

Colossians.

A translation.

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Read the contents.

| | |
|--|-----|
| Paul writes to the Colossians (1:1-29). | 493 |
| Paul greets the Colossians (1:1-2). | 493 |
| Paul gives thanks (1:3-14). | 493 |
| The messiah is the head (1:15-20). | 494 |
| The messiah is the revealed secret (1:21-2:23). | 494 |
| God reveals his secret (1:21-29). | 494 |
| Paul suffered for them (2:1-5). | 495 |
| Do not follow human doctrines (2:6-23). | 495 |
| Seek heavenly things (3:1-4:6). | 496 |
| Put the earthly members to death (3:1-11). | 496 |
| Clothe yourself with virtue (3:12-17). | 497 |
| Follow the household rules (3:18-4:1). | 497 |
| Open a door for the word (4:2-6). | 498 |
| Paul says farewell (4:7-18). | 498 |
| Paul sends greetings (4:7-14). | 498 |
| Paul greets others (4:15-18). | 498 |

Colossians.

Paul writes to the Colossians (1:1-29).

Paul greets the Colossians (1:1-2).

¹ This is Paul. I am a representative of the messiah, Jesus. This is the will of God. This is also Timothy, the brother.

² To the holy and faithful brothers in the messiah.

May God our father grant you favor and peace.

Paul gives thanks (1:3-14).

³ I always thank God, the father of our lord, Jesus the messiah, when I pray about you. ⁴ We heard about your faith in the messiah, Jesus. You love all the holy people. ⁵ Hope is stored up for you in heaven. You heard about this in the true message of the good news. ⁶ It is present in you. It is bearing fruit and growing all over the world, and also in you. This has happened from the time you truly heard and acknowledged the favor of God.

⁷ You learned it from Epaphras, our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful servant of the messiah for you. ⁸ He demonstrated your love to us in spirit.

⁹ Because of this, since the time we heard, we have not stopped praying or asking for your sake: May you have complete knowledge of his will including all wisdom and spiritual understanding. ¹⁰ Live in a way that is pleasing to the lord. Acknowledge God by bearing fruit and growing in every good work. ¹¹ Be completely strong in everything by with the power of his glory. Gladly have complete patience and endurance.

¹² Give thanks to the father. He strengthens you. He gives you a piece of the inheritance that belongs to the holy people who are in the light.

Paul writes to the Colossians (1:1-29).

Paul gives thanks (1:3-14).

¹³ He rescued us away from the power of darkness. He transferred us toward the kingdom of the son he loves. ¹⁴ We have redemption in him: It is the forgiveness of sins.

The messiah is the head (1:15-20).

¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God.

He is the first-born of all creation.

¹⁶ Everything in the sky and on earth was created in him.

The visible and invisible.

Thrones, lords, leaders, and powers.

Everything has been created through him and for him.

¹⁷ He exists before everything.

Everything is held together in him.

¹⁸ He is the head of the body, which is the church.

He is the beginning.

He is the first-born from the dead.

He holds first place in everything.

¹⁹ He is pleased that everything exists completely by him.

²⁰ He reconciled everything for himself.

He made peace through the blood of his cross.

This includes everything on the earth and in the sky.

The messiah is the revealed secret (1:21-2:23).

God reveals his secret (1:21-29).

²¹ In the past, you were aliens and enemies. You served the work of evil things. ²² Now, you are reconciled in his physical body through death. He presents you as holy, faultless, and blameless before himself, ²³ if you really remain in the faith. You must be stable, firm, and unmoved from the hope of the good news which you heard. It has been proclaimed to every creature under the sky.

I, Paul, became its servant. ²⁴ I am glad now that I suffer for you. I am physically finishing what is left over from the suffering of the messiah. This is for the sake of his body, that is, the church.

²⁵ I became a servant for it. God gave me the job for you. I complete the word of God. ²⁶ This secret was hidden from the world and its generations. It is now exposed to his holy people. ²⁷ God wants them to know: What are the riches of his glory? They were a secret to the gentiles. It is that the messiah is in you. That is the hope of his glory.

²⁸ We proclaim him. We warn every man. We instruct every man using complete wisdom. Then we can help every man become mature in the messiah. ²⁹ This why I labor. I struggle with the effort he has effected through me with power.

Paul suffered for them (2:1-5).

² I want you to know that I suffered a great struggle for you, for those in Laodicea, and for everyone who has never seen me in person. ² This should comfort your hearts. Be united in love and with fully assured understanding.

You know the secret of God: It is the messiah. ³ All the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden in him.

⁴ I say this so that no one can deceive you with persuasive arguments. ⁵ I might be physically absent, but my spirit is with you. I am happy to see that you are well-disciplined. Your faith in the messiah is firm.

Do not follow human doctrines (2:6-23).

⁶ Accept the messiah, Jesus, as lord. Live by him. ⁷ Stay rooted and grounded in him. Stay firm in the faith just like you learned it. Overflow with thanksgiving.

⁸ Be careful: Do not go astray with deep arguments and empty deceit. They are just human traditions and worldly principles. They are not from the messiah.

⁹ Complete divinity physically lives in him. ¹⁰ You have become complete in him. He is the head of every ruler and authority.

¹¹ You have become circumcised in him. This was not a circumcision done by hand by removing part of your body. It is the circumcision of the messiah. ¹² You were buried with him when you were immersed. You then rose up with him by trusting in the work of God. He raised him from the dead.

¹³ You became dead to your errors and the failure to circumcise your body. He made you alive with him. He forgave all of our mistakes. ¹⁴ He erased the written charges against us. He removed it from us. He nailed it to the cross. ¹⁵ He disarmed the rulers and authorities. He boldly disgraced them by publicly parading them with it.

¹⁶ None of you may judge anyone by food, drink, a particular festival, new moon, or Sabbath. ¹⁷ These things are only shadows of the future, which is the body of the messiah. ¹⁸ None of you may deprive anyone by pretending to be humble, or worshiping angels. Some analyze their visions. They are vain and proud because of their worldly thinking. ¹⁹ They do not hold on to the head. From it, the entire body is supported and held together with joints and ligaments. God causes it to grow.

²⁰ You died with the messiah from worldly principles. Why do you want to subject yourselves as if you are living in a worldly manner?

²¹ Do not touch.

Do not taste.

Do not handle.^a

²² Everything is destroyed after being used. These are based on commands and human doctrines. ²³ These matters appear to contain wisdom. They involve personal religion, false humility, and mistreatment of the body. They have no value other than satisfying the flesh.

Seek heavenly things (3:1-4:6).

Put the earthly members to death (3:1-11).

³ If you are raised with the messiah, then seek heavenly things. The messiah is there, sitting at the right hand of God. ² Think about heavenly things. Do not think about earthly things. ³ You are dead. Your life has been hidden with the messiah in God. ⁴ When the messiah appears, your life will appear. Then you will be presented with him in glory.

⁵ Put the earthly members to death: sexual misconduct, impurity, lust, evil desires, and greed (which is idolatry). ⁶ Because of this, the Anger of God is coming against the sons of disobedience. ⁷ You used to live like them before when you lived among them.

a) The precise origin of these rules is unknown.

⁸ Now you have put away all these things: anger, a bad temper, wickedness, slander, and filthy language coming out of your mouth. ⁹ Do not lie to each other. Get rid of the old man and his behavior.

¹⁰ Wear the new man. He is recreated so that he can know how to be like the creator himself. ¹¹ In this place, no one is a Greek or a Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, foreigner, Scythian, slave, or free. The messiah is everything. He is in everyone.

Clothe yourself with virtue (3:12-17).

¹² Clothe yourself like you are chosen by God—you are holy and loved: affectionate with mercy, goodness, humility, meekness, and patience, ¹³ Put up with each other. Forgive each other if anyone has a quarrel with anyone. Since the lord forgave you, then you must forgive. ¹⁴ Love is better than anything else. It binds everything together for complete maturity.

¹⁵ The peace of the messiah must control your hearts. You are chosen for this reason into one body. Be thankful. ¹⁶ The message of the messiah must richly live in you with complete wisdom. Instruct and warn each other with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with mercy. Sing in your hearts to God. ¹⁷ Make sure that what you do, whether in speech or action, do it in the name of the lord, Jesus. Give thanks to God the father through him.

Follow the household rules (3:18-4:1).

¹⁸ Wives, submit to your husbands. This is appropriate in the lord.

¹⁹ Husbands, love your wives. Do not be bitter with them.

²⁰ Children, obey your parents in everything. This is pleasing to the lord.

²¹ Fathers, do not frustrate your children. Then they will not be discouraged.

²² Slaves, obey your physical masters in everything. Do not just pretend to please people. Do it with a sincere heart. Fear the lord. ²³ Whatever you do, work from your heart. Do it like you would for the lord, not for people. ²⁴ Understand that you received the reward of an inheritance from the lord. So, serve the lord messiah. ²⁵ Evil-doers will get a payback for what they did wrong. He is without discrimination.

⁴ Masters, treat your slaves with justice and equality. Remember that you also have a master in heaven.

Open a door for the word (4:2-6).

² Continue in prayer. Make sure that you give thanks in them. ³ Pray together for us that God will open the door for the word. We want to tell the secret about the messiah. We are in prison because of him. ⁴ I make it known because I have to speak about it.

⁵ Be wise how you live around outsiders. Use your time wisely. ⁶ Always speak with kindness. Season it with salt. Pay attention about how you each must give an answer.

Paul says farewell (4:7-18).

Paul sends greetings (4:7-14).

⁷ Tychicus will explain to you everything that has happened to me. He is a beloved brother, faithful servant, and coworker for the lord. ⁸ I sent him to you for this reason: You need to know everything about us. This will comfort your hearts. ⁹ He is with Onesimus, the faithful and loved brother. He is one of you. He will explain to you everything happening here.

¹⁰ Aristarchus greets you. He is in prison with me. Also Mark, the cousin of Bar-Nabas. You got a command about him: If he visits you, then welcome him. ¹¹ Also Jesus, named Justus. They have been circumcised. These are the only coworkers in the kingdom of God. They have been a comfort to me.

¹² Epaphras greets you. He is one of you. He always struggles in his prayers about you: May you remain mature. May you fully understand the will of God. ¹³ I verify that he has experienced a lot of trouble for you, and for those in Laodicea and Hieropolis.

¹⁴ Luke greets you. He is the beloved doctor. So does Demas.

Paul greets others (4:15-18).

¹⁵ Greet the brothers in Laodicea, Nympha, and the church that meets in her house. ¹⁶ After you read your letter, then read it in the church in

Laodicea. You should also read the Laodicean letter. ¹⁷ Say to Archip-
pus: Make sure that you perform the duty you received from the lord.
Complete it.

¹⁸ This greeting is from Paul's own hand. Remember my chains. May
you receive favor.