

**Galatians**  
**Ephesians**  
**Philippians**  
**Colossians**  
**Philemon**

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# **BSB**

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# Galatians

## Paul's Greeting to the Galatians

**1** Paul, an apostle—sent not from men nor by man, but by Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised Him from the dead— <sup>2</sup>and all the brothers with me,

To the churches of Galatia:

<sup>3</sup>Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ,<sup>a</sup> <sup>4</sup>who gave Himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, <sup>5</sup>to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

## No Other Gospel

<sup>6</sup>I am amazed how quickly you are deserting the One who called you by the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— <sup>7</sup>which is not even a gospel. Evidently some people are troubling you and trying to distort the gospel of Christ.

<sup>8</sup>But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be under a curse! <sup>9</sup>As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be under a curse!

<sup>a</sup> **3** SBL, BYZ, and TR *God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ*

## 6 | Galatians 1:10

### Paul Preaches the Gospel

**10** Am I now seeking the approval of men, or of God? Or am I striving to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ. **11** For I certify to you, brothers, that the gospel I preached was not devised by man.<sup>a</sup> **12** I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it; rather, I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ.

**13** For you have heard of my former way of life in Judaism, how severely I persecuted the church of God and tried to destroy it. **14** I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries and was extremely zealous for the traditions of my fathers.

**15** But when God, who set me apart from my mother's womb and called me by His grace, was pleased **16** to reveal His Son in me so that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not rush to consult with flesh and blood, **17** nor did I go up to Jerusalem to the apostles who came before me, but I went into Arabia and later returned to Damascus.

**18** Only after three years did I go up to Jerusalem to confer with Cephas,<sup>b</sup> and I stayed with him fifteen days. **19** But I saw none of the other apostles except James, the Lord's brother. **20** I assure you before God that what I am writing to you is no lie.

**21** Later I went to the regions of Syria and Cilicia. **22** I was personally unknown, however, to the churches of Judea that are in Christ. **23** They only heard the account: "The man who formerly persecuted us is now preaching the faith he once tried to destroy." **24** And they glorified God because of me.

<sup>a</sup> **11** Literally *not according to man*    <sup>b</sup> **18** That is, Peter

## The Council at Jerusalem

**2** Fourteen years later I went up again to Jerusalem, accompanied by Barnabas. I took Titus along also. <sup>2</sup>I went in response to a revelation and set before them the gospel that I preach among the Gentiles. But I spoke privately to those recognized as leaders, for fear that I was running or had already run in vain. <sup>3</sup>Yet not even Titus, who was with me, was compelled to be circumcised, even though he was a Greek.

<sup>4</sup>This issue arose because some false brothers had come in under false pretenses to spy on our freedom in Christ Jesus, in order to enslave us. <sup>5</sup>We did not give in to them for a moment, so that the truth of the gospel would remain with you.

<sup>6</sup>But as for the highly esteemed—whatever they were makes no difference to me; God does not show favoritism<sup>a</sup>—those leaders added nothing to me. <sup>7</sup>On the contrary, they saw that I had been entrusted to preach the gospel to the uncircumcised, just as Peter had been to the circumcised. <sup>8</sup>For the One who was at work in Peter's apostleship to the circumcised was also at work in my apostleship to the Gentiles.

<sup>9</sup>And recognizing the grace that I had been given, James, Cephas,<sup>b</sup> and John—those reputed to be pillars—gave me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship, so that we should go to the Gentiles, and they to the circumcised. <sup>10</sup>They only asked us to remember the poor, the very thing I was eager to do.

**a** <sup>6</sup> Literally *God does not accept the face of man*    **b** <sup>9</sup> That is, Peter; also in verses 11 and 14

## 8 | Galatians 2:11

### Paul Confronts Cephas

**11**When Cephas came to Antioch, however, I opposed him to his face, because he stood to be condemned. **12**For before certain men came from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles. But when they arrived, he began to draw back and separate himself, for fear of those in the circumcision group. **13**The other Jews joined him in his hypocrisy, so that by their hypocrisy even Barnabas was led astray.

**14**When I saw that they were not walking in line with the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas in front of them all, "If you, who are a Jew, live like a Gentile and not like a Jew, how can you compel the Gentiles to live like Jews?"<sup>a</sup>

**15**We who are Jews by birth and not Gentile "sinners" **16**know that a man is not justified by works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have believed in Christ Jesus, that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified.

**17**But if, while we seek to be justified in Christ, we ourselves are found to be sinners, does that make Christ a minister of sin? Certainly not! **18**If I rebuild what I have already torn down, I prove myself to be a lawbreaker.

**19**For through the law I died to the law so that I might live to God. **20**I have been crucified with Christ, and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me. **21**I do not set aside the grace of God. For if righteousness comes through the law, Christ died for nothing.

<sup>a</sup> **14** Some translators close this quotation after verse 16 or 21.



## Faith and Belief

**3** O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? Before your very eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed as crucified. <sup>2</sup>I would like to learn just one thing from you: Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law, or by hearing with faith?

<sup>3</sup>Are you so foolish? After starting in the Spirit, are you now finishing in the flesh? <sup>4</sup>Have you suffered so much for nothing, if it really was for nothing? <sup>5</sup>Does God lavish His Spirit on you and work miracles among you because you practice the law, or because you hear and believe?

<sup>6</sup>So also, “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.”<sup>a</sup> <sup>7</sup>Understand, then, that those who have faith are sons of Abraham. <sup>8</sup>The Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and foretold the gospel to Abraham: “All nations will be blessed through you.”<sup>b</sup> <sup>9</sup>So those who have faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.

## Christ Has Redeemed Us

<sup>10</sup>All who rely on works of the law are under a curse. For it is written: “Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law.”<sup>c</sup> <sup>11</sup>Now it is clear that no one is justified before God by the law, because, “The righteous will live by faith.”<sup>d</sup> <sup>12</sup>The law, however, is not based on faith; on the contrary, “The man who does these things will live by them.”<sup>e</sup>

**a 6** Genesis 15:6    **b 8** See Genesis 12:3, Genesis 18:18, and Genesis 22:18.

**c 10** Deuteronomy 27:26 (see also LXX)    **d 11** Habakkuk 2:4

**e 12** Leviticus 18:5; see also Ezekiel 20:11, 13, and 21.

## 10 | Galatians 3:13

<sup>13</sup>Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us. For it is written: “Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.”<sup>a</sup> <sup>14</sup>He redeemed us in order that the blessing promised to Abraham<sup>b</sup> would come to the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit.

### The Purpose of the Law

<sup>15</sup>Brothers, let me put this in human terms. Even a human covenant, once it is ratified, cannot be canceled or amended.

<sup>16</sup>The promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. The Scripture does not say, “and to seeds,” meaning many, but “and to your seed,”<sup>c</sup> meaning One, who is Christ.

<sup>17</sup>What I mean is this: The law that came 430 years later does not revoke the covenant previously established by God, so as to nullify the promise. <sup>18</sup>For if the inheritance depends on the law, then it no longer depends on a promise; but God freely granted it to Abraham through a promise.

<sup>19</sup>Why then was the law given? It was added because of transgressions, until the arrival of the seed to whom the promise referred. It was administered through angels by a mediator. <sup>20</sup>A mediator is unnecessary, however, for only one party; but God is one.

<sup>21</sup>Is the law, then, opposed to the promises of God? Certainly not! For if a law had been given that could impart life, then righteousness would certainly have come from the law. <sup>22</sup>But the Scripture pronounces all things confined by sin, so that by

**a** <sup>13</sup> Deuteronomy 21:23 (see also LXX)    **b** <sup>14</sup> Literally *the blessing of Abraham*    **c** <sup>16</sup> Genesis 12:7; Genesis 13:15

faith in Jesus Christ the promise might be given to those who believe.

<sup>23</sup>Before this faith came, we were held in custody under the law, locked up until faith should be revealed. <sup>24</sup>So the law became our guardian to lead us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. <sup>25</sup>Now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian.

### Sons through Faith in Christ

<sup>26</sup>You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>27</sup>For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. <sup>28</sup>There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. <sup>29</sup>And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed and heirs according to the promise.

### Sons and Heirs

**4** What I am saying is that as long as the heir is a child, he is no different from a slave, although he is the owner of everything. <sup>2</sup>He is subject to guardians and trustees until the date set by his father.

<sup>3</sup>So also, when we were children, we were enslaved under the basic principles<sup>a</sup> of the world. <sup>4</sup>But when the time had fully come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup>to redeem those under the law, that we might receive our adoption as sons. <sup>6</sup>And because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" <sup>7</sup>So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, you are also an heir through God.

<sup>a</sup> <sup>3</sup> Or *elemental forces*; similarly in verse 9

## Paul's Concern for the Galatians

<sup>8</sup>Formerly, when you did not know God, you were slaves to those who by nature are not gods. <sup>9</sup>But now that you know God, or rather are known by God, how is it that you are turning back to those weak and worthless principles? Do you wish to be enslaved by them all over again? <sup>10</sup>You are observing special days and months and seasons and years! <sup>11</sup>I fear for you, that my efforts for you may have been in vain. <sup>12</sup>I beg you, brothers, become like me, for I became like you. You have done me no wrong.

<sup>13</sup>You know that it was because of an illness that I first preached the gospel to you. <sup>14</sup>And although my illness was a trial to you, you did not despise or reject me. Instead, you welcomed me as if I were an angel of God, as if I were Christ Jesus Himself. <sup>15</sup>What then has become of your blessing? For I can testify that, if it were possible, you would have torn out your eyes and given them to me. <sup>16</sup>Have I now become your enemy by telling you the truth?

<sup>17</sup>Those people are zealous for you, but not in a good way. Instead, they want to isolate you from us, so that you may be zealous for them. <sup>18</sup>Nevertheless, it is good to be zealous if it serves a noble purpose—at any time, and not only when I am with you.

<sup>19</sup>My children, for whom I am again in the pains of childbirth until Christ is formed in you, <sup>20</sup>how I wish I could be with you now and change my tone, because I am perplexed about you.

## Hagar and Sarah

<sup>21</sup>Tell me, you who want to be under the law, do you not understand what the law says? <sup>22</sup>For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by the slave woman and the other by the free woman.<sup>a</sup> <sup>23</sup>His son by the slave woman was born according to the flesh, but his son by the free woman was born through the promise.

<sup>24</sup>These things serve as illustrations, for the women represent two covenants. One covenant is from Mount Sinai and bears children into slavery: This is Hagar. <sup>25</sup>Now Hagar stands for Mount Sinai in Arabia and corresponds to the present-day Jerusalem, because she is in slavery with her children. <sup>26</sup>But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother. <sup>27</sup>For it is written:

“Rejoice, O barren woman,  
 who bears no children;  
 break forth and cry aloud,  
 you who have never travailed;  
 because more are the children  
 of the desolate woman  
 than of her who has a husband.”<sup>b</sup>

<sup>28</sup>Now you,<sup>c</sup> brothers, like Isaac, are children of promise. <sup>29</sup>At that time, however, the son born by the flesh persecuted the son born by the Spirit. It is the same now.

<sup>30</sup>But what does the Scripture say? “Expel the slave woman and her son, for the slave woman’s son will never share in the inheritance with the free woman’s son.”<sup>d</sup> <sup>31</sup>Therefore,

<sup>a</sup> <sup>22</sup> See Genesis 16:15 and Genesis 21:2-3.    <sup>b</sup> <sup>27</sup> Isaiah 54:1

<sup>c</sup> <sup>28</sup> WH, BYZ, and TR *we*    <sup>d</sup> <sup>30</sup> Genesis 21:10

## 14 | Galatians 5:1

brothers, we are not children of the slave woman, but of the free woman.

### Freedom in Christ

**5** It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not be encumbered once more by a yoke of slavery.

<sup>2</sup>Take notice: I, Paul, tell you that if you let yourselves be circumcised, Christ will be of no value to you at all. <sup>3</sup>Again I testify to every man who gets himself circumcised that he is obligated to obey the whole law. <sup>4</sup>You who are trying to be justified by the law have been severed from Christ; you have fallen away from grace.

<sup>5</sup>But by faith we eagerly await through the Spirit the hope of righteousness. <sup>6</sup>For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. All that matters is faith, expressed through love.

<sup>7</sup>You were running so well. Who has obstructed you from obeying the truth? <sup>8</sup>Such persuasion does not come from the One who calls you. <sup>9</sup>A little leaven works through the whole batch of dough. <sup>10</sup>I am confident in the Lord that you will take no other view. The one who is troubling you will bear the judgment, whoever he may be.

<sup>11</sup>Now, brothers, if I am still preaching circumcision, why am I still being persecuted? In that case the offense of the cross has been abolished. <sup>12</sup>As for those who are agitating you, I wish they would proceed to emasculate themselves!

<sup>13</sup>For you, brothers, were called to freedom; but do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh. Rather, serve one another in love. <sup>14</sup>The entire law is fulfilled in a single

decree: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”<sup>a</sup> <sup>15</sup>But if you keep on biting and devouring one another, watch out, or you will be consumed by one another.

### **Walking by the Spirit**

<sup>16</sup>So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. <sup>17</sup>For the flesh craves what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are opposed to each other, so that you do not do what you want. <sup>18</sup>But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

<sup>19</sup>The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity, and debauchery; <sup>20</sup>idolatry and sorcery; hatred, discord, jealousy, and rage; rivalries, divisions, factions, <sup>21</sup>and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

<sup>22</sup>But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup>gentleness, and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

<sup>24</sup>Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. <sup>25</sup>Since we live by the Spirit, let us walk in step with the Spirit. <sup>26</sup>Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying one another.

### **Carry One Another's Burdens**

**6** Brothers, if someone is caught in a trespass, you who are spiritual should restore him with a spirit of gentleness. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted. <sup>2</sup>Carry one

<sup>a</sup> **14** Leviticus 19:18

## 16 | Galatians 6:3

another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

<sup>3</sup>If anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself.

<sup>4</sup>Each one should test his own work. Then he will have reason to boast in himself alone, and not in someone else. <sup>5</sup>For each one should carry his own load. <sup>6</sup>Nevertheless, the one who receives instruction in the word must share in all good things with his instructor.

<sup>7</sup>Do not be deceived: God is not to be mocked. Whatever a man sows, he will reap in return. <sup>8</sup>The one who sows to please his flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; but the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.

<sup>9</sup>Let us not grow weary in well-doing, for in due time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. <sup>10</sup>Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to the family of faith.

### **Final Warnings and Blessings**

<sup>11</sup>See what large letters I am using to write to you with my own hand!

<sup>12</sup>Those who want to make a good impression outwardly are trying to compel you to be circumcised. They only do this to avoid persecution for the cross of Christ. <sup>13</sup>For the circumcised do not even keep the law themselves, yet they want you to be circumcised that they may boast in your flesh.



**14**But as for me, may I never boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which<sup>a</sup> the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. **15**For neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything. What counts is a new creation.

**16**Peace and mercy to all who walk by this rule, even to the Israel of God.

**17**From now on let no one cause me trouble, for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus.

**18**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers.

Amen.

<sup>a</sup> **14** Or *through whom*

# Ephesians

## Paul's Greeting to the Ephesians

**1** Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,  
To the saints in Ephesus,<sup>a</sup> the faithful in Christ Jesus:

<sup>2</sup> Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

## Spiritual Blessings

<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms. <sup>4</sup> For He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless in His presence. In love <sup>5</sup> He predestined us for adoption as His sons through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of His will, <sup>6</sup> to the praise of His glorious grace, which He has freely given us in the Beloved One.

<sup>7</sup> In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace <sup>8</sup> that He lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding. <sup>9</sup> And He has made known to us the mystery of His will according to His good pleasure, which He purposed in Christ <sup>10</sup> as a plan for the fullness of time, to bring all things in heaven and on earth together in Christ.

<sup>a</sup> **1** Some manuscripts do not include *in Ephesus*.

**11**In Him we were also chosen as God's own, having been predestined according to the plan of Him who works out everything by the counsel of His will, **12**in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, would be for the praise of His glory.

**13**And in Him, having heard and believed the word of truth—the gospel of your salvation—you were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, **14**who is the pledge of our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession, to the praise of His glory.

### **Spiritual Wisdom**

**15**For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, **16**I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, **17**that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation in your knowledge of Him.

**18**I ask that the eyes of your heart<sup>a</sup> may be enlightened, so that you may know the hope of His calling, the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints, **19**and the surpassing greatness of His power to us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of His mighty strength, **20**which He exerted in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly realms, **21**far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.

**22**And God put everything under His feet and made Him head over everything for the church, **23**which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

**a 18** TR *the eyes of your understanding*

## Alive with Christ

**2** And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, <sup>2</sup>in which you used to walk when you conformed to the ways of this world and of the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit who is now at work in the sons of disobedience. <sup>3</sup>All of us also lived among them at one time, fulfilling the cravings of our flesh and indulging its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature children of wrath.

<sup>4</sup>But because of His great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, <sup>5</sup>made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in our trespasses. It is by grace you have been saved! <sup>6</sup>And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with Him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup>in order that in the coming ages He might display the surpassing riches of His grace, demonstrated by His kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

<sup>8</sup>For it is by grace you have been saved through faith, and this not from yourselves; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup>not by works, so that no one can boast. <sup>10</sup>For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance as our way of life.<sup>a</sup>

## One in Christ

<sup>11</sup>Therefore remember that formerly you who are Gentiles in the flesh and called uncircumcised by the so-called circumcision (that done in the body by human hands)— <sup>12</sup>remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. <sup>13</sup>But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ.

<sup>a</sup> **10** Literally *which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.*

<sup>14</sup>For He Himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has torn down the dividing wall of hostility <sup>15</sup>by abolishing in His flesh the law of commandments and decrees. He did this to create in Himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace <sup>16</sup>and reconciling both of them to God in one body through the cross, by which He extinguished their hostility.

<sup>17</sup>He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. <sup>18</sup>For through Him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

### **Christ Our Cornerstone**

<sup>19</sup>Therefore you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of God's household, <sup>20</sup>built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus Himself as the cornerstone. <sup>21</sup>In Him the whole building is fitted together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord. <sup>22</sup>And in Him you too are being built together into a dwelling place for God in His Spirit.

### **The Mystery of the Gospel**

**3** For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles...<sup>a</sup>

<sup>2</sup>Surely you have heard about the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, <sup>3</sup>that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. <sup>4</sup>In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, <sup>5</sup>which was not made known to men in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. <sup>6</sup>This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are

<sup>a</sup> 1 This train of thought is continued in verse 14.

## 22 | Ephesians 3:7

fellow heirs, fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus.

<sup>7</sup>I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace, given me through the working of His power. <sup>8</sup>Though I am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, <sup>9</sup>and to illuminate for everyone the stewardship<sup>a</sup> of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. <sup>10</sup>His purpose was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, <sup>11</sup>according to the eternal purpose that He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.

<sup>12</sup>In Him and through faith in Him<sup>b</sup> we may enter God's presence with boldness and confidence. <sup>13</sup>So I ask you not to be discouraged because of my sufferings for you, which are your glory.

### Paul's Prayer for the Ephesians

<sup>14</sup>... for this reason I bow my knees before the Father,<sup>c</sup> <sup>15</sup>from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. <sup>16</sup>I ask that out of the riches of His glory He may strengthen you with power through His Spirit in your inner being, <sup>17</sup>so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. Then you, being rooted and grounded in love, <sup>18</sup>will have power, together with all the saints, to comprehend the length and width and height and depth <sup>19</sup>of the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

*a* <sup>9</sup> NE and WH *and to illuminate the stewardship*; TR *and to illuminate for everyone the fellowship* *b* <sup>12</sup> Or *through His faithfulness* *c* <sup>14</sup> BYZ and TR *before the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,*

<sup>20</sup>Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, <sup>21</sup>to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

### Unity in the Body

**4** As a prisoner in the Lord, then, I urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling you have received: <sup>2</sup>with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, <sup>3</sup>and with diligence to preserve the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

<sup>4</sup>There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; <sup>5</sup>one Lord, one faith, one baptism; <sup>6</sup>one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

<sup>7</sup>Now to each one of us grace has been given according to the measure of the gift of Christ. <sup>8</sup>This is why it says:<sup>a</sup>

“When He ascended on high,  
He led captives away,  
and gave gifts to men.”<sup>b</sup>

<sup>9</sup>What does “He ascended” mean, except that He also descended<sup>c</sup> to the lower parts of the earth? <sup>10</sup>He who descended is the very One who ascended above all the heavens, in order to fill all things.

<sup>11</sup>And it was He who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup>to equip the saints for works of ministry and to build up the body of Christ, <sup>13</sup>until we all reach unity in the

<sup>a</sup> **8** Or *He says*    <sup>b</sup> **8** Psalm 68:18    <sup>c</sup> **9** BYZ and TR *except that He also descended first*

## 24 | Ephesians 4:14

faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God, as we mature to the full measure of the stature of Christ.

<sup>14</sup>Then we will no longer be infants, tossed about by the waves and carried around by every wind of teaching and by the clever cunning of men in their deceitful scheming. <sup>15</sup>Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into Christ Himself, who is the head. <sup>16</sup>From Him the whole body, fitted and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love through the work of each individual part.

### **New Life in Christ**

<sup>17</sup>So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. <sup>18</sup>They are darkened in their understanding and alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardness of their hearts. <sup>19</sup>Having lost all sense of shame, they have given themselves over to sensuality for the practice of every kind of impurity, with a craving for more.

<sup>20</sup>But this is not the way you came to know Christ. <sup>21</sup>Surely you heard of Him and were taught in Him—in keeping with the truth that is in Jesus— <sup>22</sup>to put off your former way of life, your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; <sup>23</sup>to be renewed in the spirit of your minds; <sup>24</sup>and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

<sup>25</sup>Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor, for we are all members of one



another. <sup>26</sup>“Be angry, yet do not sin.”<sup>a</sup> Do not let the sun set upon your anger, <sup>27</sup>and do not give the devil a foothold.

<sup>28</sup>He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing good with his own hands, that he may have something to share with the one in need.

<sup>29</sup>Let no unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building up the one in need and bringing grace to those who listen.

<sup>30</sup>And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, in whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

<sup>31</sup>Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, outcry and slander, along with every form of malice. <sup>32</sup>Be kind and tenderhearted to one another, forgiving each other just as in Christ God forgave you.

### Imitators of God

**5** Be imitators of God, therefore, as beloved children, <sup>2</sup>and walk in love, just as Christ loved us<sup>b</sup> and gave Himself up for us as a fragrant sacrificial offering to God.

<sup>3</sup>But among you, as is proper among the saints, there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed. <sup>4</sup>Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk, or crude joking, which are out of character, but rather thanksgiving. <sup>5</sup>For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure, or greedy person (that is, an idolater), has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.

<sup>a</sup> **26** Or “In your anger do not sin.” Psalm 4:4    <sup>b</sup> **2** NE and WH *Christ loved you*

## 26 | Ephesians 5:6

<sup>6</sup>Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things the wrath of God is coming on the sons of disobedience. <sup>7</sup>Therefore do not be partakers with them.

### Children of Light

<sup>8</sup>For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light, <sup>9</sup>for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness, and truth. <sup>10</sup>Test and prove what pleases the Lord.

<sup>11</sup>Have no fellowship with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. <sup>12</sup>For it is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. <sup>13</sup>But everything exposed by the light becomes visible,<sup>a</sup> for everything that is illuminated becomes a light itself. <sup>14</sup>So it is said:

“Wake up, O sleeper,  
rise up from the dead,  
and Christ will shine on you.”

<sup>15</sup>Pay careful attention, then, to how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, <sup>16</sup>redeeming the time, because the days are evil. <sup>17</sup>Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is. <sup>18</sup>Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to reckless indiscretion. Instead, be filled with the Spirit.

<sup>19</sup>Speak to one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your hearts to the Lord, <sup>20</sup>always giving thanks to God the Father for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

### Wives and Husbands

<sup>21</sup>Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.<sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup> <sup>13</sup> SBL begins verse 14 after *visible*,    <sup>b</sup> <sup>21</sup> Or *in the fear of Christ*.

<sup>22</sup>Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. <sup>23</sup>For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, His body, of which He is the Savior. <sup>24</sup>Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

<sup>25</sup>Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her <sup>26</sup>to sanctify her, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, <sup>27</sup>and to present her to Himself as a glorious church, without stain or wrinkle or any such blemish, but holy and blameless.

<sup>28</sup>In the same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. <sup>29</sup>Indeed, no one ever hated his own body, but he nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church. <sup>30</sup>For we are members of His body.<sup>a</sup>

<sup>31</sup>“For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.”<sup>b</sup>

<sup>32</sup>This mystery is profound, but I am speaking about Christ and the church. <sup>33</sup>Nevertheless, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

## Children and Parents

**6** Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. <sup>2</sup>“Honor your father and mother” (which is the first commandment with a promise), <sup>3</sup>“that it may go well with you and that you may have a long life on the earth.”<sup>c</sup>

<sup>4</sup>Fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath; instead, bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

<sup>a</sup> **30** BYZ and TR include —*of His flesh and of His bones*.

<sup>b</sup> **31** Genesis 2:24 (see also LXX)    <sup>c</sup> **3** Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 5:16

### **Serving with Honor**

<sup>5</sup>Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear and sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ. <sup>6</sup>And do this not only to please them while they are watching, but as servants of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart. <sup>7</sup>Serve with good will, as to the Lord and not to men, <sup>8</sup>because you know that the Lord will reward each one for whatever good he does, whether he is slave or free.

<sup>9</sup>And masters, do the same for your slaves. Give up your use of threats, because you know that He who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no favoritism with Him.

### **The Full Armor of God**

<sup>10</sup>Finally, be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. <sup>11</sup>Put on the full armor of God, so that you can make your stand against the devil's schemes. <sup>12</sup>For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this world's darkness, and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

<sup>13</sup>Therefore take up the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you will be able to stand your ground, and having done everything, to stand. <sup>14</sup>Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness arrayed, <sup>15</sup>and with your feet fitted with the readiness of the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup>In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. <sup>17</sup>And take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

**18** Pray in the Spirit at all times, with every kind of prayer and petition. To this end, stay alert with all perseverance in your prayers for all the saints. **19** Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will boldly make known the mystery of the gospel, **20** for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it fearlessly, as I should.

### **Final Greetings**

**21** Tychicus, the beloved brother and faithful servant in the Lord, will tell you everything, so that you also may know about me and what I am doing. **22** I have sent him to you for this very purpose, that you may know about us, and that he may encourage your hearts.

**23** Peace to the brothers and love with faith from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**24** Grace to all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with an undying love.

# Philippians

## Greetings from Paul and Timothy

**1** Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus,

To all the saints in Christ Jesus at Philippi, together with the overseers and deacons:

<sup>2</sup> Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

## Thanksgiving and Prayer

<sup>3</sup> I thank my God every time I remember you. <sup>4</sup> In every prayer for all of you, I always pray with joy, <sup>5</sup> because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, <sup>6</sup> being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

<sup>7</sup> It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart. For in my chains and in my defense and confirmation of the gospel, you are all partners in grace with me. <sup>8</sup> God is my witness how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

<sup>9</sup> And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, <sup>10</sup> so that you may be able to test and prove what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, <sup>11</sup> filled with the fruit of

righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

### Paul's Trials Advance the Gospel

<sup>12</sup>Now I want you to know, brothers, that my circumstances have actually served to advance the gospel. <sup>13</sup>As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard<sup>a</sup> and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ. <sup>14</sup>And most of the brothers, confident in the Lord by my chains, now dare more greatly to speak the word<sup>b</sup> without fear.

<sup>15</sup>It is true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of goodwill. <sup>16</sup>The latter do so in love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel.<sup>c</sup> <sup>17</sup>The former, however, preach Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing that they can add to the distress of my chains.

<sup>18</sup>What then is the issue?<sup>d</sup> Just this: that in every way, whether by false motives or true, Christ is preached. And in this I rejoice. Yes, and I will continue to rejoice, <sup>19</sup>because I know that through your prayers and the provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, my distress will turn out for my deliverance. <sup>20</sup>I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have complete boldness so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death.

### To Live Is Christ

<sup>21</sup>For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain. <sup>22</sup>But if I go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. So what

**a** <sup>13</sup> Or *all the Praetorium*    **b** <sup>14</sup> NE and WH *the word of God*    **c** <sup>16</sup> BYZ and TR reverse the order of verses 16 and 17.    **d** <sup>18</sup> Literally *What then?*

## 32 | Philippians 1:23

shall I choose? I do not know. <sup>23</sup>I am torn between the two. I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better indeed.

<sup>24</sup>But it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body.

<sup>25</sup>Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith,

<sup>26</sup>so that through my coming to you again your exultation in Christ Jesus will resound on account of me.

### Worthy of the Gospel

<sup>27</sup>Nevertheless, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in one spirit, contending side by side<sup>a</sup> for the faith of the gospel, <sup>28</sup>without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you. This is a clear sign of their destruction but of your salvation, and it is from God. <sup>29</sup>For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for Him, <sup>30</sup>since you are encountering the same struggle you saw I had, and now hear that I still have.

### One in Christ

**2** Therefore if you have any encouragement in Christ, if any comfort from His love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, <sup>2</sup>then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being united in spirit and purpose.

<sup>3</sup>Do nothing out of selfish ambition or empty pride, but in humility consider others more important than yourselves.

<sup>4</sup>Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

*a 27 Or striving together with one mind*



## The Mind of Christ

<sup>5</sup>Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus:

<sup>6</sup>Who, existing in the form of God,  
did not consider equality with God  
something to be grasped,<sup>a</sup>

<sup>7</sup>but emptied Himself,  
taking the form of a servant,  
being made in human likeness.

<sup>8</sup>And being found in appearance as a man,  
He humbled Himself  
and became obedient to death—  
even death on a cross.

<sup>9</sup>Therefore God exalted Him to the highest place  
and gave Him the name above all names,  
<sup>10</sup>that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,  
in heaven and on earth and under  
the earth,  
<sup>11</sup>and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

## Lights in the World

<sup>12</sup>Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not only in my presence, but now even more in my absence, continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling.  
<sup>13</sup>For it is God who works in you to will and to act on behalf of His good purpose.

<sup>14</sup>Do everything without complaining or arguing, <sup>15</sup>so that you may be blameless and pure, children of God without fault

<sup>a</sup> <sup>6</sup> Or something to be exploited

## 34 | Philippians 2:16

in a crooked and perverse generation,<sup>a</sup> in which you shine as lights in the world <sup>16</sup>as you hold forth the word of life, in order that I may boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor in vain.

<sup>17</sup>But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you. <sup>18</sup>So you too should be glad and rejoice with me.

### Timothy and Epaphroditus

<sup>19</sup>Now I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, that I also may be cheered when I learn how you are doing. <sup>20</sup>I have nobody else like him who will genuinely care for your needs. <sup>21</sup>For all the others look after their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. <sup>22</sup>But you know Timothy's proven worth, that as a child with his father he has served with me to advance the gospel. <sup>23</sup>So I hope to send him as soon as I see what happens with me. <sup>24</sup>And I trust in the Lord that I myself will come soon.

<sup>25</sup>But I thought it necessary to send back to you Epaphroditus, my brother, fellow worker, and fellow soldier, who is also your messenger and minister to my needs. <sup>26</sup>For he has been longing for all of you and is distressed because you heard he was ill. <sup>27</sup>He was sick indeed, nearly unto death. But God had mercy on him, and not only on him but also on me, to spare me sorrow upon sorrow.

<sup>28</sup>Therefore I am all the more eager to send him, so that when you see him again you may rejoice, and I may be less anxious. <sup>29</sup>Welcome him in the Lord with great joy, and honor men

<sup>a</sup> 15 Deuteronomy 32:5

like him, <sup>30</sup>because he nearly died for the work of Christ, risking his life to make up for your deficit of service to me.

### Righteousness through Faith in Christ

**3** Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord. It is no trouble for me to write the same things to you again, and it is a safeguard for you.

<sup>2</sup>Watch out for those dogs, those workers of evil, those mutilators of the flesh! <sup>3</sup>For it is we who are the circumcision, we who worship by the Spirit of God, who glory in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh— <sup>4</sup>though I myself could have such confidence.

If anyone else thinks he has grounds for confidence in the flesh, I have more: <sup>5</sup>circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin; a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; <sup>6</sup>as to zeal, persecuting the church; as to righteousness in the law, faultless.

<sup>7</sup>But whatever was gain to me I count as loss for the sake of Christ. <sup>8</sup>More than that, I count all things as loss compared to the surpassing excellence of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup>and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ,<sup>a</sup> the righteousness from God on the basis of faith.

<sup>10</sup>I want to know Christ and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to Him in His death, <sup>11</sup>and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.

*a 9 Or through the faithfulness of Christ*

### Pressing on toward the Goal

<sup>12</sup>Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. <sup>13</sup>Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, <sup>14</sup>I press on toward the goal to win the prize of God's heavenly calling in Christ Jesus.

<sup>15</sup>All of us who are mature should embrace this point of view. And if you think differently about some issue, God will reveal this to you as well. <sup>16</sup>Nevertheless, we must live up to what we have already attained.

### Citizenship in Heaven

<sup>17</sup>Join one another in following my example, brothers, and carefully observe those who walk according to the pattern we set for you. <sup>18</sup>For as I have often told you before, and now say again even with tears: Many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. <sup>19</sup>Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and their glory is in their shame. Their minds are set on earthly things.

<sup>20</sup>But our citizenship is in heaven, and we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>21</sup>who, by the power that enables Him to subject all things to Himself, will transform our lowly bodies to be like His glorious body.

### Rejoice in the Lord

**4** Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, that is how you must stand firm in the Lord, my beloved.

<sup>2</sup>I urge Euodia and Syntyche to agree with each other in the Lord. <sup>3</sup>Yes, and I ask you, my true yokefellow,<sup>a</sup> to help these women who have labored with me for the gospel, along with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the Book of Life.

<sup>4</sup>Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! <sup>5</sup>Let your gentleness be apparent to all. The Lord is near.

<sup>6</sup>Be anxious for nothing, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

<sup>8</sup>Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think on these things. <sup>9</sup>Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me, put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

### The Generosity of the Philippians

<sup>10</sup>Now I rejoice greatly in the Lord that at last you have revived your concern for me. You were indeed concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. <sup>11</sup>I am not saying this out of need, for I have learned to be content regardless of my circumstances. <sup>12</sup>I know how to live humbly, and I know how to abound. I am accustomed to any and every situation—to being filled and being hungry, to having plenty and having need. <sup>13</sup>I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength.<sup>b</sup>

*a* <sup>3</sup> Or *I ask you, loyal Syzygus*    *b* <sup>13</sup> NA, SBL, NE, and WH *in the One who gives me strength*. BYZ and TR *in Christ who gives me strength*.

## 38 | Philippians 4:14

<sup>14</sup>Nevertheless, you have done well to share in my affliction.

<sup>15</sup>And as you Philippians know, in the early days of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, no church but you partnered with me in the matter of giving and receiving. <sup>16</sup>For even while I was in Thessalonica, you provided for my needs again and again.

<sup>17</sup>Not that I am seeking a gift, but I am looking for the fruit that may be credited to your account. <sup>18</sup>I have all I need and more, now that I have received your gifts from Epaphroditus. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, well-pleasing to God.

<sup>19</sup>And my God will supply all your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus. <sup>20</sup>To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.

### Final Greetings

<sup>21</sup>Greet all the saints in Christ Jesus.

The brothers who are with me send you greetings.

<sup>22</sup>All the saints send you greetings, especially those from the household of Caesar.

<sup>23</sup>The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> 23 BYZ and TR include *Amen*.

# Colossians

## Greetings from Paul and Timothy

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

**2**To the saints and faithful brothers in Christ at Colossae:

Grace and peace to you from God our Father.<sup>a</sup>

## Thanksgiving and Prayer

**3**We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, **4**because we have heard about your faith in Christ Jesus and your love for all the saints— **5**the faith and love proceeding from the hope stored up for you in heaven, of which you have already heard in the word of truth, the gospel **6**that has come to you.

All over the world this gospel is bearing fruit and growing, just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and truly understood the grace of God. **7**You learned it from Epaphras, our beloved fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on our<sup>b</sup> behalf, **8**and who also informed us of your love in the Spirit.

**9**For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with

**a** **2** BYZ and TR *God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ*

**b** **7** NE, NA, BYZ, and TR *your*

## 40 | Colossians 1:10

the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, <sup>10</sup>so that you may walk in a manner worthy of the Lord and may please Him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, <sup>11</sup>being strengthened with all power according to His glorious might so that you may have full endurance and patience, and joyfully <sup>12</sup>giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you<sup>a</sup> to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light.

<sup>13</sup>He has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of His beloved Son, <sup>14</sup>in whom we have redemption,<sup>b</sup> the forgiveness of sins.

### The Supremacy of the Son

<sup>15</sup>The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. <sup>16</sup>For in Him all things were created, things 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.

<sup>17</sup>He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. <sup>18</sup>And He is the head of the body, the church; He is the beginning and firstborn from among the dead, so that in all things He may have preeminence. <sup>19</sup>For God was pleased to have all His fullness dwell in Him, <sup>20</sup>and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through the blood of His cross.

<sup>21</sup>Once you were alienated from God and were hostile in your minds, engaging in evil deeds. <sup>22</sup>But now He has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present

<sup>a</sup> 12 BYZ and TR *us*    <sup>b</sup> 14 TR *redemption through His blood*,



you holy, unblemished, and blameless in His presence— <sup>23</sup>if indeed you continue in your faith, established and firm, not moved from the hope of the gospel you heard, which has been proclaimed to every creature<sup>a</sup> under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant.

### Paul's Suffering for the Church

<sup>24</sup>Now I rejoice in my sufferings for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions for the sake of His body, which is the church. <sup>25</sup>I became its servant by the commission God gave me to fully proclaim to you the word of God, <sup>26</sup>the mystery that was hidden for ages and generations but is now revealed to His saints. <sup>27</sup>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.

<sup>28</sup>We proclaim Him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect<sup>b</sup> in Christ. <sup>29</sup>To this end I also labor, striving with all His energy working powerfully within me.

### Absent in Body, Present in Spirit

**2** For I want you to know how much I am struggling for you and for those at Laodicea, and for all who have not met me face to face, <sup>2</sup>that they may be encouraged in heart, knit together in love, and filled with the full riches of complete understanding, so that they may know the mystery of God, namely Christ,<sup>c</sup> <sup>3</sup>in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

*a* <sup>23</sup> Or in all creation    *b* <sup>28</sup> Or fully mature

*c* <sup>2</sup> Literally the mystery of God: Christ

## 42 | Colossians 2:4

<sup>4</sup>I say this so that no one will deceive you by smooth rhetoric. <sup>5</sup>For although I am absent from you in body, I am present with you in spirit, and I delight to see your orderly condition and firm faith in Christ.

### Alive with Christ

<sup>6</sup>Therefore, just as you have received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to walk in Him, <sup>7</sup>rooted and built up in Him, established in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

<sup>8</sup>See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, which are based on human tradition and the spiritual forces of the world rather than on Christ. <sup>9</sup>For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity dwells in bodily form. <sup>10</sup>And you have been made complete in Christ, who is the head over every ruler and authority.

<sup>11</sup>In Him you were also circumcised, in the putting off of your sinful nature, with the circumcision performed by Christ<sup>a</sup> and not by human hands. <sup>12</sup>And having been buried with Him in baptism, you were raised with Him through your faith in the power of God, who raised Him from the dead.

<sup>13</sup>When you were dead in your trespasses and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our trespasses, <sup>14</sup>having canceled the debt ascribed to us in the decrees that stood against us. He took it away, nailing it to the cross! <sup>15</sup>And having disarmed the powers and authorities, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

<sup>a</sup> **11** Literally *in the cutting away of the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ*

<sup>16</sup>Therefore let no one judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a feast, a New Moon, or a Sabbath. <sup>17</sup>These are a shadow of the things to come, but the body that casts it belongs to Christ.<sup>a</sup> <sup>18</sup>Do not let anyone who delights in false humility and the worship of angels disqualify you with speculation about what he has seen. Such a person is puffed up without basis by his unspiritual mind. <sup>19</sup>He has lost connection to the head, from whom the whole body, supported and knit together by its joints and ligaments, grows as God causes it to grow.

<sup>20</sup>If you have died with Christ to the spiritual forces of the world, why, as though you still belonged to the world, do you submit to its regulations: <sup>21</sup>“Do not handle, do not taste, do not touch!”? <sup>22</sup>These will all perish with use, because they are based on human commands and teachings. <sup>23</sup>Such restrictions indeed have an appearance of wisdom, with their self-prescribed worship, their false humility, and their harsh treatment of the body; but they are of no value against the indulgence of the flesh.

### Put On the New Self

**3** Therefore, since you have been raised with Christ, strive for the things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup>Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. <sup>3</sup>For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup>When Christ, who is your<sup>b</sup> life, appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

<sup>5</sup>Put to death, therefore, the components of your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires, and greed, which is idolatry. <sup>6</sup>Because of these, the wrath of God

<sup>a</sup> **17** Literally *but the body is of the Christ*    <sup>b</sup> **4** NE, WH, BYZ, and TR *our*

## 44 | Colossians 3:7

is coming on the sons of disobedience.<sup>a</sup> <sup>7</sup>When you lived among them, you also used to walk in these ways. <sup>8</sup>But now you must put aside all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips.

<sup>9</sup>Do not lie to one another, since you have taken off the old self with its practices, <sup>10</sup>and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. <sup>11</sup>Here there is no Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, or free, but Christ is all and is in all.

<sup>12</sup>Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with hearts of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. <sup>13</sup>Bear with one another and forgive any complaint you may have against someone else. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. <sup>14</sup>And over all these virtues put on love, which is the bond of perfect unity. <sup>15</sup>Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, for to this you were called as members of one body. And be thankful.

<sup>16</sup>Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. <sup>17</sup>And whatever you do, in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

### Christian Households

<sup>18</sup>Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.

<sup>19</sup>Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them.

<sup>20</sup>Children, obey your parents in everything, for this is pleasing to the Lord.

<sup>a</sup> <sup>6</sup> NE, WH, and Tischendorf do not include *on the sons of disobedience* .

<sup>21</sup>Fathers, do not provoke your children, so they will not become discouraged.

### **Serving with Honor**

<sup>22</sup>Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything, not only to please them while they are watching, but with sincerity of heart and fear of the Lord.

<sup>23</sup>Whatever you do, work at it with your whole being, for the Lord and not for men, <sup>24</sup>because you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as your reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. <sup>25</sup>Whoever does wrong will be repaid for his wrong, and there is no favoritism.

### **Prayerful Speech and Actions**

**4** Masters, supply your slaves with what is right and fair, since you know that you also have a Master in heaven.

<sup>2</sup>Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful, <sup>3</sup>as you pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. <sup>4</sup>Pray that I may declare it clearly, as I should.

<sup>5</sup>Act wisely toward outsiders, redeeming the time. <sup>6</sup>Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

### **Greetings from Paul's Fellow Workers**

<sup>7</sup>Tychicus will tell you all the news about me. He is a beloved brother, a faithful minister, and a fellow servant in the Lord.

<sup>8</sup>I have sent him to you for this very purpose, that you may know about us, and that he may encourage your hearts.

<sup>9</sup>With him I am sending Onesimus, our faithful and beloved

## 46 | Colossians 4:10

brother, who is one of you. They will tell you about everything here.

<sup>10</sup>My fellow prisoner Aristarchus sends you greetings, as does Mark the cousin of Barnabas. You have already received instructions about him: If he comes to you, welcome him.

<sup>11</sup>Jesus, who is called Justus, also sends greetings. These are the only Jews among my fellow workers for the kingdom of God, and they have been a comfort to me.

<sup>12</sup>Epaphras, who is one of you and a servant of Christ Jesus, sends you greetings. He is always wrestling in prayer for you, so that you may stand mature and fully assured in the full will of God. <sup>13</sup>For I testify about him that he goes to great pains for you and for those at Laodicea and Hierapolis.

<sup>14</sup>Luke, the beloved physician, and Demas send you greetings.

### Signature and Final Instructions

<sup>15</sup>Greet the brothers in Laodicea, as well as Nympha and the church that meets at her house.

<sup>16</sup>After this letter has been read among you, make sure that it is also read in the church of the Laodiceans, and that you in turn read the letter from Laodicea.

<sup>17</sup>Tell Archippus: “See to it that you complete the ministry you have received in the Lord.”

<sup>18</sup>This greeting is in my own hand—Paul.

Remember my chains.

Grace be with you.<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> **18** BYZ and TR include *Amen*.

# Philemon

## Greetings from Paul and Timothy

<sup>1</sup>Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,  
To Philemon our beloved fellow worker, <sup>2</sup>to Apphia our sister,  
to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church that meets at your<sup>a</sup> house:

<sup>3</sup>Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

## Philemon's Faith and Love

<sup>4</sup>I always thank my God, remembering you in my prayers,  
<sup>5</sup>because I hear about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints. <sup>6</sup>I pray that your partnership in the faith may become effective as you fully acknowledge every good thing that is ours in Christ. <sup>7</sup>I take great joy and encouragement in your love, because you, brother, have refreshed the hearts of the saints.

## Paul's Appeal for Onesimus

<sup>8</sup>So although in Christ I am bold enough to order you to do what is proper, <sup>9</sup>I prefer to appeal on the basis of love. For I, Paul, am now aged, and a prisoner of Christ Jesus as well.

<sup>10</sup>I appeal to you for my child Onesimus,<sup>b</sup> whose father I became while I was in chains. <sup>11</sup>Formerly he was useless to

<sup>2</sup> *a* *You* and *Your* are singular throughout this letter, except in verses 3, 22, and 25. **10 b** *Onesimus* means *useful* (see verse 11) or *beneficial* (see verse 20).

## 48 | Philemon 1:12

you, but now he has become useful both to you and to me. <sup>12</sup>I am sending back to you him who is my very heart.

<sup>13</sup>I would have liked to keep him with me, so that on your behalf he could minister to me in my chains for the gospel. <sup>14</sup>But I did not want to do anything without your consent, so that your goodness will not be out of compulsion, but by your own free will. <sup>15</sup>For perhaps this is why he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back for good— <sup>16</sup>no longer as a slave, but better than a slave, as a beloved brother. He is especially beloved to me, but even more so to you, both in person and in the Lord.

<sup>17</sup>So if you consider me a partner, receive him as you would receive me. <sup>18</sup>But if he has wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge it to my account. <sup>19</sup>I, Paul, write this with my own hand. I will repay it—not to mention that you owe me your very self.

<sup>20</sup>Yes, brother, let me have some benefit<sup>a</sup> from you in the Lord. Refresh my heart in Christ.

<sup>21</sup>Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.

<sup>22</sup>In the meantime, prepare a guest room for me, because I hope that through your prayers I will be restored to you.

### Additional Greetings

<sup>23</sup>Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, sends you greetings, <sup>24</sup>as do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke, my fellow workers.

<sup>25</sup>The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.<sup>b</sup>

**20 a** Greek *onaimên*, a play on the name *Onesimus*    **25 b** BYZ and TR include *Amen*.