

Colossians

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A verse can express a spiritual truth even if it is in a story which may not be historical.

There is no reference to "Yahweh" in the right column of this book.

(Because of Microsoft software problems, verses can independently move from where they have been placed. A ` has been placed on each vacant line in order to try to stop the verses from moving so much from where they have been placed.)

1769 King James Version	2019 King James Version
<p>1:1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timotheus our brother, `</p> <p>2 To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ which are at Colosse: Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.</p> <p>3 We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you,</p> <p>4 Since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus, and of the love which ye have to all the saints, `</p> <p>5 For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel;</p> <p>6 Which is come unto you, as it is in all the world; and bringeth forth fruit, as it doth also in you, since the day ye heard of it, and knew the grace of God in truth:</p> <p>7 As ye also learned of Epaphras our dear fellowservant, who is for you a faithful minister of Christ;</p> <p>8 Who also declared unto us your love in the Spirit. `</p> <p>9 For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all</p>	<p>1:1 From Paul¹, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and from Timotheus (Timothy) our brother,</p> <p>2 to the brethren (the faithful believers in Christ) who are at Colosse: grace to you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.</p> <p>3 We give thanks to God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, always praying for you,</p> <p>4 since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus, and of the love which you have to all those who believe in Christ Jesus.</p> <p>5 Now you have the hope which is stored up for you in heaven, which you heard of before in the truthful words of the gospel (the good news),</p> <p>6 which has come to you, as it has to all the world; and it brings forth fruit in the world, as it also does in you since the day you heard of it, and knew the grace of God in truth.</p> <p>7 You have learned this from the teaching of Epaphras our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ for you,</p> <p>8 who also declared to us your love in the spirit of God.</p> <p>9 For this cause since the day we heard it, we do not cease to pray for you and to desire that you might be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all</p>

wisdom and spiritual understanding;
 10 That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;
 11 Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness;
 12 Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:
 13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:
 14 In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:
 15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:
 16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:
 17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.
 18 And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.
 19 For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell;
 20 And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.
 21 And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled
 22 In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight:
 23 If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;
 24 Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in

wisdom and spiritual understanding,
 10 so that you might walk worthy of the Lord and please him, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God.
 11 May you be strengthened through God's glorious power, to all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness,
 12 giving thanks to the Father, who has made us able to take advantage of the inheritance of the saints (the believers in the Lord) in the light.
 13 God has delivered us from the power of darkness, and has given us a place in the kingdom of God's dear Son.
 14 by whose sacrifice we have been forgiven and rescued from our sins.
 15 Christ the image of the invisible God, is the firstborn of all creation.
 16 For through Christ, God created everything that is in the heavens, and that is on the earth, visible and invisible, whether they are rulers, or kingdoms, or authorities, or high powers. All things were created through Christ, and for Christ.
 17 And Christ was before everything, and through Christ everything is held together.
 18 And Christ is the head of the body, the church, and is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might have the first place in all things.
 19 For it pleases the Father that in Christ all divine fullness dwells.
 20 And God, having made peace through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross, by him reconciled everything to God; by him, I say, whether they are on the earth, or in the heavens.
 21 And you, who were once alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, Christ Jesus has now reconciled
 22 through the death of his fleshly body, to present you holy and unblameable and pure in his sight,
 23 if you continue to be grounded and settled in the faith, and have not turned away from the hope of the gospel, which you have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under the heavens, of which I am made a minister.
 24 I rejoice now in my sufferings for you, completing in my flesh what remains of the afflictions of Christ Jesus for his body's sake, which

<p>my flesh for his body's sake, which is the church: 25 Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God; ` 26 Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: 27 To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory: 28 Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus: 29 Whereunto I also labour, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily.</p>	<p>is the church. 25 I have been made a servant of the church, according to the gift of the revelation of God which is given to me, to fulfill the word of God for your good. 26 The mystery of the glory of God has been hidden for ages and from generations but now is made manifest to us believers in Christ, 27 to whom God will make known among the Gentiles the riches of the glory of this mystery: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. 28 We preach Christ, warning everyone, and teaching everyone in all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ Jesus. 29 Toward this goal I also labor, striving with Christ's help, which works in me mightily.</p>
<p>2:1 For I would that ye knew what great conflict I have for you, and for them at Laodicea, and for as many as have not seen my face in the flesh; 2 That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ; 3 In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. 4 And this I say, lest any man should beguile you with enticing words. 5 For though I be absent in the flesh, yet am I with you in the spirit, joying and beholding your order, and the stedfastness of your faith in Christ. 6 As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: 7 Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving. 8 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. 9 For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. 10 And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power: 11 In whom also ye are circumcised with the</p>	<p>2:1 I want you to know what great concern I have for you, and for those at Laodicea, and for all those who have not seen my face in the flesh, 2 so that their hearts might be comforted, being joined together in love, and in the riches of the full assurance of understanding. Thus they might finally know the secret of God the Father, and of Christ, 3 In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. 4 This I say, lest anyone should deceive you with tempting but false words. 5 For though I am absent in the flesh, yet I am with you in the spirit, rejoicing in your harmonious good order, and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ. 6 Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, live your life in him. 7 rooted and built up in him, and established in the faith as you have been taught, filled with it, and with thanksgiving. 8 Beware lest anyone tempt you with their philosophy and empty human reasoning based on the tradition of humanity, from the false wisdom of the world, and not from Christ. 9 For in Christ dwells all the fullness of the Godhead, expressed in his human form. 10 And you are complete in Christ, which is the head of all principality and power. 11 You are circumcised in Christ with the</p>

<p>circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ:</p> <p>12 Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.</p> <p>13 And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;</p> <p>14 Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;</p> <p>15 And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.</p> <p>16 Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days:</p> <p>17 Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ.</p> <p>18 Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind,</p> <p>19 And not holding the Head, from which all the body by joints and bands having nourishment ministered, and knit together, increaseth with the increase of God.</p> <p>20 Wherefore if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances,</p> <p>21 (Touch not; taste not; handle not;</p> <p>22 Which all are to perish with the using;) after the commandments and doctrines of men?</p> <p>23 Which things have indeed a shew of wisdom in will worship, and humility, and neglecting of the body; not in any honour to the satisfying of the flesh.</p>	<p>circumcision made without hands, in putting off the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ.</p> <p>12 You have been buried with Christ Jesus in baptism, in which also you have risen with him through the powerful work of God, who has raised him from the dead.</p> <p>13 And you, once dead in your sins and your uncircumcised flesh, Christ Jesus has brought to life together with him, having forgiven you all your sins.</p> <p>14 He blotted out the handwriting of humanly-made rules that condemned us and that convicted us, and took them away, nailing them to his cross.</p> <p>15 Having defied the powers of the world, Christ openly made a show of triumphing over them.</p> <p>16 Therefore let no one restrict you with rules regarding eating, or drinking, or regarding a holy day, or the celebration of the new moon, or of the Sabbath days.</p> <p>17 These are a shadow of what is to come, but the substance which casts the shadow belongs to Christ.</p> <p>18 Let no persons who are puffed up by their fleshly minds, who think they have special visions and who practice harsh self-denial and worship angels, beguile you into following them, thus causing you to lose the reward which would be yours from following Christ.</p> <p>19 Such people do not hold to the Head (Christ) from which all the body (the church) by its joints and connections is nourished, and ministered to, and joined together, increasing by the blessing of God.</p> <p>20 If you died with Christ to the way the world thinks and acts, why do you abide by the world's rules? Why do you live by such rules as:</p> <p>21 do not touch; do not taste; do not handle.</p> <p>22 These rules apply to certain foods, although food perishes with the using of it. These rules are based on the commandments and doctrines of humanity.</p> <p>23 These things indeed seem to be wise in a humanly-made religion which teaches false humility, and severe treatment of the body, but does not have any value in overcoming sensuality.</p>
<p>3:1 If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.</p>	<p>3:1 If you then have risen with Christ, seek that which is above, <i>where Christ sits on the right hand of God</i> [where Christ expresses the full consciousness</p>

<p>2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.</p> <p>3 For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.</p> <p>4 When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.</p> <p>5 Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:</p> <p>6 For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience:</p> <p>7 In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them.</p> <p>8 But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth.</p> <p>9 Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;</p> <p>10 And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:</p> <p>11 Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all.</p> <p>12 Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;</p> <p>13 Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.</p> <p>14 And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.</p> <p>15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.</p> <p>16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.</p> <p>17 And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.</p> <p>18 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord.</p>	<p>of God].²</p> <p>2 Set your affection on what is above, not on things on the earth.</p> <p>3 For you are dead to the world, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.</p> <p>4 When Christ, who is our life, appears, then you will also appear with Christ in glory.</p> <p>5 Therefore kill your earthly lusts: sexual immorality, indecency, unworthy affection, evil desires, and covetousness, which is idolatry.</p> <p>6 Because of these things, the disapproval of God comes on the children of disobedience,</p> <p>7 which applied to you for a time because of your way of living.</p> <p>8 But now you also must put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy and obscene language.</p> <p>9 Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its deeds,</p> <p>10 and have put on the new self, which is renewed in knowledge in accord with the image of God that created you.³</p> <p>11 where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free; but Christ is all and in all.</p> <p>12 Therefore put on as the chosen of God, holy and beloved, mercy, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness and patience.</p> <p>13 Be tolerant with one another, and forgive one another if anyone has a quarrel with another person. As Christ Jesus forgave you, so you should forgive others.</p> <p>14 And above all these things add love, which binds everything together perfectly.</p> <p>15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which you are called in one body (the church); and be thankful.</p> <p>16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and encouraging one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.</p> <p>17 And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father by him.</p> <p>18 Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands, as is appropriate for wives who are in the Lord (who are Christians).</p>
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<p>19 Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them.</p> <p>20 Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord.</p> <p>21 Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged.</p> <p>22 Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God:</p> <p>23 And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;</p> <p>24 Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.</p> <p>25 But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons.</p>	<p>19 Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them.</p> <p>20 Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing to the Lord.</p> <p>21 Parents, do not provoke your children to anger, lest they be discouraged.</p> <p>22 Servants (Slaves),⁴ obey in all ways those who govern you according to the flesh, not only when being watched, as people-pleasers; but honestly, in honor of God.</p> <p>23 And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not to people.</p> <p>24 Know that of the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance, for you serve the Lord, Christ.</p> <p>25 But those who do wrong will be paid back for the wrong which they have done, and there is no partiality with God.⁵</p>
<p>4:1 Masters, give unto your servants that which is just and equal; knowing that ye also have a Master in heaven.</p> <p>2 Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving;</p> <p>3 Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds:</p> <p>4 That I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak.</p> <p>5 Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time.</p> <p>6 Let your speech be alway with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.</p> <p>7 All my state shall Tychicus declare unto you, who is a beloved brother, and a faithful minister and fellowservant in the Lord:</p> <p>8 Whom I have sent unto you for the same purpose, that he might know your estate, and comfort your hearts;</p> <p>9 With Onesimus, a faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you. They shall make known unto you all things which are done here.</p> <p>10 Aristarchus my fellowprisoner saluteth you, and Marcus, sister's son to Barnabas, (touching whom</p>	<p>4:1 You who govern, give to your servants (slaves) that which is just and equal, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.</p> <p>2 Continue in prayer, with persistence and thanksgiving.</p> <p>3 Pray for us, that God will open to us opportunities to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am in prison,</p> <p>4 and that I may make clear what I say, as I ought to speak.</p> <p>5 Act wisely toward those who are not believers in the Lord, taking the opportunity to show your pure intentions.</p> <p>6 Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt so that you may know how you ought to answer everyone.</p> <p>7 Tychicus, who is a beloved brother, and a faithful minister and a fellow servant in the Lord, will tell you all about my present circumstances.</p> <p>8 I have sent him to you for that purpose, and so that he might know your present circumstances, and comfort your hearts.</p> <p>9 With him is Onesimus, a faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you. They will make known to you everything which is done here.</p> <p>10 Aristarchus, my fellow prisoner, greets you. And so does Mark, the cousin of Barnabas. If Mark</p>

<p>ye received commandments: if he come unto you, receive him;)</p> <p>11 And Jesus, which is called Justus, who are of the circumcision. These only are my fellowworkers unto the kingdom of God, which have been a comfort unto me.</p> <p>12 Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ, saluteth you, always labouring fervently for you in prayers, that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.</p> <p>13 For I bear him record, that he hath a great zeal for you, and them that are in Laodicea, and them in Hierapolis.</p> <p>14 Luke, the beloved physician, and Demas, greet you.</p> <p>15 Salute the brethren which are in Laodicea, and Nymphas, and the church which is in his house.</p> <p>16 And when this epistle is read among you, cause that it be read also in the church of the Laodiceans; and that ye likewise read the epistle from Laodicea.</p> <p>17 And say to Archippus, Take heed to the ministry which thou hast received in the Lord, that thou fulfil it.</p> <p>18 The salutation by the hand of me Paul. Remember my bonds. Grace be with you. Amen.</p>	<p>comes to you, whom you received instructions about, make him welcome.</p> <p>11 And Jesus, who is called Justus, sends greetings. These three persons are the only Jewish converts who have worked with me on behalf of the kingdom of God, and they have been a comfort to me.</p> <p>12 Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ, greets you. He always labors fervently for you in his prayers so that you may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.</p> <p>13 I bear him record that he has great hopes for you, and for those who are in Laodicea, and those in Hierapolis.</p> <p>14 Luke, the beloved physician, and Demas greet you.</p> <p>15 Greet the brethren (the fellow believers) who are in Laodicea, and Nympha and the church which meets in her house.</p> <p>16 And when this epistle is read among you, cause it to be also read in the church of the Laodiceans, and you are likewise to read the epistle from Laodicea.</p> <p>17 And say to Archippus, "Take heed to the ministry which you have received in the Lord so that you fulfill it."</p> <p>18 I am writing this greeting in my own hand. Remember me in my imprisonment. Grace be with you. Amen.</p>
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¹ (1:1) Mainstream Bible scholars consider this book to be by a follower of Paul after Paul had passed on. The follower was trying to get Christians to adopt the household code of the Romans so as to decrease the persecution which the Christians were receiving from the Romans. For example, chapter 3 verse 18 requiring that wives submit to their husbands was part of the Roman household code.

Several decades ago, I asked the dean of the school of religion at a major university about the authorship of this book. He told me that he had written a letter to all the authors of commentaries on the book of Colossians, asking them who they thought wrote Colossians. All thirty-five authors wrote back that they did not believe that Paul had written Colossians. In Colossians Christ Jesus is considered to be more than a human being. Colossians exalts Christ Jesus more than do the seven books attributed to Paul by mainstream Bible scholars. After his resurrection, Christ Jesus is considered to still be causative, to cause things to happen and not to happen in this world.

² (3:1) Psalms 110:1

³ (3:10b) Genesis 1:26

⁴ (3:22) Originally "servants" meant "slaves." In early New Testament times, many persons were slaves.

⁵ (3:25) Deuteronomy 10:17