

longed for, my joy and crown, so stand firm in the Lord, my beloved. ^{4:2}I exhort Euodia, and I exhort Syntyche, to think the same way in the Lord. ^{4:3}Yes, I beg you also, true yokefellow, help these women, for they labored with me in the Good News, with Clement also, and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life. ^{4:4}Rejoice in the Lord always! Again I will say, Rejoice! ^{4:5}Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand. ^{4:6}In nothing be anxious, but in everything, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. ^{4:7}And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus.

^{4:8}Finally, brothers, whatever things are true, whatever things are honorable, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report; if there is any virtue, and if there is any praise, think about these things. ^{4:9}The things which you learned, received, heard, and saw in me: do these things, and the God of peace will be with you. ^{4:10}But I rejoice in the Lord greatly, that now at length you have revived your thought for me; in which you did indeed take thought, but you lacked opportunity. ^{4:11}Not that I speak in respect to lack, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content in it. ^{4:12}I know how to be humbled, and I know also how to abound. In everything and in all things I have learned the secret both to be filled and to be hungry, both to abound and to be in need. ^{4:13}I can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me. ^{4:14}However you did well that you shared in my affliction. ^{4:15}You yourselves also know, you Philippians, that in the beginning of the Good News, when I departed from Macedonia, no assembly shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving but you only. ^{4:16}For even in Thessalonica you sent once and again to my need. ^{4:17}Not that I seek for the gift, but I seek for the fruit that increases to your account. ^{4:18}But I have all things, and abound. I am filled, having received from Epaphroditus the things that came from you, a sweet-smelling fragrance, an acceptable and well-pleasing sac-

rifice to God. ^{4:19}My God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. ^{4:20}Now to our God and Father be the glory forever and ever! Amen.

^{4:21}Greet every saint in Christ Jesus. The brothers who are with me greet you. ^{4:22}All the saints greet you, especially those who are of Caesar's household. ^{4:23}The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

Paul's Letter to the Colossians

^{1:1}Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus through the will of God, and Timothy our brother, ^{1:2}to the saints and faithful brothers^a in Christ at Colossae: Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.

^{1:3}We give thanks to God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, ^{1:4}having heard of your faith in Christ Jesus, and of the love which you have toward all the saints, ^{1:5}because of the hope which is laid up for you in the heavens, of which you heard before in the world of the truth of the Good News, ^{1:6}which has come to you; even as it is in all the world and is bearing fruit and growing, as it does in you also, since the day you heard and knew the grace of God in truth; ^{1:7}even as you learned of Epaphras our beloved fellow servant, who is a faithful servant of Christ on our behalf, ^{1:8}who also declared to us your love in the Spirit. ^{1:9}For this cause, we also, since the day we heard this, don't cease praying and making requests for you, that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, ^{1:10}that you may walk worthily of the Lord, to please him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; ^{1:11}strengthened with all power, according to the might of his glory, for all endurance and perseverance with joy; ^{1:12}giving thanks to the Father, who made us fit to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light; ^{1:13}who delivered us out of the power of darkness, and translated us into the Kingdom of the Son of his love; ^{1:14}in whom we have our redemption,^b

^a1:2 The word for "brothers" here and where context allows may also be correctly translated "brothers and sisters" or "siblings."

^b1:14 TR adds "through his blood,"

the forgiveness of our sins; ^{1:15}who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ^{1:16}For by him all things were created, in the heavens and on the earth, things visible and things invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers; all things have been created through him, and for him. ^{1:17}He is before all things, and in him all things are held together. ^{1:18}He is the head of the body, the assembly, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence. ^{1:19}For all the fullness was pleased to dwell in him; ^{1:20}and through him to reconcile all things to himself, by him, whether things on the earth, or things in the heavens, having made peace through the blood of his cross.

^{1:21}You, being in past times alienated and enemies in your mind in your evil works, ^{1:22}yet now he has reconciled in the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and without blemish and blameless before him, ^{1:23}if it is so that you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and not moved away from the hope of the Good News which you heard, which is being proclaimed in all creation under heaven; of which I, Paul, was made a servant.

^{1:24}Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and fill up on my part that which is lacking of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the assembly; ^{1:25}of which I was made a servant, according to the stewardship of God which was given me toward you, to fulfill the word of God, ^{1:26}the mystery which has been hidden for ages and generations. But now it has been revealed to his saints, ^{1:27}to whom God was pleased to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory; ^{1:28}whom we proclaim, admonishing every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus; ^{1:29}for which I also labor, striving according to his working, which works in me mightily.

^{2:1}For I desire to have you know how greatly I struggle for you, and for those at Laodicea, and for as many as have not seen my face in the flesh; ^{2:2}that their hearts may be comforted, they being knit together in love, and gaining all riches of the full assurance of understanding,

that they may know the mystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ, ^{2:3}in whom are all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge hidden. ^{2:4}Now this I say that no one may delude you with persuasiveness of speech. ^{2:5}For though I am absent in the flesh, yet am I with you in the spirit, rejoicing and seeing your order, and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ. ^{2:6}As therefore you received Christ Jesus, the Lord, walk in him, ^{2:7}rooted and built up in him, and established in the faith, even as you were taught, abounding in it in thanksgiving. ^{2:8}Be careful that you don't let anyone rob you through his philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the elements of the world, and not after Christ. ^{2:9}For in him all the fullness of the Godhead dwells bodily, ^{2:10}and in him you are made full, who is the head of all principality and power; ^{2:11}in whom you were also circumcised with a circumcision not made with hands, in the putting off of the body of the sins of the flesh, in the circumcision of Christ; ^{2:12}having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead. ^{2:13}You were dead through your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh. He made you alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, ^{2:14}wiping out the handwriting in ordinances which was against us; and he has taken it out of the way, nailing it to the cross; ^{2:15}having stripped the principalities and the powers, he made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

^{2:16}Let no one therefore judge you in eating, or in drinking, or with respect to a feast day or a new moon or a Sabbath day, ^{2:17}which are a shadow of the things to come; but the body is Christ's. ^{2:18}Let no one rob you of your prize by a voluntary humility and worshipping of the angels, dwelling in the things which he has not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind, ^{2:19}and not holding firmly to the Head, from whom all the body, being supplied and knit together through the joints and ligaments, grows with God's growth. ^{2:20}If you died with Christ from the elements of the world, why, as though living in the world, do you subject yourselves to ordinances, ^{2:21}"Don't handle, nor taste, nor touch" ^{2:22}(all of which perish with use), according to the precepts and

doctrines of men? ^{2:23}Which things indeed appear like wisdom in self-imposed worship, and humility, and severity to the body; but aren't of any value against the indulgence of the flesh.

^{3:1}If then you were raised together with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated on the right hand of God. ^{3:2}Set your mind on the things that are above, not on the things that are on the earth. ^{3:3}For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ^{3:4}When Christ, our life, is revealed, then you will also be revealed with him in glory. ^{3:5}Put to death therefore your members which are on the earth: sexual immorality, uncleanness, depraved passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry; ^{3:6}for which things' sake the wrath of God comes on the children of disobedience. ^{3:7}You also once walked in those, when you lived in them; ^{3:8}but now you also put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and shameful speaking out of your mouth. ^{3:9}Don't lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old man with his doings, ^{3:10}and have put on the new man, who is being renewed in knowledge after the image of his Creator, ^{3:11}where there can't be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, bondservant, freeman; but Christ is all, and in all.

^{3:12}Put on therefore, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, a heart of compassion, kindness, lowliness, humility, and perseverance; ^{3:13}bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, if any man has a complaint against any; even as Christ forgave you, so you also do.

^{3:14}Above all these things, walk in love, which is the bond of perfection. ^{3:15}And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. ^{3:16}Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; in all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your heart to the Lord.

^{3:17}Whatever you do, in word or in deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father, through him.

^{3:18}Wives, be in subjection to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.

^{3:19}Husbands, love your wives, and don't be bitter against them.

^{3:20}Children, obey your parents in all things, for this pleases the Lord.

^{3:21}Fathers, don't provoke your children, so that they won't be discouraged.

^{3:22}Servants, obey in all things those who are your masters according to the flesh, not just when they are looking, as men pleasers, but in singleness of heart, fearing God. ^{3:23}And whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord, and not for men, ^{3:24}knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ. ^{3:25}But he who does wrong will receive again for the wrong that he has done, and there is no partiality.

^{4:1}Masters, give to your servants that which is just and equal, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.

^{4:2}Continue steadfastly in prayer, watching therein with thanksgiving; ^{4:3}praying together for us also, that God may open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds; ^{4:4}that I may reveal it as I ought to speak. ^{4:5}Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time. ^{4:6}Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.

^{4:7}All my affairs will be made known to you by Tychicus, the beloved brother, faithful servant, and fellow bondservant in the Lord. ^{4:8}I am sending him to you for this very purpose, that he may know your circumstances and comfort your hearts, ^{4:9}together with Onesimus, the faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you. They will make known to you everything that is going on here. ^{4:10}Aristarchus, my fellow prisoner, greets you, and Mark, the cousin of Barnabas (concerning whom you received commandments, "if he comes to you, receive him"), ^{4:11}and Jesus who is called Justus. These are my only fellow workers for the Kingdom of God who are of the circumcision, men who have been a comfort to me.

^{4:12}Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ, salutes you, always striving for you in his prayers, that you may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God. ^{4:13}For I testify about him, that he has great zeal for you, and for those in Laodicea, and for those in Hierapolis. ^{4:14}Luke, the beloved physician, and Demas greet you. ^{4:15}Greet the brothers

who are in Laodicea, and Nymphas, and the assembly that is in his house. ^{4:16}When this letter has been read among you, cause it to be read also in the assembly of the Laodiceans; and that you also read the letter from Laodicea. ^{4:17}Tell Archippus, "Take heed to the ministry which you have received in the Lord, that you fulfill it."

^{4:18}The salutation of me, Paul, with my own hand: remember my bonds. Grace be with you. Amen.

Paul's First Letter to the Thessalonians

^{1:1}Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, to the assembly of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

^{1:2}We always give thanks to God for all of you, mentioning you in our prayers, ^{1:3}remembering without ceasing your work of faith and labor of love and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, before our God and Father. ^{1:4}We know, brothers^a loved by God, that you are chosen, ^{1:5}and that our Good News came to you not in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit, and with much assurance. You know what kind of men we showed ourselves to be among you for your sake. ^{1:6}You became imitators of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit, ^{1:7}so that you became an example to all who believe in Macedonia and in Achaia. ^{1:8}For from you the word of the Lord has been declared, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith toward God has gone out; so that we need not to say anything. ^{1:9}For they themselves report concerning us what kind of a reception we had from you; and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, ^{1:10}and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who delivers us from the wrath to come.

^{2:1}For you yourselves know, brothers, our visit to you wasn't in vain, ^{2:2}but having suffered before and been shamefully treated,

as you know, at Philippi, we grew bold in our God to tell you the Good News of God in much conflict. ^{2:3}For our exhortation is not of error, nor of uncleanness, nor in deception. ^{2:4}But even as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the Good News, so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, who tests our hearts. ^{2:5}For neither were we at any time found using words of flattery, as you know, nor a cloak of covetousness (God is witness), ^{2:6}nor seeking glory from men (neither from you nor from others), when we might have claimed authority as apostles of Christ. ^{2:7}But we were gentle among you, like a nursing mother cherishes her own children.

^{2:8}Even so, affectionately longing for you, we were well pleased to impart to you, not the Good News of God only, but also our own souls, because you had become very dear to us. ^{2:9}For you remember, brothers, our labor and travail; for working night and day, that we might not burden any of you, we preached to you the Good News of God. ^{2:10}You are witnesses with God, how holy, righteously, and blamelessly we behaved ourselves toward you who believe. ^{2:11}As you know, we exhorted, comforted, and implored every one of you, as a father does his own children, ^{2:12}to the end that you should walk worthily of God, who calls you into his own Kingdom and glory. ^{2:13}For this cause we also thank God without ceasing, that, when you received from us the word of the message of God, you accepted it not as the word of men, but, as it is in truth, the word of God, which also works in you who believe. ^{2:14}For you, brothers, became imitators of the assemblies of God which are in Judea in Christ Jesus; for you also suffered the same things from your own countrymen, even as they did from the Jews; ^{2:15}who killed both the Lord Jesus and their own prophets, and drove us out, and didn't please God, and are contrary to all men; ^{2:16}forbidding us to speak to the Gentiles that they may be saved; to fill up their sins always. But wrath has come on them to the uttermost.

^{2:17}But we, brothers, being bereaved of you for a short season, in presence, not in heart, tried even harder to see your face with great desire, ^{2:18}because we wanted to come to you—

^a1:4 The word for "brothers" here and where context allows may also be correctly translated "brothers and sisters" or "siblings."