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Philemon

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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—²and all the brothers with me,

To the churches of **Galatia**:

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

No Other Gospel

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

⁸But 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! ⁹As 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!

^a 3 SBL, BYZ, and TR *God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ*

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.^a **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,^b 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.

^a **11** Literally *not according to man* ^b **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. **2** 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. **3** Yet not even Titus, who was with me, was compelled to be circumcised, even though he was a Greek.

4 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. **5** We did not give in to them for a moment, so that the truth of the gospel would remain with you.

6 But as for the highly esteemed—whatever they were makes no difference to me; God does not show favoritism^a—those leaders added nothing to me. **7** 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. **8** For the One who was at work in Peter's apostleship to the circumcised was also at work in my apostleship to the Gentiles.

9 And recognizing the grace that I had been given, James, Cephas,^b 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. **10** They only asked us to remember the poor, the very thing I was eager to do.

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

Paul Confronts Cephas

11When 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**.

14When 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?”^a

15We 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.

17But 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**.

19For 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.

^a **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. **2**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?

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

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

Christ Has Redeemed Us

10All 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.”^c **11**Now it is clear that no one is justified before God by the law, because, “The **righteous** will live by faith.”^d **12**The law, however, is not based on faith; on the contrary, “The man who does these things will live by them.”^e

^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

13 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.**”^a **14** He redeemed us in order that the blessing promised to Abraham^b 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

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

16 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,”^c meaning One, who is Christ.

17 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. **18** 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.

19 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. **20** A mediator is **unnecessary**, however, for only one **party**; but God is one.

21 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. **22** But the Scripture **pronounces** all things **confined** by sin, so that

a 13 Deuteronomy 21:23 (see also LXX) **b 14** Literally *the blessing of Abraham*

c 16 Genesis 12:7; Genesis 13:15

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

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

Sons through Faith in Christ

26 You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. **27** For all of you who were **baptized** into Christ have **clothed** yourselves with Christ. **28** There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, **male** nor **female**, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. **29** 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. **2** He is subject to **guardians** and **trustees** until the **date** set by his father.

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

^a **3** Or *elemental forces*; similarly in verse 9

Paul's Concern for the Galatians

8Formerly, when you did not know God, you were slaves to those who by nature are not **gods**. **9**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? **10**You are **observing special** days and **months** and **seasons** and years! **11**I fear for you, that my **efforts** for you may have been in vain. **12**I **beg** you, brothers, become like me, for I became like you. You have done me no wrong.

13You know that it was because of an illness that I first preached the gospel to you. **14**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. **15**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. **16**Have I now become your **enemy** by **telling** you the truth?

17Those 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. **18**Nevertheless, it is good to be zealous if it **serves** a **noble** purpose—at any time, and not only when I am with you.

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

Hagar and Sarah

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

24 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. **25** Now Hagar **stands** for Mount Sinai in Arabia and **corresponds** to the **present-day** Jerusalem, because she is in slavery with her children. **26** But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother. **27** 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.”^b

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

30 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.”^d **31** Therefore,

^a **22** See Genesis 16:15 and Genesis 21:2–3. ^b **27** Isaiah 54:1

^c **28** WH, BYZ, and TR *we* ^d **30** 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.

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

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

7 You were running so well. Who has **obstructed** you from **obeying** the truth? **8** Such **persuasion** does not come from the One who **calls** you. **9** A **little leaven** works through the whole **batch of dough**. **10** 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.

11 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**. **12** As for those who are **agitating** you, I wish they would **proceed** to **emasculate** themselves!

13 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. **14** The **entire** law is **fulfilled** in a **single**

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

Walking by the Spirit

16 So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not **gratify** the desires of the flesh. **17** 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. **18** But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

19 The **acts** of the flesh are **obvious**: sexual immorality, impurity, and **debauchery**; **20** idolatry and **sorcery**; **hatred**, **discord**, **jealousy**, and rage; **rivalries**, **divisions**, **factions**, **21** 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.

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

24 Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its **passions** and desires. **25** Since we live by the Spirit, let us walk in **step** with the Spirit. **26** 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**. **2** Carry

^a **14** Leviticus 19:18

16 | Galatians 6:3

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

3 If anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he **deceives** himself.

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

7 Do not be **deceived**: God is not to be **mocked**. Whatever a man sows, he will reap in **return**. **8** 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.

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

Final Warnings and Blessings

11 See what **large letters** I am **using** to write to you with my own hand!

12 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. **13** For the circumcised do not even keep the law themselves, yet they want you to be circumcised that they may boast in your flesh.

14But as for me, may I never boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which^a 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.

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

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

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

Amen.

^a **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**,^a the faithful in Christ Jesus:

2 Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord
Jesus Christ.

Spiritual Blessings

3 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. **4** For He **chose** us in Him before the founda-
tion of the world to be holy and blameless in His presence. In
love **5** He predestined us for adoption as His sons through Je-
sus Christ, according to the good pleasure of His will, **6** to the
praise of His glorious grace, which He has freely given us in
the Beloved One.

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

^a **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^a 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, **2** 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. **3** 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.

4 But because of His great love for us, God, who is **rich** in mercy, **5** made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in our trespasses. It is by grace you have been saved! **6** And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with Him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, **7** 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.

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

One in Christ

11 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)— **12** 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. **13** But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ.

^a **10** Literally *which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.*

14For He Himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has torn down the **dividing wall** of hostility **15**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 **16**and **reconciling** both of them to God in one body through the cross, by which He **extinguished** their hostility.

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

Christ Our Cornerstone

19Therefore you are no longer strangers and **foreigners**, but fellow **citizens** with the saints and members of God's household, **20**built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus Himself as the **cornerstone**. **21**In Him the whole building is fitted together and grows into a holy **temple** in the Lord. **22**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...^a

2Surely you have heard about the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, **3**that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written **briefly**. **4**In **reading** this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, **5**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. **6**This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are

^a **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.

7I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace, given me through the working of His power. 8Though 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, 9and to **illuminate** for everyone the stewardship^a of this mystery, which for ages **past** was **kept** hidden in God, who created all things. 10His 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, 11according to the eternal purpose that He **accomplished** in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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

Paul's Prayer for the Ephesians

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

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

20 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, **21** 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: **2** with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, **3** and with **diligence** to **preserve** the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

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

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

“When He ascended on **high**,
He led **captives** away,
and gave gifts to men.”^b

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

11 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**, **12** to **equip** the saints for works of ministry and to **build** up the body of Christ, **13** until we all **reach** unity in

a 8 Or *He says*

b 8 Psalm 68:18

c 9 BYZ and TR except that *He also*

descended first

24 | Ephesians 4:14

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

14Then 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**. **15**Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into Christ Himself, who is the head. **16**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

17So 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**. **18**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. **19**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.

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

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

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

²⁸He 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.

²⁹Let 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**.

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

³¹Get **rid** of all **bitterness**, rage and anger, **outcry** and slander, along with every form of malice. ³²Be kind and **tender-hearted** 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, ²and walk in love, just as Christ loved us^b and gave Himself up for us as a fragrant **sacrificial** offering to God.

³But 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. ⁴Nor should there be **obscenity**, foolish talk, or **crude joking**, which are out of **character**, but rather thanksgiving. ⁵For 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.

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

26 | Ephesians 5:6

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

Children of Light

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

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

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

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

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

Wives and Husbands

21Submit to one another out of **reverence** for Christ.^b

^a **13** SBL begins verse 14 after *visible*, ^b **21** Or *in the fear of Christ*.

22 Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. 23 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. 24 Now as the church **submits** to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

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

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

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

32 This mystery is **profound**, but I am speaking about Christ and the church. 33 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. 2 “Honor your father and mother” (which is the first **commandment** with a promise), 3 “that it may go well with you and that you may have a long life on the earth.”^c

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

^a 30 BYZ and TR include —*of His flesh and of His bones*.

^b 31 Genesis 2:24 (see also LXX) ^c 3 Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 5:16

Serving with Honor

5 Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear and sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ. 6 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. 7 Serve with good will, as to the Lord and not to men, 8 because you know that the Lord will reward each one for whatever good he does, whether he is slave or free.

9 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

10 Finally, be **strong** in the Lord and in His mighty power. 11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you can make your stand against the **devil's schemes**. 12 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.

13 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. 14 Stand firm then, with the **belt** of truth **buckled** around your **waist**, with the **breast-plate** of righteousness **arrayed**, 15 and with your feet fitted with the **readiness** of the gospel of peace. 16 In **addition** to all this, take up the **shield** of faith, with which you can **extinguish** all the **flaming arrows** of the evil one. 17 And take the **helmet** of salvation and the **sword** of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

18Pray 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 **when-ever** 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

21Tychicus, 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.

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

24Grace 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**:

2 Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Thanksgiving and Prayer

3 I thank my God every time I remember you. **4** In every prayer for all of you, I always pray with joy, **5** because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, **6** 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.

7 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. **8** God is my **witness** how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

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

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

Paul's Trials Advance the Gospel

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

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

18 What then is the issue?^d 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, **19** because I know that through your prayers and the **provision** of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, my distress will turn out for my **deliverance**. **20** 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

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

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

shall I choose? I do not know. ²³I am torn **between** the two. I **desire** to **depart** and be with Christ, which is far better indeed. ²⁴But it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body.

²⁵**Convinced** of this, I know that I will remain and will continue with all of you for your **progress** and joy in the faith, ²⁶so that through my coming to you again your **exultation** in Christ Jesus will **resound** on account of me.

Worthy of the Gospel

²⁷Nevertheless, **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^a for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸without 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. ²⁹For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in Him, but also to **suffer** for Him, ³⁰since 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, ²then make my joy complete by being **like-minded**, having the same love, being united in spirit and purpose.

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

⁴Each 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

5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus:

6 Who, **existing** in the form of God,
did not consider **equality** with God
something to be **grasped**,^a

7 but **emptied** Himself,
taking the form of a servant,
being made in human **likeness**.

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

9 Therefore God exalted Him to the **highest** place
and gave Him the name above all names,

10 that at the name of Jesus every **knee** should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under
the earth,

11 and every **tongue confess** that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Lights in the World

12 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**.

13 For it is God who works in you to will and to act on behalf
of His good purpose.

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

^a 6 Or *something to be exploited*

34 | Philippians 2:16

in a **crooked** and **perverse generation**,^a in which you shine as **lights** the world ¹⁶as 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.

17 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. **18** So you too should be glad and rejoice with me.

Timothy and Epaphroditus

19 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.

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

25 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. **26** For he has been **longing** for all of you and is **distressed** because you heard he was **ill**. **27** 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.

28 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.

29 Welcome him in the Lord with great joy, and honor men

^a 15 Deuteronomy 32:5

like him, ³⁰because 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.

²Watch out for those **dogs**, those workers of evil, those **ma-ti-lators** of the flesh! ³For 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— ⁴though I myself could have such confidence.

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

⁷But whatever was gain to me I count as loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸More 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 ⁹and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ,^a the righteousness from God on the basis of faith.

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

^a ⁹ Or *through the faithfulness of Christ*

Pressing on toward the Goal

12 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. **13** 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**, **14** I press on toward the **goal** to **win** the **prize** of God's heavenly calling in Christ Jesus.

15 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. **16** Nevertheless, we must live up to what we have already **attained**.

Citizenship in Heaven

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

20 But our **citizenship** is in heaven, and we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, **21** 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.

²I urge **Euodia** and **Syntyche** to agree with each other in the Lord. ³Yes, and I ask you, my true **yokefellow**,^a 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.

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

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

⁸Finally, 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. ⁹Whatever 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

¹⁰Now 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. ¹¹I am not saying this out of need, for I have learned to be **content regardless** of my circumstances. ¹²I 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. ¹³I can do all things through Christ who **gives** me strength.^b

^a 3 Or *I ask you, loyal Syzygus* ^b 13 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

14 Nevertheless, you have done well to share in my **affliction**. **15** 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**. **16** For even while I was in **Thessalonica**, you **provided** for my needs again and again.

17 Not that I am seeking a gift, but I am **looking** for the fruit that may be credited to your account. **18** 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.

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

Final Greetings

21 Greet all the saints in Christ Jesus.

The brothers who are with me send you greetings.

22 All the saints send you greetings, especially those from the household of **Caesar**.

23 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.^a

^a **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.^a

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^b 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, ¹⁰so 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, ¹¹being **strengthened** with all power according to His glorious might so that you may have full **endurance** and patience, and **joyfully** ¹²giving thanks to the Father, who has **qualified** you^a to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light.

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

The Supremacy of the Son

¹⁵The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶For 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.

¹⁷He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. ¹⁸And 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**. ¹⁹For God was pleased to have all His fullness dwell in Him, ²⁰and 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.

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

^a 12 BYZ and TR *us* ^b 14 TR *redemption through His blood*,

present you holy, **unblemished**, and blameless in His presence—²³if 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**^a under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant.

Paul's Suffering for the Church

²⁴Now 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. ²⁵I became its servant by the **commission** God gave me to fully proclaim to you the word of God, ²⁶the mystery that was hidden for ages and generations but is now revealed to His saints. ²⁷To 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.

²⁸We proclaim Him, **admonishing** and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect^b in Christ. ²⁹To 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, ²that 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,^c ³in whom are hidden all the **treasures** of wisdom and knowledge.

^a 23 Or *in all creation* ^b 28 Or *fully mature*

^c 2 Literally *the mystery of God: Christ*

42 | Colossians 2:4

4I say this so that no one will deceive you by **smooth rhetoric**. **5**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

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

8See 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. **9**For in Christ all the fullness of the **Deity dwells in bodily** form. **10**And you have been made complete in Christ, who is the head over every ruler and authority.

11In Him you were also circumcised, in the **putting off** of your sinful nature, with the circumcision **performed** by Christ^a and not by human hands. **12**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.

13When 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, **14**having canceled the **debt ascribed** to us in the decrees that stood against us. He took it away, **nailing** it to the cross! **15**And having **disarmed** the powers and authorities, He made a **public spectacle** of them, **triumphing** over them by the cross.

^a **11** Literally *in the cutting away of the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ*

16 Therefore let no one **judge** you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a **feast**, a New **Moon**, or a **Sabbath**. 17 These are a **shadow** of the things to come, but the body that **casts** it **belongs** to Christ.^a 18 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. 19 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.

20 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**? 21 “Do not **handle**, do not **taste**, do not **touch**!”^b 22 These will all **perish** with use, because they are based on human **commands** and **teachings**. 23 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. 2 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. 3 For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, who is your^b life, **appears**, then you also will **appear** with Him in glory.

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

^a 17 Literally *but the body is of the Christ* ^b 4 NE, WH, BYZ, and TR *our*

44 | Colossians 3:7

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

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

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

16Let 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. **17**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

18Wives, submit to your husbands, as is **fitting** in the Lord.

19Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them.

20Children, obey your parents in everything, for this is **pleasing** to the Lord.

^a **6** NE, WH, and Tischendorf do not include *on the sons of disobedience*.

21Fathers, do not provoke your children, so they will not become discouraged.

Serving with Honor

22Slaves, 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.

23Whatever you do, work at it with your whole being, for the Lord and not for men, **24**because you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as your reward. It is the Lord Christ you are **serving**. **25**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.

2Devote yourselves to prayer, being **watchful** and thankful, **3**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. **4**Pray that I may **declare** it clearly, as I should.

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

Greetings from Paul's Fellow Workers

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

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

9With 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.

10 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. **11** 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.

12 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. **13** For I testify about him that he **goes** to great pains for you and for those at Laodicea and **Hierapolis**.

14 Luke, the beloved **physician**, and Demas send you greetings.

Signature and Final Instructions

15 Greet the brothers in Laodicea, as well as **Nympha** and the church that meets at her house.

16 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.

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

18 This **greeting** is in my own hand—Paul.

Remember my chains.

Grace be with you.^a

^a **18** BYZ and TR include *Amen*.

Philemon

Greetings from Paul and Timothy

1 Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,

To **Philemon** our beloved fellow worker, **2**to **Apphia** our **sister**, to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church that meets at **your^a** house:

3 Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Philemon's Faith and Love

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

Paul's Appeal for Onesimus

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

10 I appeal to you for my child Onesimus,^b whose father I became while I was in chains. **11** Formerly he was **useless** to

2 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. ¹²I am sending back to you him who is my very heart.

¹³I would have **liked** to keep him with me, so that on your behalf he could minister to me in my chains for the gospel. ¹⁴But 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. ¹⁵For **perhaps** this is why he was **separated** from you for a while, so that you might have him back for good— ¹⁶no 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.

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

²⁰Yes, brother, let me have some **benefit**^a from you in the Lord. **Refresh** my heart in Christ.

²¹Confident of your **obedience**, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.

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

Additional Greetings

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

²⁵The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.^b

^{20 a} Greek *onaimēn*, a play on the name *Onesimus* ^{25 b} BYZ and TR include *Amen*.