

Colossians

Chapter 1

1. I'm Paul. God chose me to be the apostle of Jesus Christ. And Timothy is my friend who believes in Jesus.
2. We are writing this letter to God's people who are in Colosse. And we are writing this letter to our faithful friends who believe in Christ and belong to him. We ask God, who is our Father, to treat you kindly. And we ask God to help you be peaceful.
3. We always are praying for you. And when we pray for you, we thank God. God is the father of our Lord, who is Jesus Christ.
4. We heard that you're trusting in Jesus Christ. And we heard that you love all of God's people.
5. You do these things because you expect God to do wonderful things for you. And God will certainly do these wonderful things for you. When you heard God's good message, you learned about these things. And God's message is the true message.
6. People who live in many other places that are on the earth also heard God's good message. More people are believing God's good message there. And more people are living there like God wants them to live. These things also are happening among you since you heard God's good message. And you truly understand that God treats us kindly since you heard his good message.
7. You heard about these things from Epaphras, whom we love. Epaphras faithfully serves Christ with us. Epaphras is our representative for you.
8. And Epaphras told us that the Holy Spirit caused you to love other Christians greatly.
9. Title: Paul and Timothy pray for the Christians who are in Colosse. When we heard these things that were about you, we started praying for you very often. We pray that you will know the things that God wants you to know. And we pray that you will be wise. And we pray that you will understand things that are about God.
10. We pray to God about these things so that you could live like you should live. Then you will completely please God. You will do many good things and learn new things that are about God.
11. We pray that God, who is extremely powerful, will cause you to be faithful, patient, and happy.
12. And we pray that you will thank the Father. The Father caused you to be able to live in heaven with him forever.
13. Title: Jesus Christ is greater than all things. Earlier Satan and demons ruled us. But the Father saved us from Satan and demons. And the Son, whom the Father loves, rules us now.

14. The Father freed us from sin and death through the Son and forgave through him the bad things that we did.

15. We are not able to see God. But we are able to know God because we saw Jesus like we are able to know another person. The Son has the greatest authority to rule all things that God created.

16. God created all things through the Son. These things that God created include things that are in heaven, things that are on the earth, things that people are able to see, and things that people are not able to see. These things include angels who rule other angels, demons who rule other demons, angels who are powerful, demons who are powerful, angels who have authority, and demons who have authority.

17. Before all of these things that God created existed, the Son existed. And all of these things exist because of the Son.

18. The Son leads all Christians like the head leads all of the body's other parts. We live because of the Son. The Son is the first person that God caused to become alive again. So the Son will live with God forever. God will cause many people to become alive again. But the Son is the most important person that God will cause to become alive again. God caused the Son to become alive again so that he could rule all things. Alternate 1: God caused the Son to become alive again so that he could be more important than all things.

19. God is pleased because the Son has all the characteristics that he has. And the Son is the most important person because he has all the characteristics that God has.

20. And God decided to cause all people and all things through the Son to become his friends. These people and things include people who are on the earth, things that are on there, people who are in heaven, and things that are in there. God decided to make peace with these people and these things through the blood that the Son gave to him when he was on the cross.

21. Earlier you were not God's friends. You were God's enemies because you did bad things. And you did bad things because you thought about bad things.

22. But God now caused you through Christ's body to become his friends. And he'll cause you through Christ's death to be with him. Then you will be holy and pure. And no person will accuse you of doing bad things.

23. When you heard the good message, you heard about the wonderful things that God will do for you. But you have to continue trusting in God and have to continue hoping that the things that he describes to you in the good message will happen. God is telling his good message to all people, all angels, and all demons through his people and through his angels. And I work now to bring God's good message to people.

24. Title: Paul works to bring God's good message to people. Christ takes care of the group of Christians like the head takes care of the body. And he suffered for the group of Christians. And I suffer for you now happily to do the things that I still have to do.

25. I started serving the group of Christians because God chose me to serve them. God works for you through me to cause all the things that he said to happen. Alternate 1: God wants me to explain his message to you thoroughly.

26. Previously God didn't help people understand the things that he was doing. But he is showing these things to his holy people now.

27. God wants his holy people to understand all the extremely wonderful things that he is doing. He planned to cause Christ to live in you, who are not Jews. And you're able to expect God to do wonderful things for you in heaven because Christ lives in you.

28. We tell people about Christ. We warn all of these people to don't live badly. And we teach all of these people how to live well. We teach these people about God with his wisdom so that when they meet him, they would be perfect. Alternate 1: We teach these people about God with his wisdom so that when they meet him, they would have all the characteristics that they should have.

29. I work hard so that these people could be ready to meet God. I'm able to work hard for these people because God works hard through me.

Chapter 2

1. I want you to know that I'm struggling greatly for you, the Christians who are in Laodicea, and all the Christians who have not met me.

2. I struggle for you so that you could have courage. And I struggle for you so that you could be united by God. When you're united by God, you love each other. And I struggle for you so that you could have all valuable knowledge. Then you will understand God's mystery, which is Christ.

3. Before this time people didn't know about the things that God will do for you. These things are very valuable. You're able to know many things because Christ is in you. And you're able to be wise because Christ is in you.

4. I tell you about Christ so that other people could not say bad things that persuade you to have wrong thoughts.

5. I'm not with you. But I always am thinking about you. And I'm very happy because you're united by God. And I'm very happy because you continue believing in Jesus.

6. Title: Do good things like God's people should do good things. Title: And don't believe the wrong things that some people teach you about. Do good things like after you started believing in Jesus Christ, you did good things.

7. You will truly be alive because you continue trusting in Jesus like a plant that is planted by a person in the ground is healthy. And God will cause you to have a good relationship with him because you continue trusting in Jesus like a person builds a building that is beautiful. Continue believing the things that we taught you about. And always thank God greatly.

8. Some people think that certain other people are wise. Those other people teach people about wrong ideas. Those ideas are about the things that people should do. Alternate 1: But demons made the ideas that other people taught people about. Christ doesn't teach people about those ideas. And those ideas are not valuable. Don't allow those people to deceive you. And don't allow those people to cause you to stop trusting in Christ.

9. When Christ was a person, he completely was God.

10. You have all the things that you need because you're united by God with Christ. Christ rules all people, all angels, and all demons.

11. When a man becomes a Jew, a priest circumcises him. And when a Jewish boy is one week old, a priest circumcises him. Similarly when a person is united by God with Christ, the power of the bad things that are in him is taken away from him by God. God doesn't do this thing by cutting the person's body. But he does this thing through Christ.

12. And when you become Christians, a disciple puts your bodies under water. You don't continue having your old lives because people buried Christ's body. And God gave a new life to you because Christ became alive again. God gave this new life to you because of your faith.

13. Because of the bad things that you did, you had a bad relationship with God. And because of the bad things that were in you, you had a bad relationship with God. But God caused you to have a good relationship with him by forgiving all the bad things that you did.

14. God writes in a book all the bad things that you do. But he destroyed the book that contained all the bad things that you did. When Jesus died on the cross, God destroyed that book.

15. When Christ died on the cross, God took power away from the demons. And he showed people that he defeated those demons.

16. Therefore don't allow other people to judge you because you eat certain things. And don't allow other people to judge you because you drink certain things. And don't allow other people to judge you because you celebrate a feast, a day when the moon appears in the sky first, or the seventh day of a week.

17. These things that people do are like shadows. But Christ is like the person who makes these shadows.

18. Some people tell you that you should pretend to be very humble. And they tell you that you should worship angels. They talk about the things that they think that they saw. And because of the ideas that these people have, they are very proud. Don't allow these people to judge you.

19. These people stopped believing the true message, which is about Christ. And they stopped teaching you about the true message, which is about Christ. Christ leads the group of Christians like a head leads the body's other parts. The head helps the body grow. And Christ causes his people to know God. And Christ causes his people to love God. God wants the group of Christians to do these things.

20. Christ told you to stop obeying these wrong ideas. These ideas are about the things that people should do. Alternate 1: Christ caused the demons to stop possessing you. So don't continue obeying the commands that people make because of these ideas. Alternate 1: So don't continue obeying the commands that these demons make.

21. People say, "Don't hold certain things. Don't taste a certain food or a certain drink and don't touch certain things."

22. These commands are about food, drinks, and other things. But these things won't exist forever. Certain people teach other people about these commands. But God doesn't teach people about these commands.

23. Some people might think that the people who make these commands are wise. But these people are not wise. They worship God like they think that they have to worship him. And they might think that they are humble. And they force their bodies to work hard. But the things that these people do don't help them stop living badly.

Chapter 3

1. You have a new life because God caused you to become alive with Christ again. So want the things that people who belong to God should want. God is in heaven. And Christ is with God at the most important place that is in heaven.

2. Think about the things that people who are in heaven should think about. Don't think about the things that people who are on the earth think about.

3. Your old life stopped existing because when Christ died, you died with him. You're united by God with Christ now. And you and Christ are with God. Many people don't understand this new life that you have.

4. You truly live because of Christ. And when people see Christ in the future, they will see that he is bright and beautiful. And they will see that you also are because of Christ bright and beautiful.

5. Stop doing the bad things that people who live on the earth do. Don't sleep with a person that you're not married to. And don't think about sleeping with a person that you're not married to. Don't do anything that causes you to be ashamed. And don't want to do other things that are bad. Don't want

things that you don't need. It is bad that you want things that you don't need like it is bad that you worship things.

6. God is very angry because people do these things. And he'll judge people because he is angry. He'll punish the people who don't obey him.

7. Before God gave a new life to you, you also did these things.

8. But don't do bad things now. Don't become very angry. Don't try to hurt other people. And don't say bad things about other people and don't say bad words.

9. And don't lie to each other. Don't do these things because God took the power of the bad things that are in you away from you. And don't do these things because you stopped doing the bad things that previously you did.

10. But God gave a new life to you now and always is changing you so that you could be like him. And he is causing you to know him.

11. It is not important that you're a Jew because God gave a new life to you. And it is not important that you're not a Jew. It is not important that you were circumcised by a person. And it is not important that you were not circumcised by a person. It is not important that you learned many things. And it is not important that you're from a nation that is violent. It is not important that you're a slave. And it is not important that you're not a slave. But only Christ is extremely important and lives in you.

12. God chose you to be his special people. And he loves you. Therefore take care of people who are suffering. And treat each other kindly. Don't be proud. But be gentle and patient.

13. Even if those people annoy you, be patient with them. Forgive all the bad things that you did to each other. Forgive other people like the Lord forgave you.

14. Love each other more than you love other things. When you love each other, God unites you.

15. The group of Christians consist of many people like the body consists of many parts. God chose you to believe in Jesus so that you would have a peaceful relationship with other people. Allow the peace that God gives to you to control you. And always thank God.

16. Think about the message that is about Christ. And do good things like people who know the message that is about Christ should do good things. Be wise. Teach other people about the message that is about Christ. And encourage each other to follow Christ. Also thank God by singing scripture songs, songs that cause you to praise him, and other songs that Christians sing.

17. God causes you to be able to be the Lord Jesus' representatives. So always speak to other people like Jesus' representatives should speak to other people. And always act like Jesus' representatives should act. And thank God through Jesus.

18. Title: Paul talks about good relationships. Wives, allow your husbands to lead your families because the Lord wants you to do this thing.

19. Husbands, love your wives and don't treat them badly.

20. Children, always obey your parents because it pleases the Lord that you obey them.

21. Fathers, don't cause your children to become very angry by treating them badly. If you treat your children badly, they might stop trying to do good things.

22. Slaves, always obey your masters who are on the earth. You might think that when those masters are watching you, you should obey them so that they would praise you. When your masters are watching you, you should obey them. But when your masters are not watching you, you also should obey them. Work sincerely so that you would honor the Lord.

23. You should want to work well. Don't work like you're working for people. But work like you're working for the Lord.

24. You serve the Lord Christ. So know that the Lord will reward you. And know that the Lord will give you all the good things that he promised you that he would give to you.

25. But God will punish people who continue doing bad things. And he treats each person like he treats other people.

Chapter 4

1. Masters, remember that you also have a master who is in heaven. So be fair and give your slaves the things that you should give to them.

2. Title: Paul asks the Christians who live in Colosse to pray for him. Title: And Paul teaches the Christians who live in Colosse how to speak to people who don't believe in Christ. Continue praying. And after you pray, watch the things that God does. And thank God while you pray.

3. Also pray for us. Pray that God will cause us to be able to tell people about Christ. And pray that we will be able to explain to other people God's plan that is about Christ. I'm in prison because I tell people about Christ.

4. Pray that I'll be able to tell people about God's plan like I should tell them about it.

5. When you're with people who don't believe in Jesus, act wisely. When you're able to influence those people, influence them.

6. Always speak kindly to those people and say things that will cause them to be interested in hearing about God's message. Then when those people ask you about God's message, you will know how to speak to them wisely.

7. Title: Paul writes special messages to certain people. Tychicus will bring to you news that is about me. He is a Christian. And I love Tychicus. And Tychicus faithfully serves the Lord with us.

8. I'm sending Tychicus to you so that he could bring to you news that is about me. And I'm sending Tychicus to you so that he could encourage you.

9. I also am sending Onesimus to you. Onesimus also is a faithful Christian. And I love Onesimus. And Onesimus is from your city. Tychicus and Onesimus will tell you about all the things that are happening here.

10. Aristarchus, who is in prison with me, greets you. And Mark, who is Barnabas' cousin, also greets you. You already received a message that told you about the things that you should do for Mark. If Mark comes to you, welcome him.

11. A person named Jesus also greets you. Some people call this man 'Justus'. These three people are the only Jews who believe in Jesus and are working with me. They are working with me to help people follow God.

12. Epaphras, who is from your city, greets you. He works hard to serve Jesus Christ. Epaphras always prays earnestly for you. He prays that you will love God and other people like he wants you to love them. And Epaphras prays that you will know all the things that God wants you to know. And he prays that you will know all the things that God wants you to do. And he prays that you will do those things.

13. I want you to know that Epaphras is working hard for you, the people who live in the city named Laodicea, and the people who live in the city named Hierapolis.

14. Luke greets you. He is a doctor. And I love Luke. And Demas also greets you.

15. Tell the Christians who live in Laodicea that I greet them. And tell Nympha and the Christians who meet at her house that I greet them.

16. After a person reads this letter to you, send it to the group of people who live in Laodicea. Then a person will read this letter to those people. The group of people who live in Laodicea will also send you the letter that I sent to them. Then ask a person to read that letter to you.

17. Tell Archippus to finish doing the work that the Lord told Archippus to do.

18. I'm writing this part of this letter with my hand so that you would know that I wrote it. Remember that I'm in prison. And pray for me. I pray that the Lord will treat you kindly.