²⁵ But he who does wrong will be repaid for what he has done, and there is no partiality.</p> <p>4 Masters, give your bondservants what is just and fair, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.</p>		<p>were called to peace. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.</p> <p>Instructions for Christian Households</p> <p>¹⁸ Wives, submit yourselves to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.</p> <p>¹⁹ Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them.</p> <p>²⁰ Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.</p> <p>²¹ Fathers, ^[d] do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.</p> <p>²² Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to curry their favor, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord. ²³ Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, ²⁴ since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. ²⁵ Anyone who does wrong will be repaid for their wrongs, and there is no favoritism.</p> <p>4 Masters, provide your slaves with what is right and fair, because you know that</p>

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<p>Further Instructions</p> <p>² Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. ³ At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison—⁴ that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak.</p> <p>⁵ Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. ⁶ Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.</p> <p>Final Greetings</p> <p>⁷ Tychicus will tell you all about my activities. He is a beloved brother and faithful minister and fellow servant^[s] in the Lord. ⁸ I have sent him to you for this very purpose, that you may know how we are and that he may encourage your hearts, ⁹ and with him Onesimus, our faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you. They will tell you of everything that has taken place here.</p> <p>¹⁰ Aristarchus my fellow prisoner greets you, and Mark the cousin of Barnabas (concerning whom you have received instructions—if he comes to you, welcome him), ¹¹ and Jesus who is called Justus. These are the only men of the circumcision among my fellow workers for the kingdom of God, and they have been a comfort to me. ¹² Epaphras, who is one of you, a</p>	<p>Christian Graces</p> <p>² Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving; ³ meanwhile praying also for us, that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in chains, ⁴ that I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak.</p> <p>⁵ Walk in wisdom toward those <i>who are</i> outside, redeeming the time. ⁶ Let your speech always <i>be</i> with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.</p> <p>Final Greetings</p> <p>⁷ Tychicus, a beloved brother, faithful minister, and fellow servant in the Lord, will tell you all the news about me. ⁸ I am sending him to you for this very purpose, that he^[k] may know your circumstances and comfort your hearts, ⁹ with Onesimus, a faithful and beloved brother, who is <i>one</i> of you. They will make known to you all things which <i>are happening</i> here.</p> <p>¹⁰ Aristarchus my fellow prisoner greets you, with Mark the cousin of Barnabas (about whom you received instructions: if he comes to you, welcome him), ¹¹ and Jesus who is called Justus. These <i>are my</i> only fellow workers for the kingdom of God who are of the circumcision; they have proved to be a comfort to me.</p> <p>¹² Epaphras, who is <i>one</i> of you, a bondservant of Christ, greets you, always laboring fervently for you in prayers, that you may stand perfect and complete^[l] in all the will of God. ¹³ For I bear him witness</p>		<p>you also have a Master in heaven.</p> <p>Further Instructions</p> <p>² Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. ³ And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. ⁴ Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. ⁵ Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. ⁶ Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.</p> <p>Final Greetings</p> <p>⁷ Tychicus will tell you all the news about me. He is a dear brother, a faithful minister and fellow servant^[p] in the Lord. ⁸ I am sending him to you for the express purpose that you may know about our^[q] circumstances and that he may encourage your hearts. ⁹ He is coming with Onesimus, our faithful and dear brother, who is one of you. They will tell you everything that is happening here.</p> <p>¹⁰ My fellow prisoner Aristarchus sends you his greetings, as does Mark, the cousin of Barnabas. (You have received instructions about him; if he comes to you, welcome him.) ¹¹ Jesus, who is called Justus, also sends greetings. These are the only Jews^[r] among my co-workers for the kingdom of God, and they have proved a comfort to me. ¹² Epaphras, who is one of you and a servant of Christ Jesus, sends greetings. He is always wrestling in prayer for you,</p>

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<p>servant of Christ Jesus, greets you, always struggling on your behalf in his prayers, that you may stand mature and fully assured in all the will of God. ¹³ For I bear him witness that he has worked hard for you and for those in Laodicea and in Hierapolis. ¹⁴ Luke the beloved physician greets you, as does Demas. ¹⁵ Give my greetings to the brothers^[4] at Laodicea, and to Nympha and the church in her house. ¹⁶ And when this letter has been read among you, have it also read in the church of the Laodiceans; and see that you also read the letter from Laodicea. ¹⁷ And say to Archippus, “See that you fulfill the ministry that you have received in the Lord.”</p> <p>¹⁸ I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. Remember my chains. Grace be with you.</p>	<p>that he has a great zeal^[m] for you, and those who are in Laodicea, and those in Hierapolis. ¹⁴ Luke the beloved physician and Demas greet you. ¹⁵ Greet the brethren who are in Laodicea, and Nymphas and the church that <i>is</i> in his^[n] house.</p> <p>Closing Exhortations and Blessing</p> <p>¹⁶ Now when this epistle is read among you, see that it is read also in the church of the Laodiceans, and that you likewise read the <i>epistle</i> from Laodicea. ¹⁷ And say to Archippus, “Take heed to the ministry which you have received in the Lord, that you may fulfill it.”</p> <p>¹⁸ This salutation by my own hand—Paul. Remember my chains. Grace <i>be</i> with you. Amen.</p>		<p>that you may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured. ¹³ I vouch for him that he is working hard for you and for those at Laodicea and Hierapolis. ¹⁴ Our dear friend Luke, the doctor, and Demas send greetings. ¹⁵ Give my greetings to the brothers and sisters at Laodicea, and to Nympha and the church in her house.</p> <p>¹⁶ After this letter has been read to you, see that it is also read in the church of the Laodiceans and that you in turn read the letter from Laodicea.</p> <p>¹⁷ Tell Archippus: “See to it that you complete the ministry you have received in the Lord.”</p> <p>¹⁸ I, Paul, write this greeting in my own hand. Remember my chains. Grace be with you.</p>

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<p>Footnotes:</p> <p>a. Colossians 1:2 Or <i>brothers and sisters</i>. The plural Greek word <i>adelphoi</i> (translated “brothers”) refers to siblings in a family. In New Testament usage, depending on the context, <i>adelphoi</i> may refer either to men or to both men and women who are siblings (brothers and sisters) in God’s family, the church</p> <p>b. Colossians 1:7 Greek <i>fellow bondservant</i></p> <p>c. Colossians 1:7 Some manuscripts <i>our</i></p> <p>d. Colossians 1:12 Or <i>patience, with joy giving thanks</i></p> <p>e. Colossians 1:12 Some manuscripts <i>us</i></p> <p>f. Colossians 1:16 That is, by means of; or <i>in</i></p> <p>g. Colossians 1:23 Or <i>to every creature</i></p> <p>h. Colossians 2:8 Or <i>elementary principles</i>; also verse 20</p> <p>i. Colossians 2:15 Probably demonic rulers and authorities</p> <p>j. Colossians 2:15 Or <i>in it</i> (that is, the cross)</p> <p>k. Colossians 2:18 Or <i>about the things he has seen</i></p> <p>l. Colossians 3:4 Some manuscripts <i>our</i></p> <p>m. Colossians 3:5 Greek <i>therefore your members that are on the earth</i></p> <p>n. Colossians 3:6 Some manuscripts add <i>upon the sons of disobedience</i></p> <p>o. Colossians 3:9 Greek <i>man</i>; also as supplied in verse 10</p> <p>p. Colossians 3:11 Greek <i>bondservant</i></p> <p>q. Colossians 3:22 Or <i>Slaves</i>; also 4:1 (for the contextual rendering of the Greek word <i>doulos</i>, see Preface)</p> <p>r. Colossians 3:22 Or <i>your masters according to the flesh</i></p> <p>s. Colossians 4:7 Greek <i>fellow bondservant</i>; also verse 12</p> <p>t. Colossians 4:15 Or <i>brothers and sisters</i></p>	<p>Footnotes:</p> <p>a. Colossians 1:2 NU-Text omits <i>and the Lord Jesus Christ</i>.</p> <p>b. Colossians 1:6 NU-Text and M-Text add <i>and growing</i>.</p> <p>c. Colossians 1:14 NU-Text and M-Text omit <i>through His blood</i>.</p> <p>d. Colossians 1:27 M-Text reads <i>who</i>.</p> <p>e. Colossians 2:2 NU-Text omits <i>both of the Father and</i>.</p> <p>f. Colossians 2:7 NU-Text omits <i>in it</i>.</p> <p>g. Colossians 2:11 NU-Text omits <i>of the sins</i>.</p> <p>h. Colossians 2:18 NU-Text omits <i>not</i>.</p> <p>i. Colossians 2:20 NU-Text and M-Text omit <i>Therefore</i>.</p> <p>j. Colossians 3:24 NU-Text omits <i>for</i>.</p> <p>k. Colossians 4:8 NU-Text reads <i>you may know our circumstances and he may</i>.</p> <p>l. Colossians 4:12 NU-Text reads <i>fully assured</i>.</p> <p>m. Colossians 4:13 NU-Text reads <i>concern</i>.</p> <p>n. Colossians 4:15 NU-Text reads <i>Nympha . . . her house</i>.</p>		<p>Footnotes:</p> <p>a. Colossians 1:2 The Greek word for <i>brothers and sisters</i> (<i>adelphoi</i>) refers here to believers, both men and women, as part of God’s family; also in 4:15.</p> <p>b. Colossians 1:2 Some manuscripts <i>Father and the Lord Jesus Christ</i></p> <p>c. Colossians 1:7 Or <i>slave</i></p> <p>d. Colossians 1:7 Some manuscripts <i>your</i></p> <p>e. Colossians 1:9 Or <i>all spiritual wisdom and understanding</i></p> <p>f. Colossians 1:12 Some manuscripts <i>us</i></p> <p>g. Colossians 1:21 Or <i>minds, as shown by</i></p> <p>h. Colossians 2:8 Or <i>the basic principles</i>; also in verse 20</p> <p>i. Colossians 2:11 In contexts like this, the Greek word for <i>flesh</i> (<i>sarx</i>) refers to the sinful state of human beings, often presented as a power in opposition to the Spirit; also in verse 13.</p> <p>j. Colossians 2:11 Or <i>put off in the circumcision of</i></p> <p>k. Colossians 2:13 Some manuscripts <i>us</i></p> <p>l. Colossians 2:15 Or <i>them in him</i></p> <p>m. Colossians 3:4 Some manuscripts <i>our</i></p> <p>n. Colossians 3:6 Some early manuscripts <i>coming on those who are disobedient</i></p> <p>o. Colossians 3:21 Or <i>Parents</i></p> <p>p. Colossians 4:7 Or <i>slave</i>; also in verse 12</p> <p>q. Colossians 4:8 Some manuscripts <i>that he may know about your</i></p> <p>r. Colossians 4:11 Greek <i>only ones of the circumcision group</i></p>