

The Epistle of Paul to the Colossians.

The Argument

In this Epistle S. Paul putteth difference between the lively, effectual and true Christ, and the fained, counterfeit and imagined Christ, whom the false apostles taught. And first, he confirmeth the doctrine which Epaphras had preached, wishing them increase of faith, to esteem the excellency of God's benefit toward them, teaching them also that salvation, and whatsoever good thing can be desired, standeth only in Christ, whom only we embrace by the Gospel. But forasmuch as the false brethren would have mixed the Law with the Gospel, he toucheth those flatterers Vehemently, and exhorteth the Colossians to stay only on Christ, without whom all things are but mere vanity. And as for Circumcision, abstinence from meats, external holiness, worshiping of Angels as means whereby to come to Christ, he utterly condemneth, shewing what was the office and nature of ceremonies, which by Christ are abrogate: so that now the exercises of the Christians stand in mortification of the flesh, newness of life, with other like offices appertaining both generally and particularly to all the faithful.

Chapter 1

3 He giveth thanks unto God for their faith, 7 Confirmeth the doctrine of Epaphras, 9 Praieth for the increase of their faith. 13 He sheweth unto them the true Christ, & discovereth the counterfeit Christ of the false apostles. 25 He approveth his authority and charge, 28 And of his faithful executing of the same.

Paul an Apostle of Jesus Christ, by the will of God, and Timotheus our brother,
2 To them, which are at Colosse, Saints and faithful brethren in Christ: Grace be with you, and peace from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.
3 We give thanks to God even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, always praying for you:
4 Since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus, and of your love toward all Saints,
5 For the hope's sake, which is layed up for you in heaven, whereof ye have heard before by the word of truth, which is the Gospel,
6 Which is come unto you, even as it is unto all the world, and is fruitful, as it is also among you, from the day that ye heard and truly knew the grace of God,
7 As ye also learned of Epaphras our dear fellow servant, which is for you a faithful minister of Christ:
8 Who hath also declared unto us your love, which ye have by the Spirit.
9 For this cause we also, since the day we heard of it, cease not to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be fulfilled with knowledge of his will, in all wisdom, and spiritual understanding,
10 That ye might walk worthy of the Lord, and please him in all things, being fruitful in all good works, and increasing in the knowledge of God,
11 Strengthened with all might through his glorious power, unto all patience, and long suffering with joyfulness,
12 Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us mete to be partakers of the inheritance of the Saints in light,
13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son,
14 In whom we have redemption through his blood, that is, the forgiveness of sins,

2 a Which was a city if Phrygia.

4 b For without Christ there is no faith to be saved by, but only a vain opinion.

8 c Which comes of the holie Ghost.

9 d That is, God's.

10 *Eph. 4.1, Phil. 1.27, 1 Thess. 2.12.

10 *1 Cor. 1.5.

13 *Mat. 3.17 and 17.5, 2 Pet. 1.17.

15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the first born of every creature.

16 For by him were all things created, which are in heaven, and which are in earth, things visible and invisible: whether they be Thrones, or Dominions, or Principalities, or Powers, all things were created by 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 of the Church: he is the beginning, and the first born of the dead, that in all things he might have the preeminence.

19 For it pleased the Father, that in him should all fullness dwell,

20 And by him to reconcile all things unto him self, and to set at peace through the blood of his cross both the things in earth, and the things in heaven.

21 And you which were in times past strangers and enemies, because your minds were set in evil works, hath he now also reconciled,

22 In the body of his flesh through death, to make you holie, and unblameable and without faute in his sight,

23 If ye continue, grounded and stablished in the faith, and be not moved away from the hope of the Gospel, whereof ye have heard, and which hath been preached to every creature which is under heaven whereof I Paul am a minister.

24 Now rejoyce I in my sufferings for you, and fulfill the rest of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh, for his bodie's sake, which is the Church,

25 Whereof I am a minister, according to the dispensation of God, which is given me unto youwarde, to fulfill the word of God,

26 Which is the mystery hid since the world began, and from all ages, but now is made manifest to his Saints,

15 *Ebr. 1.3.

15 e For God is made visible in the flesh of Christ, and the divinitie dwells in him corporally.

15 f Born before any thing was created.

16 *John 1.3.

18 *1 Cor. 15.20, Rev. 1.5.

18 g He that rose first again from the dead to take possession of life everlasting: which rising may be called a new birth.

19 *John 1.14, chap 2.9.

19 h That the Church, which is his body, might receive of his abundance.

20 i That is the whole Church.

22 *Luk. 1.75, 1 Cor. 1.2, Eph. 1.4, Tit. 2.11.

23 *John 15.6.

24 k Or your commodity.

24 l As Christ hath once suffered in himself to redeem his Church, and to sanctify it: so doth he daily suffer in his members, as partaker of their infirmities, and therefore are venger of their injuries.

25 m Which is the promises of Christ, and of the calling of the Gentiles.

26 *Rom. 16.25, Eph. 3.9, 2 Tim. 1.10, Tit. 1.2, 1 Pet. 1.20.

26 n Whom he has elected and consecrated to him by Christ.

27 To whom God would make known what is the riches of this glorious mystery among the Gentiles, which *riches* is Christ in you, ^{*}the hope of glory,

28 Whom we preach, admonishing every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus:

29 Whereunto I also labor and strive, according to his working which worketh in me mightly.

Chapter 2

1 Having protested his good will toward them, 4 He admonisheth them not to turn back from Christ, 8 To the service of angels or any other invention, or else ceremonies of the Law, 17 Which have finished their office, and are ended in Christ.

For I would ye knew what great [^]fighting I have for your sakes, and for them of Laodicea, and for as many as have not seen my ^aperson in the flesh,

2 That their hearts might be comforted and they knit together in love, and in all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to know the mystery of God even the Father, and of Christ:

3 In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

4 And this I say, lest any man should beguile you with enticings words.

5 ^{*}For though I be absent in the ^bflesh, yet am I with you in the ^cspirit rejoicing, and beholding you order, and your steadfast faith in Christ.

6 As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him,

7 Rooted and built in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have ^{*}been taught, abounding therein with thanks giving.

8 Beware lest there be any man that spoil you through ^dphilosophy, and vain deceit, through the traditions of men, according to the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

9 ^{*}For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the ^eGodhead [^]bodily.

10 And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all Principality and Power:

11 In whom also ye are circumcised with ^{*}circumcision made without hands, by putting off the sinful body of the flesh, through the circumcision ^fof Christ,

12 In that ye are ^{*}buried with him through baptism, in whom ye are also raised up together through ^{*}the faith ^gof the operation of God which raised him from the dead.

13 ^{*}And ye which were dead in sins, and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, forgiving [^]you all *your* trespasses.

27 ^{*}1 Tim. 1.1.

Chapter 2

1 [^]Or, pain and care.

1 a Me present in body.

5 ^{*}1 Cor. 5.3.

5 b In body.

5 c In mind.

7 ^{*}2 Cor. 1.5.

8 d Teaching you vain speculations, as worshiping of Angels, of blind ceremonies and beggarly traditions: for now they have none use seeing Christ is come.

9 ^{*}Chap. 1.19, John 1.14..

9 e In saying that the *Godhead* is really in Christ, he shows that he is very God: also saying, *in him*, he declares two distinct natures, and by this word *dwelleth* he proves that it is there forever.

9 [^]Or, essentially.

11 ^{*}Rom. 2.29.

11 f Made by the Spirit of Christ.

12 ^{*}Rom. 6.4.

12 ^{*}Eph. 1.8.

12 g He that rose first again from the dead to take possession of life ever-lasting: which rising may be called a new life.

13 ^{*}Eph. 2.1.

13 [^]Or, us all our.

14 And putting out the ^{^h}hand writing of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, he even took it out of the way, and fastened it upon the cross,

15 And hath ⁱspoiled the Principalities, and Powers, and hath made a shewe of them openly, and hath triumphed over them in the same *cross*.

16 Let no man therefore condemn you in meat and drink, or in respect of an ^hholie day, or of the new moon, or of the Sabbath *days*,

17 Which are *but* a shadow of things to come: but the body is in Christ.

18 ^{*}Let no man [^]at his pleasure [^]bear rule over you by humbleness of mind, and worshiping of Angels, advancing him self in those things which he never saw, rashly puffed up with his fleshly mind,

19 And holdeth not the head, whereof all the body furnished and knit together by joints and bands, encreaseth with the increasing of God.

20 Wherefore if ye *be* dead with Christ from the ordinances of the world, why, as though ye lived in the world, are ye burdened with traditions?

21 As, Touch not, Taste not, Handle not.

22 Which all ^mperish with the using, *and are* after the commandments and doctrines of men.

23 Which things have in deed a shewe of wisdom, in ⁿvoluntary religion and humbleness of mind, and in not sparing the body: [^]neither have they it in any estimation to satisfy the ^oflesh.

Chapter 3

1 He sheweth where we should seek Christ. 5 He exhorteth to mortification, 10 To put off the old man and to put on Christ. 12 To the which he addeth exhortations, both general and particular to charity and humility.

If ye then be ^arisen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth at the right hand of God.

2 Set your affections on things which are above, *and* not on things, which ^bare on the earth.

3 For ye are ^cdead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.

4 When Christ which is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.

5 ^{*}Mortify therefore your members which are on the earth, fornication, uncleanness, the inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness which is idolatry.

14 ^{*}Eph.2.15.

14 [^]Or, obligation.

14 h The ceremonies, and rites were as it were a public profession, and hand writing of the miserable state of man kind: for circumcision did declare our natural pollution: the purifyings, and washings signified the filth of sin: the sacrifices testified that we were guilty of death, which were all taken away by Christ's death.

15 i As Satan and his Angels from whom he hath taken all power.

16 k Or, distinction, as to make difference betwixt days.

18 ^{*}Mat. 24.4.

18 l Meaning, that the hypocrites led them at their pleasure into all superstition and error.

18 [^] Or, defraud you of your prize.

22 m And appertain nothing to the kingdom of God.

23 n Such as men have chosen according to their own fantasy.

23 [^]Or, but they are of no value save for the filling of the flesh.

23 o They pinch & defraud their body to show themselves greater hypocrites.

Chapter 3

1 a After that ye have been dead to beggarly ceremonies.

2 b Which either serve but for a time, or else are invented by men.

3 c With Christ.

5 ^{*}Eph. 5.3.

5 d Extinguish all the strength of the corrupt nature which resists against the Spirit, that ye may live in the Spirit, and not in the flesh.

6 For the which things sakes the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience.

7 Wherein ye also walked once, when ye lived in them.

8 *But now put ye away even all these things, wrath, anger, maliciousness, cursed speaking, filthy speaking, out of your mouth.

9 Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his works,

10 And have put on the new, which is renewed in knowledge *after the image of him that created him,

11 Where is neither Grecian nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond, free: but Christ is all and in all things.

12 *Now therefore as the elect of God °holie and beloved, put on ^tender mercy, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, long suffering:

13 Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel to another: even as Christ forgave you, even so do ye.

14 And above all these things *put on* love, which is the bond of perfectness.

15 And let the peace of God ^frule in your hearts, to the which ye are called in one body, and be ye ^amiable.

16 Let the °word of Christ dwell in you plenteously in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing your own selves, in ^hpsalms, and hymns, and spiritual songs, singing with a *^grace in your hearts to the Lord.

17 *And whatsoever ye shall do, in word or deed, *do* all in the Name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God even the Father by him.

18 ¶ *Wives, submit your selves unto your husbands, as it is comely in the Lord.

19 *Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter unto them.

20 ¶ *Children, obey your parents in ⁱall things: for that is well pleasing unto the Lord.

21 Fathers, ^kprovoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged.

22 ¶ *Servants, be obedient unto them that are *your* masters according to the flesh in all things, not with eye service as men pleasers, but in singleness of heart, fearing God.

23 And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men,

24 Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.

25 But he ^lthat doeth wrong, shall receive for the wrong that he

hath done, and there is no ^mrespect of persons.

Chapter 4

2 *He exhorteth them to be fervent in prayer, 3 To walk wisely toward them that are not yet come to the true knowledge of Christ. He saluteth them, and wisheth them all prosperity.*

Ye masters, do unto your servants, that which is just, and equal, knowing that ye also have a master in heaven.

2 *Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanks giving,

3 *Praying also for us, that God may open unto us the ^adoor of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ: wherefore I am also in bonds,

4 That I may utter it, as it becometh me to speak.

5 ¶ *Walk ^bwisely toward them that are without, and ^credeem the time.

6 *Let* your speech *be* gracious always, and powdered with ^dsalt, that ye may know how to answer every man.

7 ¶ Tychicus *our* beloved brother, and faithful minister, and fellow servant in the Lord, shall declare unto you my whole state,

8 Whom I have sent unto you for the same purpose that he might know your state, and might comfort your hearts,

9 *With Onesimus a faithful and a beloved brother, who is one of you. They shall shewe you of all things here.

10 Aristarchus my prison fellow saluteth you, and Marcus, Barnabas sister's son (touching whom ye received commandments, If he come unto you, receive him)

11 And Jesus which is called Justus, which are of the circumcision. These °only are my ⁱworkfellows unto the kingdom of God, which have been unto my consolation.

12 Epaphras the servant of Christ, which is one of you, saluteth you, and always striveth for you in prayers, that ye may stand perfect, and full in all the will of God.

13 For I bear him record, that he hath a great zeal for you, and for them of Laodicea, and them of Hierapolis.

14 *Luke the beloved physician greteth you, and Demas.

15 Salute the brethren which are of Laodicea, and Nymphas, and the Church which is in his house.

16 And when this epistle is read of you, cause that it be read in the Church of the Laodiceans also, and that ye likewise read the epistle ^gwritten from Laodicea.

17 And say to Archippus, Take heed to the ministry, that thou hast received in the Lord, that thou fulfil it.

18 The salutation by the hand of me Paul. Remember by bands. Grace *be* with you, Amen.

Written from Rome to the Colossians *and sent* by Tychicus, and Onesimus.

8 *Rom. 6.4, Eph. 4.25, Ebr. 12.1, 1 Pet. 2.1 and 4.1.

10 *Gen. 1.26 & 5.1 & 9.6.

12 *Eph. 6.11.

12 e He shows what fruits are in them that are dead to the world, and are risen again with Christ.

12 ^Or, the bowels of mercies.

15 f Let it guide all your doings.

15 ^Or, gracious, or thankful.

16 g The doctrine of the Gospel.

16 h Psalms properly contain complainings to God, narrations, and exhortations: hymns, only thanksgiving: songs contain praises, and thanksgiving, but not so largely and amply, as hymns do.

16 *Eph. 4.29.

16 ^Or, thanksgiving.

17 *1 Cor. 10.31.

18 *Eph. 5.22, 1 Pet. 3.1.

19 *1 Cor. 7.3, 1 Pet. 3.7.

20 *Eph. 6.1.

20 i Which are in the Lord.

21 k By to much rigor.

22 *Eph. 6.5, Tit. 2.9, 1 Pet. 2.18.

25 l The cruel master.

25 *Deu. 10.27, Wis. 6.7, Eccle. 35.12, Rom. 2.11, Gal. 2.6, Eph. 6.9.

25 m Whether he be master or servant.

Chapter 4

2 *Luk. 18.1, 1 Thes. 5.17, Eph. 6.18.

3 *Eph. 6.19, 2 Thes. 3.1.

3 a That I may freely preach the Gospel.

5 *Eph. 5.15.

5 b To the commodity of your neighbors.

5 c Bestow the time well, which the malice of men everywhere plucks from you and causes you to abuse it.

6 d Pertaining to edification, and mixed with no vanity.

9 *Phile. 10.

11 e If they only did help him to preach the Gospel at Rome, where was Peter for those five and twenty years that they faine he abode in Rome?

11 f In preaching the Gospel.

14 *2Tim. 4.11.

16 g Either to Paul, or else which they would write as an answer to this epistle sent to the Colossians.