

English Translation of Paul's Epistle to the Colossians

**An English Translation From Koine Greek
Submitted to Prof. John DelHousaye
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**In Partial Fulfillment
of the Requirements for
Greek IV**

**by
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Outline

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- 1. Greetings (1:1-2)**
- 2. Thanksgiving (1:3-7)**
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III. Final Welcomes (4:7-14)

Colossians: Introduction

Author: This letter has a typical epistolary introduction wherein the author identifies himself as “Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus”, writing along with “brother Timothy”. At the conclusion of the letter, we learn that an amanuensis, or secretary, had physically written the letter-- this may have even been Timothy-- as Paul makes special measures to 'sign' the letter “with my own hand, Paul”.

Date: Due to the similar content, regionally close recipient, and delivery agent (Tychicus), it is likely that this letter was written at the same time as that to the Church at Ephesus. Paul also mentions his imprisonment, which places both letters' origin in Rome at around AD 61¹.

Place of Origin: Rome

Destination: “To those in Colosse, holy and believing brothers in Christ.”, from the introduction, v.2

Purpose: Paul seems to have an overarching desire to encourage the believers in Colosse to walk faithfully. He repeatedly testifies how much he cares for them. He encourages them to learn to discern God's will. Paul seems to feel a need to establish Christ's supremacy over many things, including the Law, and worldly philosophy. This may indicate struggles which the early Church in Colosse were facing, and Paul admonishes his audience to find their identity in Christ. Paul shows a pastoral leading by convincing his audience of his good will toward them before giving direction. He also shows brotherly humility in the way he explains the benefits and reasoning behind his commendations-- not merely declaring mandates. Denying the old man and his desires, and living a holy life is a primary theme. Certain role responsibilities are specifically addressed. There is also a common concern and urgency shown for the unsaved.

¹ cf. Acts 27ff.

Paul's Epistle to the Colossians

Chapter 1

1. Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus, by the will of God², and brother Timothy,
2. to those in Colosse, holy and believing brothers in Christ. Grace to you and peace from God our Father.
3. We give thanks to God³, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ concerning you all, in our prayers⁴
4. having heard of the faith of you all in Christ Jesus and the love which you have concerning all the saints⁵.
5. through the confidence which is laying up for you in the heavens which you heard of before in the word of the truth of the Gospel.
6. coming to you all as even in all the world, being fruitful and increasing, as even in you all, from the day you heard and came to know the grace of God in truth.
7. as you all learned from Epaphra our beloved co-laborer who is faithful over you-- a servant of Christ.
8. Who even was making known to us the love of you in spirit⁶
9. through this even we from the day we heard do not stop praying over you and pleading that you all might be filled with the recognition of the will⁷ of Him in all wisdom and spiritual knowledge.
10. That you all might walk worth of the Lord into all pleasing in every good work, being fruitful and enlarging⁸ in the recognition⁹ of God
11. in all power being empowered according to the might of His glory into all cheerful endurance and patience with joy¹⁰.

2 Paul, himself, claims Divine authority.

3 By thanking God, Paul gives credit in some way to God for the faith these people have.

4 cf. Ephesians 1:16

5 cf. Ephesians 1:15

6 It feels good to hear that people have declared their love for you to others.

7 To know the **will** of God. To not only tell people God's will for them, but for **them to known themselves** the will of God and how to learn from Him. To take ourselves out of the equation and reconcile people directly to God.

8 καρποφορουντες και αυξανομενοι also in v. 6

9 Again Paul's seems to be praying for their ability to recognize God's will

10 In our culture of immediate gratification, this message needs drilling home. To be disciplined to have

12. giving thanks to the Father Who enabled us into the portion of the inheritance of the saints in the light¹¹.
13. Who rescued us from the authority of darkness and seduced¹² into the Kingdom of the Son of His love.

Christ Supreme

14. in Whom we have the full ransom, the pardon¹³ of sin.
15. Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.
16. Because in Him was made everything in the heavens and on the earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or governments, or rulers, or authorities, all through Him and in Him have been created.
17. and He is before all and all in Him consists.
18. and He is the Head of the Body, of The Church, Who is the Beginning, The Firstborn from the dead that He might be in all, First¹⁴.
19. Because in Him He approved all the fullness to reside,
20. And through Him to fully reconcile everything into Him, having made peace through the blood of His cross [through Him] whether that on the earth or whether that in the heavens¹⁵.

Personal Example of Christ's Reconciliatory Work

21. and you all at one time being having been alienated and enemies to the deep thought in to the hurtful works, but verily now reconciled fully!
22. in the Body of His Flesh through the death to exhibit¹⁶ you all sacred and unblemished and unaccused directly in front of Him!
23. if even you remain in the faith you having been founded immovable and not being

joy and **cheerfulness** as we endure and have patience for the best; not what we can have immediately. To have a lifestyle of **joy** in our discipline, truly knowing that we are better for giving up our fleshly desires and when/if God replaces that space with something redeemed, then we'll be even more blessed. The working out and product of true **faith in God's goodness**.

- 11 The obvious Gospel message: the gift of God's Son to make the way for us to inherit afterlife with Him.
- 12 μετεστῆσεν *To lead away or seduce. Does God mentally turn us, or does He woe us into a true love relationship with Him through His orchestrated plan to demonstrate His Love for us in such a way that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Rom 5, and Christ's declaration "if I be lifted up from the earth, I will draw (ἐλκυσω) all to myself."*
- 13 pardon / deliverance from / liberty from / remission
- 14 cf. Ephesians 1:22-23
- 15 cf. Ephesians 1:10
- 16 παραστησαι exhibit / bring before

moved away from the hope of the Gospel which you heard of that being preached in all creation, this under the heavens of which I, Paul, myself became a servant.

Paul's Ministry

24. Now, I rejoice in the hardship regarding you all and I fill up that which is behind of the persecution of Christ in my flesh for His Body, which is the Church.
25. of which I, myself became a servant according to the administration¹⁷ of God that having been given to me into you all to fill up the Word of God¹⁸.
26. the mystery that having been kept secret from the ages and from the generations, but now was shown to His saints¹⁹.
27. whom God willed to know what the riches of the glory of the mystery of this in the Gentiles, which is Christ in you all the hope of glory²⁰.
28. Who we proclaim, cautioning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom that we might exhibit²¹ every man grown up in Christ.
29. into which even I work hard myself struggling according to His working which is working in me, myself, in miraculous power!

17 government / economy

18 cf. Ephesians 3:2-3

19 cf. Ephesians 3:3, 5

20 Paul's 'mystery' seen throughout his epistles: the plan God established from before time, to bring both the Gentiles along with the Jew as one body to Himself, in Christ Jesus. cf. Ephesians 3:6

21 παραστήσωμεν see v. 22

Chapter 2

1. For I wish you all to have seen how much anxiety I have for you all and those in Laodicia and as many as have not seen my presence in flesh.
2. that their hearts might be comforted in love and into all riches of the full confidence of the understand into the knowledge of the mystery of God and Christ.

Christ, The End of All Wisdom, Don't Seek Elsewhere

3. in which is all the wealth of the wisdom and of knowledge hidden
4. this, I say, that no one might deceive you in to enticing words
5. for if even to the flesh, I am absent, but rather with the spirit with you all I am rejoicing, even seeing of you all the order and steadfastness of which into Christ of your faith²².
6. Therefore, how you all received Christ Jesus the Lord, walk in Him.
7. having been rooted and being built up in Him and being established to the faith as you all were taught being in excess grateful.
8. Beware, that not any you all be one being led away through the philosophy and empty delusion according to the tradition of men, according to the propositions of the world and not according to Christ.
9. because in Him resides all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.

Find Our Identity In Christ

10. and you all are in Him having been filled up²³, Who is the Head of all rulers and authorities.
11. in Whom even you were circumcised to circumcision not made in the divestment of the body of the flesh; in the circumcision of Christ!
12. having been buried with Him in the baptism in which even you all were raised through the faith of the working of God, who having raised Him from dead
13. and you all dead being [in] to the trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him having graciously pardoned you all the sins²⁴

22 extremely awkward, need more research

23 Christ fills us. Do we really find our lives full in Christ, or do we seek to fill our lives hoping for other things constantly? Paul encourages these people to realize their worldly desires (circumcision, desire for 'wisdom' in v. 8, etc.) have already been redeemed and given them in the sacrifice of Christ.. and on through v. 14

24 cf. Ephesians 2:1,5

14. having blotted out that according to us handwriting to the decrees which was against us and it He lifted out of the way, having nailed it to the cross²⁵.
15. having spoiled the rulers and the authorities He exhibited in public having triumphed over them in it.

Practical Application Of Our Freedom In Christ

16. Therefore, not any of you condemn in eating and in drinking, nor in a division of a feast, nor a new moon, nor a Sabbath
17. which is a shadow of that being about to be, but Bodily, of Christ.
18. No one of you all defraud, preferring in humility and ceremonial observance of the angels, which he had experienced, intruding into vainly, being puffed up of the mind of his flesh²⁶.
19. and not holding fast the Head out of which all the body through the joints and ligaments is being fully supplied and is being driven together, increases the increase of God.
20. If you all died together with Christ from the propositions of the world then how living in the world being subject to?
21. You may not touch, neither eat, neither handle
22. which are all into decay to the consumption according to the injunctions and teachings of men.
23. which some are word indeed, are having wisdom in will worship and humility of mind [and] to unsparingness of the body not in any value toward gratification of the flesh.

25 cf. Ephesians 2:15

26 Don't let our observance of Christ's true law be done for our own vain glory, and especially not let our puffed up mind lead us into that which isn't Christ's true law, led away seeking our glory.

Chapter 3

1. Therefore if you were raised together with Christ, seek that above, where Christ is in the right hand of God being seated²⁷.
2. Exercise your mind on that above, not on that on the earth.
3. For you all died and your life has been hidden with Christ in God.
4. Whenever Christ might be manifested, your life at that time, you all with Him will be manifested in glory²⁸.

Be Disciplined To Deny The Fleshly Desires of the Old Man

5. Therefore, put to death the members which are on the earth: harlotry, moral uncleanness, evil passion, worthless lust, and the avarice which is idolatry.
6. through which comes the wrath of God [on those sons of disbelief]²⁹
7. in which even you all walked at one time when you lived in these
8. But rather now you all cast off even you all every wrath, indignation, worthlessness, blasphemy, vile conversation out of your mouth.
9. Do not be untruthful to one another, divesting yourself wholly of the worn out man with his deeds
10. and clothing yourself with the new which is being renewed into full discernment according to the image of Who having created it³⁰.
11. where there be not Greek and Jew, circumcised and not circumcised, barbarian, a savage, slave, free, but rather everything and in all is Christ.

Clothe Yourself In the New Man and Live Accordingly

12. Therefore, be clothed as taken of God, holy ones and having been loved, inward affection of mercy, usefulness, humility of the mind, meekness, longsuffering
13. putting up with one another and being gracious to each other, if anyone has blame, as even the Lord granted to you all, in this way even you all³¹.
14. but on [top of] all these things, [add] the love, which is a ligament of perfection.

27 cf. ch. 2, v. 20, If you died to the things of the world and have been raised in Christ, live seeking the things above, where Christ is.

28 As prideful people, we constantly seek our own glory. In the preceding chapter, Paul encourages us not to be lead away by seeking our own glory, but assures us that we will be shown glorious in Christ alone, and with true glory in Christ.

29 cf. Ephesians 5:6

30 Christ is our example, also in verse 13

31 cf. Ephesians 4:32

15. and the peace of Christ govern in your hearts into which even you were bidden to, in one body and thankful be!

Community Living: Spur On Each Other

16. The Word of Christ dwell in you all richly in all wisdom, teaching and reprov-
gently each other, with psalms, hymns, spiritual odes, in grace, singing in the hearts of
you all to God.

17. and anything which you all might do in word or in work, all in the name of the Lord
Jesus, expressing gratitude to God the Father through Him.

Holy Conduct In The Role You're Given³²

18. The wives submit themselves to the husbands which had been proper in the Lord

19. The husbands love the wives and not being bitter toward them.

20. The children listen to the parents according to everything, for this is fully agreeable in
the Lord.

21. The fathers stir not to anger your children that they might not be disheartened.

22. The slaves listen according to all those according to the flesh lords, not in needing
watching as men-pleasers, but rather in singleness of the heart fearing the Lord.

23. which if you might do from the soul toil as to the Lord and not to men.

24. having seen that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance-- to the
Lord Christ you all slave.

25. for the one doing wrong will provide for that which he did wrong, and [there] is not
favouritism.

32 cf. Ephesians 5:22,25,6:1-25

Chapter 4

1. The lords exhibit yourselves just and equitable to the slaves having seen that even you all have a Lord in heaven.

Final Exhortations And Requests For Prayer, Especially Toward Salvation For The Lost

2. Be earnest toward prayer, being vigilant in it in thankfulness,
3. praying together even concerning us that God might have opened up to us a door of the word to speak the mystery of Christ through which even I have been bound³³.
4. that I might have declared it as is fitting for me to speak.
5. You all walk in wisdom³⁴ toward those outside, the time rescuing³⁵.
6. The word of you all always in grace having been seasoned with salt to have seen how much it is fitting you all one each to answer.

Final Welcomes³⁶

7. Those things regarding myself, all, he will make known to you, Tychikos the beloved brother and faithful servant and fellow slave in the Lord.
8. Who transmitted toward you all, into it, this, that you might be aware which concerns us and might call near your hearts.
9. with Onesimus the trustworthy and beloved brother, who is from you all, [and] all, to you, will make known this here.
10. Aristarchos welcomes you, my fellow prisoner, and Mark, the kin of Barnabus concerning which you took commandment, if he might come to you all, receive him.
11. and Jesus the one being called Justus, those being from the circumcision, these remaining co-laborers in the Kingdom of God which had been a comfort to me.
12. Epaphras welcomes you all, who from you a servant of Christ [Jesus] always, contending for the sake of you all in prayers that you all might be established complete and having been fully made to know in all will of God.
13. For I testify to him that he has much pain for you all and those in Laodicea and those in Heiropolis
14. Luke welcomes you all, the beloved physician and Demas.

33 cf. Ephesians 6:19-20

34 Wisdom for how to present the Gospel effectively, cf. v.6

35 cf. Ephesians 5:15-16

36 cf Ephesians 6:21ff.

15. Welcome those in Laodicea as bothers and Nymphus and the house church.
16. and whenever it might have been read before you all, the letter, see to it that also in the Laodicean church it might be read, and that from Laodicea that also you might read,
17. and bring word to Archippos, “See to the service which you received in the Lord that it, you might fulfill.”
18. The salutation to my own hand, Paul. You all be mindful of me of the chains. Grace with you all.