

2023-2024 CMA GEPC Reference Materials

Galatians 1

- ¶ Galatians 1:1 - Paul, an **apostle--sent** not from **men** nor by a man, but by Jesus Christ and God the Father, who **raised** him from the dead--
- Galatians 1:2 - and all the brothers and sisters with me, To the churches in **Galatia**:
- ¶ Galatians 1:3 - Grace and **peace** to you from God our Father and the **Lord** Jesus Christ,
- Galatians 1:4 - who **gave himself** for our **sins** to **rescue** us from the **present evil age**, **according** to the **will** of our God and Father,
- Galatians 1:5 - to **whom** be glory for ever and ever. **Amen**.

No Other Gospel

- ¶ Galatians 1:6 - I am **astonished** that you are so **quickly deserting** the one who called you to **live** in the grace of Christ and are **turning** to a **different** gospel--
- Galatians 1:7 - **which** is **really** no gospel at all. **Evidently** some people are **throwing** you into **confusion** and are trying to **pervert** the gospel of Christ.
- Galatians 1:8 - But **even** if we or an **angel** from **heaven** should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let them be under God's curse!
- Galatians 1:9 - **As** we have **already said**, so now I **say again**: If **anybody** is preaching to you a gospel other than what you **accepted**, let them be under God's curse!
- ¶ Galatians 1:10 - Am I now trying to **win** the **approval** of human **beings**, or of God? Or am I trying to please people? If I were **still** trying to please people, I **would** not be a **servant** of Christ.

Paul Called by God

- ¶ Galatians 1:11 - I **want** you to **know**, brothers and sisters, that the gospel I preached is not of human **origin**.
- Galatians 1:12 - I did not **receive** it from any man, nor was I **taught** it; **rather**, I **received** it by **revelation** from Jesus Christ.
- ¶ Galatians 1:13 - For you have heard of my **previous way** of **life** in Judaism, **how intensely** I persecuted the church of God and tried to destroy it.
- Galatians 1:14 - I was **advancing** in Judaism **beyond** many of my **own** age among my people and was **extremely zealous** for the **traditions** of my **fathers**.
- Galatians 1:15 - But **when** God, who **set** me **apart** from my **mother's womb** and called me by his grace, was **pleased**
- Galatians 1:16 - to **reveal** his **Son** in me so that I **might** preach him among the **Gentiles**, my **immediate response** was not to **consult** any human **being**.
- Galatians 1:17 - I did not **go up** to Jerusalem to **see those** who were apostles before I was, but I went into **Arabia**. **Later** I **returned** to **Damascus**.
- ¶ Galatians 1:18 - Then **after three years**, I went up to Jerusalem to **get acquainted** with **Cephas** and **stayed** with him **fifteen days**.
- Galatians 1:19 - I **saw none** of the other apostles--only **James**, the **Lord's brother**.
- Galatians 1:20 - I **assure** you before God that what I am **writing** you is no **lie**.
- ¶ Galatians 1:21 - Then I went to **Syria** and **Cilicia**.
- Galatians 1:22 - I was **personally unknown** to the churches of **Judea** that are in Christ.
- Galatians 1:23 - They only heard the **report**: "The man who **formerly** persecuted us is now preaching the **faith he once** tried to destroy."
- Galatians 1:24 - And they **praised** God **because** of me.

Galatians 2

Paul Accepted by the Apostles

- ¶ Galatians 2:1 - Then **after fourteen years**, I went **up again** to **Jerusalem**, this **time** with Barnabas. I **took** Titus along also.
- Galatians 2:2 - I went in **response** to a **revelation** and, **meeting privately** with those esteemed as **leaders**, I **presented** to them the gospel that I **preach** among the Gentiles. I **wanted** to be **sure** I was not running and had not been running my **race** in vain.

- Galatians 2:3 - Yet not even Titus, who was with me, was **compelled** to be circumcised, even **though** he was a **Greek**.
- Galatians 2:4 - This **matter arose** because **some false believers** had **infiltrated** our **ranks** to **spy** on the **freedom** we have in Christ Jesus and to **make us slaves**.
- Galatians 2:5 - We **did** not **give in** to them for a **moment**, so that the truth of the **gospel** might be **preserved** for you.
- Galatians 2:6 - As for those who were **held in high esteem--whatever** they were **makes** no **difference** to me; **God does not show favoritism--they added** nothing to my **message**.
- Galatians 2:7 - On the **contrary**, they recognized that I had been **entrusted** with the **task** of **preaching** the gospel to the **uncircumcised, just** as Peter had been to the circumcised.
- Galatians 2:8 - For God, who was at work in Peter as an apostle to the circumcised, was also at work in me as an apostle to the Gentiles.
- Galatians 2:9 - James, Cephas and **John**, those esteemed as **pillars**, gave me and Barnabas the **right hand of fellowship** when they recognized the grace **given** to me. They **agreed** that we should **go** to the Gentiles, and they to the circumcised.
- Galatians 2:10 - All they **asked** was that we should **continue** to **remember** the **poor**, the **very thing** I had been **eager** to do all along.

Paul Opposes Cephas

- Galatians 2:11 - When Cephas came to **Antioch**, I **opposed** him to his **face**, because he **stood condemned**.
- Galatians 2:12 - 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 from the Gentiles because he was **afraid** of those who **belonged** to the **circumcision group**.
- Galatians 2:13 - The **other Jews joined** him in his **hypocrisy**, so that by **their hypocrisy** even Barnabas was **led astray**.
- Galatians 2:14 - When I **saw** that they were not **acting in line** with the truth of the gospel, I **said** to Cephas in **front** of them all, "You are a Jew, yet you live like a **Gentile** and not like a Jew. **How is it, then**, that you **force** Gentiles to **follow Jewish customs**?"
- Galatians 2:15 - "We who are Jews by **birth** and not **sinful** Gentiles
- Galatians 2:16 - **know** that a **person** is not justified by the works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, **too**, have **put** our faith in Christ Jesus that we **may** be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law, because by the works of the law no **one will** be justified.
- Galatians 2:17 - "But if, in **seeking** to be justified in Christ, we Jews **find ourselves** also among the **sinners, doesn't** that **mean** that Christ **promotes sin**? **Absolutely** not!"
- Galatians 2:18 - If I **rebuild what I destroyed**, then I **really would** be a **lawbreaker**.
- Galatians 2:19 - "For through the law I died to the law so that I **might live** for God.
- Galatians 2:20 - I have been **crucified** with Christ and I **no longer live**, but Christ **lives** in me. The **life I now live** in the **body**, I live by faith in the **Son** of God, who **loved** me and gave himself for me.
- Galatians 2:21 - I do not **set aside** the grace of God, for if **righteousness could be gained** through the law, Christ died for nothing!"

Galatians 3

Faith or Works of the Law

- Galatians 3:1 - You foolish **Galatians!** Who has **bewitched** you? Before your **very eyes** Jesus Christ was clearly **portrayed** as **crucified**.
- Galatians 3:2 - I would **like to learn** just one **thing** from you: **Did** you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by believing what you heard?
- Galatians 3:3 - Are you so foolish? **After beginning** by means of the Spirit, are you now **trying to finish** by means of the **flesh**?
- Galatians 3:4 - Have you **experienced** so **much** in vain--if it **really** was in vain?
- Galatians 3:5 - So **again** I **ask**, does God **give** you his Spirit and **work miracles among** you by the works of the law, or by your believing what you heard?
- Galatians 3:6 - So **also** Abraham "**believed** God, and it was **credited** to **him** as righteousness."
- Galatians 3:7 - **Understand**, then, that those who **have faith** are children of Abraham.
- Galatians 3:8 - Scripture **foresaw** that God would **justify** the Gentiles by faith, and **announced the gospel in advance** to Abraham: "All **nations** will be blessed through you."
- Galatians 3:9 - So those who rely on faith are **blessed along** with Abraham, the **man** of faith.
- Galatians 3:10 - For all who rely on the works of the law are **under a curse**, as it is written: "Cursed is everyone who does not **continue** to do everything written in the **Book** of the Law."
- Galatians 3:11 - Clearly no one who **relies** on the law is justified before God, because "**the righteous** will live by faith."

- Galatians 3:12** - The law is *not based* on faith; on the **contrary**, it **says**, "The person who does **these things** will live by **them**."
- Galatians 3:13** - 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 **pole**."
- Galatians 3:14** - **He** redeemed us in **order** that the **blessing** given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the **promise** of the Spirit.

The Law and the Promise

- ¶ **Galatians 3:15** - Brothers and sisters, **let me take an example** from **everyday** life. Just as no one **can** set aside or **add** to a **human** covenant that has been **duly** established, so it is in this **case**.
- Galatians 3:16** - The promises were **spoken** to Abraham and to his seed. Scripture does not **say** "and to **seeds**," meaning **many people**, but "and to your seed," meaning one person, who is Christ.
- Galatians 3:17** - What I **mean** is this: The law, **introduced 430 years later**, does not set aside the covenant **previously** established by God and **thus** do away with the promise.
- Galatians 3:18** - For if the **inheritance** depends on the law, then it no longer depends on the promise; but God in his **grace** gave it to Abraham through a promise.
- ¶ **Galatians 3:19** - **Why**, then, was the law given **at all**? It was **added** because of **transgressions** until the Seed to whom the promise **referred** had come. The law was given through **angels** and **entrusted** to a mediator.
- Galatians 3:20** - A mediator, **however**, **implies more than one party**; but God is one.
- ¶ **Galatians 3:21** - Is the law, **therefore**, **opposed** to the promises of God? **Absolutely** not! For if a law had been given that **could impart** life, then righteousness would **certainly** have come by the law.
- Galatians 3:22** - But Scripture has locked up everything under the **control** of **sin**, so that what was **promised, being** given through faith in Jesus Christ, might be given to those who **believe**.

Children of God

- ¶ **Galatians 3:23** - Before the **coming** of this faith, we were **held in custody** under the law, locked up until the faith that was to come would be **revealed**.
- Galatians 3:24** - So the law was **our** guardian until Christ **came** that we might be justified by faith.
- Galatians 3:25** - Now that this faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian.
- ¶ **Galatians 3:26** - So in Christ Jesus you are **all children** of God through faith,
- Galatians 3:27** - for all of you who were **baptized into** Christ have **clothed yourselves** with Christ.
- Galatians 3:28** - There is neither **Jew** nor **Gentile**, neither **slave** nor **free**, nor is there **male** and **female**, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.
- Galatians 3:29** - If you **belong** to Christ, then you are **Abraham's** seed, and **heirs according** to the promise.

Galatians 4

- ¶ **Galatians 4:1** - What I am **saying** is that as **long** as an heir is underage, he is no **different** from a slave, **although** he **owns the whole estate**.
- Galatians 4:2** - The heir is **subject** to **guardians** and **trustees** until the time set by his father.
- Galatians 4:3** - So also, when we were underage, we were in slavery under the **elemental spiritual** forces of the world.
- Galatians 4:4** - But when the set time had **fully come**, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law,
- Galatians 4:5** - to **redeem** those under the law, that we **might receive adoption** to sonship.
- Galatians 4:6** - Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son **into our hearts**, the Spirit who **calls out**, "**Abba**, Father."
- Galatians 4:7** - So you are no **longer** a slave, but **God's** child; and **since** you are his child, God has **made** you also an heir.

Paul's Concern for the Galatians

- ¶ **Galatians 4:8** - **Formerly**, when you did not know God, you were slaves to those who by **nature** are not **gods**.
- Galatians 4:9** - But now that you know God--or **rather** are **known** by God--how is it that you are **turning back** to those **weak** and **miserable** forces? **Do** you wish to be **enslaved** by them **all** over again?
- Galatians 4:10** - You are **observing special days** and **months** and **seasons** and **years**!
- Galatians 4:11** - I **fear** for you, that **somehow** I have **wasted** my **efforts** on you.
- ¶ **Galatians 4:12** - I **plead** with you, brothers and sisters, **become like me**, for I **became** like you. You did me no **wrong**.
- Galatians 4:13** - As you know, it was because of an illness that I **first preached** the gospel to you,

- Galatians 4:14 - and **even though** my illness was a **trial** to you, you did not **treat** me with **contempt** or **scorn**. **Instead**, you **welcomed** me as if I were an **angel** of God, as if I were Christ **Jesus himself**.
- Galatians 4:15 - **Where, then**, is your **blessing** of me now? I **can testify** that, if you could have **done** so, you **would** have **torn out** your **eyes** and **given** them to me.
- Galatians 4:16 - Have I now become your **enemy** by **telling** you the **truth**?
- ¶ Galatians 4:17 - Those **people** are zealous to **win** you over, but for no good. What **they** want is to **alienate** you from **us**, so that you **may** have **zeal** for them.
- Galatians 4:18 - It is **fine** to be zealous, **provided** the **purpose** is good, and to be so **always**, not **just** when I am with you.
- Galatians 4:19 - My **dear** children, for **whom** I am again in the **pains** of **childbirth** until Christ is **formed** in you,
- Galatians 4:20 - how I **wish** I could be with you **now** and **change** my **tone**, because I am **perplexed about** you!

Hagar and Sarah

- ¶ Galatians 4:21 - **Tell** me, you who want to be under the law, are you not **aware** of what the law **says**?
- Galatians 4:22 - For it is written that **Abraham** had two sons, one by the slave woman and the **other** by the free woman.
- Galatians 4:23 - His son by the slave woman was born according to the **flesh**, but his son by the free woman was born as the **result** of a **divine** promise.
- ¶ Galatians 4:24 - **These things** are **being taken figuratively**: The **women represent** two **covenants**. One **covenant** is from Mount Sinai and **bears** children who are to be slaves: **This** is Hagar.
- Galatians 4:25 - Now Hagar **stands** for Mount Sinai in **Arabia** and **corresponds** to the **present city** of Jerusalem, because she is in slavery with her children.
- Galatians 4:26 - But the Jerusalem that is **above** is free, and she is our **mother**.
- Galatians 4:27 - For it is written: "**Be glad, barren** woman, you who never **bore** a child; **shout for joy** and **cry aloud**, you who were never in **labor**; because **more** are the children of the **desolate** woman **than** of her who has a **husband**."
- ¶ Galatians 4:28 - Now you, brothers and sisters, like **Isaac**, are children of promise.
- Galatians 4:29 - **At** that time the son born according to the **flesh persecuted** the son born by the **power** of the Spirit. It is the **same** now.
- Galatians 4:30 - But what **does Scripture say**? "**Get rid** of the slave woman and her son, for the slave **woman's son will never share** in the **inheritance** with the free **woman's son**."
- Galatians 4:31 - **Therefore**, brothers and sisters, we are not children of the slave woman, but of the free woman.

Galatians 5

Freedom in Christ

- ¶ Galatians 5:1 - It is for freedom that Christ has **set** us free. **Stand firm, then**, and do not let yourselves be **burdened** again by a **yoke** of **slavery**.
- ¶ Galatians 5:2 - **Mark my words!** I, **Paul**, **tell** you that if you let yourselves be circumcised, Christ will be of no value to you **at all**.
- Galatians 5:3 - Again I **declare** to **every man** who **lets himself** be circumcised that **he is obligated** to **obey** the whole law.
- Galatians 5:4 - You who are **trying** to be **justified** by the law have been **alienated** from Christ; you have **fallen away** from **grace**.
- Galatians 5:5 - For through the Spirit we **eagerly await** by faith the **righteousness** for **which** we **hope**.
- Galatians 5:6 - For in Christ Jesus **neither** circumcision **nor** **uncircumcision** has any value. The **only thing** that **counts** is faith **expressing itself** through love.
- ¶ Galatians 5:7 - You were **running a good race**. Who **cut in on** you to keep you from **obeying** the truth?
- Galatians 5:8 - That **kind of persuasion** does not **come** from the one who **calls** you.
- Galatians 5:9 - "**A little yeast works** through the whole **batch of dough**."
- Galatians 5:10 - I am **confident** in the **Lord** that you **will take** no other **view**. The one who is **throwing** you into **confusion, whoever that may be**, will have to **pay** the **penalty**.
- Galatians 5:11 - Brothers and sisters, if I am still **preaching** circumcision, **why** am I still **being persecuted**? In that **case the offense** of the **cross** has been **abolished**.
- Galatians 5:12 - As for those **agitators**, I **wish** they **would go** the whole **way** and **emasculate themselves**!

Life by the Spirit

- ¶ Galatians 5:13 - You, my brothers and sisters, were **called** to be free. But do not **use** your freedom to **indulge** the

flesh; **rather, serve one another humbly** in love.

- Galatians 5:14 - For the **entire** law is **fulfilled** in **keeping** this one **command**: "Love your **neighbor as yourself**."
Galatians 5:15 - If you **bite** and **devour** each other, **watch out or** you will be **destroyed** by each other.
¶ Galatians 5:16 - So I **say, walk** by the Spirit, and you will **not gratify** the desires of the flesh.
Galatians 5:17 - For the **flesh desires** what is contrary to the Spirit, and the **Spirit** what is contrary to the **flesh**. They are in **conflict** with each other, so that you are not to **do whatever you want**.
Galatians 5:18 - But if you are **led** by the Spirit, you are **not under** the law.
¶ Galatians 5:19 - The **acts** of the flesh are **obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery;**
Galatians 5:20 - **idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions**
Galatians 5:21 - **and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn** you, as I **did before**, that those who live like this will **not inherit** the kingdom of God.
¶ Galatians 5:22 - But the **fruit** of the Spirit is **love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,**
Galatians 5:23 - **gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.**
Galatians 5:24 - Those who **belong** to Christ Jesus have **crucified** the flesh with **its passions** and desires.
Galatians 5:25 - **Since** we live by the Spirit, let us **keep in step** with the Spirit.
Galatians 5:26 - Let us not **become conceited, provoking and envying** each other.

Galatians 6

Doing Good to All

- ¶ Galatians 6:1 - Brothers and sisters, if **someone is caught** in a **sin**, you who **live** by the Spirit should **restore** that **person gently. But watch yourselves, or** you also may be **tempted**.
Galatians 6:2 - Carry each **other's burdens**, and in this **way** you will **fulfill** the law of Christ.
Galatians 6:3 - If **anyone thinks** they are **something when** they are not, they **deceive** themselves.
Galatians 6:4 - Each one should **test** their own **actions. Then they can take pride** in themselves **alone, without comparing** themselves to someone else,
Galatians 6:5 - for each one should carry their own **load**.
Galatians 6:6 - **Nevertheless**, the one who **receives instruction** in the **word** should **share** all good **things** with their **instructor**.
¶ Galatians 6:7 - Do not be **deceived**: God **cannot** be **mocked**. A **man reaps** what **he sows**.
Galatians 6:8 - Whoever sows to **please their flesh**, from the flesh will reap **destruction**; whoever sows to **please the Spirit**, from the Spirit will reap **eternal life**.
Galatians 6:9 - Let us not **become weary** in **doing good**, for **at the proper time** we will reap a **harvest** if we do not **give up**.
Galatians 6:10 - **Therefore**, as we **have opportunity**, let us do good to all people, **especially** to those who **belong** to the **family of believers**.

Not Circumcision but the New Creation

- ¶ Galatians 6:11 - **See what large letters I use** as I **write** to you with my own hand!
¶ Galatians 6:12 - Those who want to **impress** people by means of the flesh are **trying to compel** you to be circumcised. The **only reason** they do this is to **avoid being persecuted** for the cross of Christ.
Galatians 6:13 - Not **even** those who are circumcised **keep** the law, **yet** they want you to be circumcised that they may **boast about** your circumcision in the flesh.
Galatians 6:14 - **May I never boast except** in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, **through which** the world **has been crucified** to me, and I to the world.
Galatians 6:15 - **Neither** circumcision **nor uncircumcision** means **anything**; what **counts** is the **new creation**.
Galatians 6:16 - **Peace and mercy** to all who **follow this rule--to the Israel** of God.
¶ Galatians 6:17 - From **now on**, let **no one cause me trouble**, for I **bear on my body** the **marks** of Jesus.
¶ Galatians 6:18 - The **grace** of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your **spirit, brothers and sisters. Amen**.

Ephesians 1

- ¶ Ephesians 1:1 - **Paul, an apostle** of Christ Jesus **by** the will of God, To God's holy people in **Ephesus**, the **faithful** in Christ Jesus:
¶ Ephesians 1:2 - Grace and **peace** to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Praise for Spiritual Blessings in Christ

- ¶ Ephesians 1:3 - Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who *has **blessed** us in the heavenly realms with every **spiritual blessing** in Christ.*
- Ephesians 1:4 - For he **chose** us in him **before the creation** of the **world** to be **holy** and **blameless** in his **sight**. In love
- Ephesians 1:5 - he **predestined** us for **adoption** to **sonship** through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his **pleasure** and **will**--
- Ephesians 1:6 - to the praise of his **glorious grace**, which he has **freely given** us in the **One he loves**.
- Ephesians 1:7 - In him we have **redemption** through his **blood**, the **forgiveness** of **sins**, in accordance with the riches of God's grace
- Ephesians 1:8 - that he **lavished** on us. With all wisdom and **understanding**,
- Ephesians 1:9 - he **made known** to us the **mystery** of his **will** according to his **good pleasure**, which he **purposed** in Christ,
- Ephesians 1:10 - to be put **into effect** when the **times reach their fulfillment**--to **bring unity** to all things in **heaven** and on **earth** under Christ.
- ¶ Ephesians 1:11 - In him we were **also chosen**, **having been** predestined according to the **plan** of him who **works out** everything in **conformity** with the **purpose** of his will,
- Ephesians 1:12 - in order that we, who were the **first** to put our hope in Christ, **might be** for the praise of his glory.
- Ephesians 1:13 - And you **also were included** in Christ when you heard the **message** of **truth**, the **gospel** of your **salvation**. When you **believed**, you were **marked** in him with a **seal**, the **promised** Holy Spirit,
- Ephesians 1:14 - who is a **deposit guaranteeing** our inheritance **until the redemption** of those who are God's **possession**--to the praise of his glory.

Thanksgiving and Prayer

- ¶ Ephesians 1:15 - For **this reason**, **ever since** I heard about your **faith** in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people,
- Ephesians 1:16 - I have not **stopped giving thanks** for you, **remembering** you in **my prayers**.
- Ephesians 1:17 - I **keep asking** that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the **glorious Father**, may **give** you the Spirit of wisdom and **revelation**, **so** that you may **know him better**.
- Ephesians 1:18 - I **pray** that the **eyes** of your **heart** may be **enlightened** in order that you may know the **hope** to which he has **called** you, the riches of his **glorious inheritance** in his holy people,
- Ephesians 1:19 - and his **incomparably great** power for us who **believe**. That power is the **same as the mighty strength**
- Ephesians 1:20 - he **exerted** when he **raised** Christ from the **dead** and **seated** him **at his right hand** in the heavenly realms,
- Ephesians 1:21 - **far above** all **rule** and **authority**, power and **dominion**, and every **name** that is **invoked**, **not only** in the **present age** but also in the **one to come**.
- Ephesians 1:22 - And God **placed** all things under his **feet** and **appointed** him to be **head over** everything for the **church**,
- Ephesians 1:23 - which is his **body**, the **fullness** of him who **fills** everything in every **way**.

Ephesians 2

Made Alive in Christ

- ¶ Ephesians 2:1 - As for you, you were dead in **your transgressions** and **sins**,
- Ephesians 2:2 - in which you **used** to **live** when you **followed** the **ways** of this world and of the **ruler** of the **kingdom** of the **air**, the spirit who is **now at work** in those who are **disobedient**.
- Ephesians 2:3 - **All** of us **also lived among** them at one time, **gratifying** the **cravings** of our flesh and **following** its **desires** and **thoughts**. **Like the rest**, we were by **nature deserving** of **wrath**.
- Ephesians 2:4 - **But because** of his **great love** for us, God, who is **rich in mercy**,
- Ephesians 2:5 - **made us alive** with Christ **even** when we were dead in **transgressions**--it is by grace you have been saved.
- Ephesians 2:6 - And God **raised us up** with Christ and **seated** us with him in the **heavenly realms** in Christ Jesus,
- Ephesians 2:7 - in **order** that in the **coming ages** he **might show** the **incomparable riches** of his grace, **expressed** in his **kindness** to us in Christ Jesus.
- Ephesians 2:8 - For it is by grace you have been **saved**, through faith--and this is not **from yourselves**, it is the **gift** of God--
- Ephesians 2:9 - not by works, **so** that no one **can boast**.
- Ephesians 2:10 - For we are God's **handiwork**, **created** in Christ Jesus to do **good works**, which God **prepared** in **advance** for us to do.

Jew and Gentile Reconciled Through Christ

- ¶ Ephesians 2:11 - **Therefore**, remember that **formerly** you who are **Gentiles** by birth and **called "uncircumcised"** by those who **call themselves "the circumcision"** (which is **done** in the body by human hands)--
- Ephesians 2:12 - remember that at that time you were **separate** from Christ, **excluded** from **citizenship** in **Israel** and foreigners to the **covenants** of the **promise**, without **hope** and without God in the world.
- Ephesians 2:13 - But now in Christ Jesus you who **once** were far away have been **brought near** by the **blood** of Christ.
- ¶ Ephesians 2:14 - For he himself is our peace, who has made the two **groups** one and has **destroyed** the **barrier**, the **dividing wall** of hostility,
- Ephesians 2:15 - by **setting aside** in his flesh the **law** with its **commands** and **regulations**. His **purpose** was to **create** in himself one **new humanity** out of the two, **thus making** peace,
- Ephesians 2:16 - and in one body to **reconcile** both of them to God through the **cross**, by which he **put** to **death** their hostility.
- Ephesians 2:17 - He **came** and **preached** peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near.
- Ephesians 2:18 - For through him we both have **access** to the **Father** by one Spirit.
- ¶ Ephesians 2:19 - **Consequently**, you are no **longer** foreigners and **strangers**, but **fellow citizens** with God's people and also **members** of his **household**,
- Ephesians 2:20 - **built on** the **foundation** of the **apostles** and **prophets**, with Christ Jesus himself as the **chief cornerstone**.
- Ephesians 2:21 - In him the **whole building** is **joined** together and **rises** to become a **holy temple** in the **Lord**.
- Ephesians 2:22 - And in him you **too** are **being built** together to become a **dwelling** in which **God lives** by his Spirit.

Ephesians 3

God's Marvelous Plan for the Gentiles

- ¶ Ephesians 3:1 - For this reason I, **Paul**, the **prisoner** of Christ Jesus for the **sake** of you Gentiles--
- ¶ Ephesians 3:2 - **Surely** you have **heard about** the administration of God's **grace** that was given to me for you,
- Ephesians 3:3 - that is, the **mystery** made known to me by **revelation**, as I have **already written briefly**.
- Ephesians 3:4 - In **reading this**, **then**, you **will** be able to **understand** my **insight into** the mystery of Christ,
- Ephesians 3:5 - which was not made known to people in **other** generations as it **has** now **been revealed** by the Spirit to God's holy **apostles** and **prophets**.
- Ephesians 3:6 - This **mystery** is that through the **gospel** the **Gentiles** are **heirs** together with **Israel**, **members** together of **one body**, and **sharers** together in the **promise** in Christ Jesus.
- ¶ Ephesians 3:7 - I **became a servant** of this **gospel** by the **gift** of God's grace given me through the **working** of his power.
- Ephesians 3:8 - **Although I am less** than the **least** of all the Lord's people, this **grace** was given me: to **preach** to the Gentiles the **boundless** riches of Christ,
- Ephesians 3:9 - and to **make plain** to **everyone** the administration of this **mystery**, which for **ages past** was **kept hidden** in God, who **created** all things.
- Ephesians 3:10 - His **intent** was that now, through the church, the **manifold wisdom** of God **should** be made known to the **rulers** and **authorities** in the **heavenly realms**,
- Ephesians 3:11 - according to his **eternal purpose** that he **accomplished** in Christ Jesus **our Lord**.
- Ephesians 3:12 - In him and through faith in him we may **approach** God with **freedom** and **confidence**.
- Ephesians 3:13 - I ask you, **therefore**, not to be **discouraged because** of my **sufferings** for you, which are your glory.

A Prayer for the Ephesians

- ¶ Ephesians 3:14 - For this reason I **kneel before** the **Father**,
- Ephesians 3:15 - **from whom every family** in heaven and on earth **derives its name**.
- Ephesians 3:16 - I pray that **out** of his **glorious** riches he may **strengthen** you with power through his Spirit in your **inner** being,
- Ephesians 3:17 - **so** that Christ may **dwell** in your **hearts** through faith. And I pray that you, being **rooted** and **established** in love,
- Ephesians 3:18 - may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to **grasp how wide** and **long** and **high** and **deep** is the love of Christ,
- Ephesians 3:19 - and to **know** this love that **surpasses knowledge**--that you may be **filled** to the **measure** of all the **fullness** of God.
- ¶ Ephesians 3:20 - 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**,

Ephesians 3:21 - to *him* be glory in the church and in Christ *Jesus* **throughout** all generations, for ever and ever!
Amen.

Ephesians 4

Unity and Maturity in the Body of Christ

- ¶ Ephesians 4:1 - As a **prisoner** for the Lord, then, I **urge** you to live a life **worthy** of the **calling** you have **received**.
Ephesians 4:2 - Be **completely humble** and **gentle**; be **patient**, **bearing** with one another in love.
Ephesians 4:3 - **Make** every **effort** to **keep** the unity of the Spirit through the **bond** of **peace**.
Ephesians 4:4 - There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to **one hope** when you were called;
Ephesians 4:5 - one Lord, one faith, one **baptism**;
Ephesians 4:6 - one God and **Father** of all, who is over all and through all and in all.
¶ Ephesians 4:7 - But to each one of **us** **grace** has been given as Christ **apportioned** it.
Ephesians 4:8 - This is **why** it **says**: "When he ascended on **high**, he **took many captives** and gave **gifts** to his people."
¶ Ephesians 4:9 - (What does "he ascended" **mean except** that he **also** descended to the **lower, earthly regions**?
Ephesians 4:10 - He who descended is the **very** one who ascended **higher than** all the **heavens**, in order to **fill** the whole **universe**.)
Ephesians 4:11 - So Christ **himself** gave the **apostles**, the **prophets**, the **evangelists**, the **pastors** and **teachers**,
Ephesians 4:12 - to **equip** his people for **works of service**, so that the body of Christ may be **built** up
Ephesians 4:13 - **until** we all **reach** unity in the faith and in the **knowledge** of the **Son** of God and become mature, **attaining** to the whole **measure** of the **fullness** of Christ.
¶ Ephesians 4:14 - Then we will no longer be **infants**, **tossed back and forth** by the **waves**, and **blown here and there** by every **wind** of **teaching** and by the **cunning** and **craftiness** of people in their deceitful **scheming**.
Ephesians 4:15 - **Instead**, **speaking** the truth in love, we will **grow** to become in every **respect** the mature body of him who is the **head**, that is, Christ.
Ephesians 4:16 - From him the whole body, **joined** and **held together** by every **supporting ligament**, **grows** and **builds itself** up in love, as each **part** does its work.

Instructions for Christian Living

- ¶ Ephesians 4:17 - So I **tell** you this, and **insist** on it in the Lord, that you **must** no longer live as the **Gentiles** do, in the **futility** of their **thinking**.
Ephesians 4:18 - They are **darkened** in their **understanding** and **separated** from the life of God **because** of the **ignorance** that is in **them due** to the **hardening** of their **hearts**.
Ephesians 4:19 - **Having lost** all **sensitivity**, they have given **themselves** over to **sensuality** so as to **indulge** in every kind of **impurity**, and they are **full** of **greed**.
¶ Ephesians 4:20 - That, **however**, is **not** the way of life you **learned**
Ephesians 4:21 - when you **heard about** Christ and were **taught** in him in **accordance** with the **truth** that is in **Jesus**.
Ephesians 4:22 - You were **taught**, with **regard** to your **former** way of life, to put off your **old** self, **which** is **being** **corrupted** by its deceitful **desires**;
Ephesians 4:23 - to be **made new** in the **attitude** of your **minds**;
Ephesians 4:24 - and to put on the new self, **created** to be **like** God in **true righteousness** and **holiness**.
¶ Ephesians 4:25 - **Therefore** each of you **must** put off **falsehood** and **speak truthfully** to your **neighbor**, for we are all **members** of one body.
Ephesians 4:26 - "In your anger do not **sin**": Do not let the **sun go down while** you are **still angry**,
Ephesians 4:27 - and do not **give the devil** a **foothold**.
Ephesians 4:28 - **Anyone** who has been **stealing** must **steal** no longer, but must work, **doing** something **useful** with their **own hands**, that they may have something to **share** with those in **need**.
¶ Ephesians 4:29 - Do not let **any unwholesome talk** come out of your **mouths**, but **only** what is **helpful** for **building** **others** up **according** to their **needs**, that it may **benefit** those who **listen**.
Ephesians 4:30 - And do not **grieve** the **Holy** Spirit of God, with **whom** you were **sealed** for the **day** of **redemption**.
Ephesians 4:31 - **Get rid** of all **bitterness**, **rage** and anger, **brawling** and **slander**, **along** with every **form** of **malice**.
Ephesians 4:32 - Be kind and **compassionate** to one another, **forgiving** each **other**, just as in Christ God **forgave** you.

Ephesians 5

- ¶ Ephesians 5:1 - **Follow** God's **example**, therefore, as **dearly** loved children

- Ephesians 5:2 - and **walk** in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a **fragrant offering** and **sacrifice** to God.
- ¶ Ephesians 5:3 - But **among** you there must not be even a **hint** of **sexual immorality**, or of any **kind** of **impurity**, or of **greed**, because **these** are **improper** for God's holy people.
- Ephesians 5:4 - **Nor** should there be **obscenity**, foolish **talk** or **coarse joking**, which are out of **place**, but rather **thanksgiving**.
- Ephesians 5:5 - For of this you **can** be **sure**: No **immoral**, **impure** or **greedy** person--such a person is an **idolater**--**has** any **inheritance** in the **kingdom** of Christ and of God.
- Ephesians 5:6 - Let no one **deceive** you with **empty words**, for because of such **things** God's **wrath** comes on **those** who are disobedient.
- Ephesians 5:7 - Therefore do not be **partners** with them.
- ¶ Ephesians 5:8 - For you **were once** darkness, but now you are **light** in the Lord. Live as children of light
- Ephesians 5:9 - (for the **fruit** of the light **consists** in all **goodness**, **righteousness** and **truth**)
- Ephesians 5:10 - and **find** out what **pleases** the Lord.
- Ephesians 5:11 - **Have nothing** to do with the **fruitless deeds** of darkness, but rather **expose** them.
- Ephesians 5:12 - It is **shameful** even to **mention** what the disobedient do in **secret**.
- Ephesians 5:13 - But everything **exposed** by the light becomes **visible**--and everything that is **illuminated** becomes a light.
- Ephesians 5:14 - This is **why** it is **said**: "**Wake up**, **sleepers**, **rise** from the **dead**, and Christ will **shine** on you."
- ¶ Ephesians 5:15 - Be **very careful**, then, **how** you live--not as **unwise** but as **wise**,
- Ephesians 5:16 - **making** the **most** of every **opportunity**, because the **days** are **evil**.
- Ephesians 5:17 - Therefore do not be **foolish**, but **understand** what the **Lord's** will is.
- Ephesians 5:18 - Do not **get drunk** on **wine**, which **leads** to **debauchery**. **Instead**, be **filled** with the Spirit,
- Ephesians 5:19 - **speaking** to one another with **psalms**, **hymns**, and **songs** from the Spirit. **Sing** and make **music** from your **heart** to the Lord,
- Ephesians 5:20 - **always giving thanks** to God the Father for everything, in the **name** of our Lord **Jesus** Christ.

Instructions for Christian Households

- ¶ Ephesians 5:21 - Submit to one another out of **reverence** for Christ.
- ¶ Ephesians 5:22 - Wives, submit **yourselves** to your own **husbands** as you do to the Lord.
- Ephesians 5:23 - 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**.
- Ephesians 5:24 - Now as the **church** **submits** to Christ, **so** also wives should submit to their **husbands** in everything.
- ¶ Ephesians 5:25 - Husbands, love your **wives**, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her
- Ephesians 5:26 - to **make her holy**, **cleansing her** by the **washing** with **water through** the **word**,
- Ephesians 5:27 - and to **present her** to himself as a **radiant church**, **without stain** or **wrinkle** or any **other blemish**, but **holy** and **blameless**.
- Ephesians 5:28 - In **this same** way, husbands **ought** to love their wives as their own **bodies**. He who loves his wife loves himself.
- Ephesians 5:29 - **After all**, no one **ever hated** their own body, but **they feed** and **care** for their body, just as Christ **does** the church--
- Ephesians 5:30 - for **we** are **members** of his body.
- Ephesians 5:31 - "For this **reason** a **man** will **leave** his father and **mother** and be **united** to his wife, and the **two** will **become one flesh**."
- Ephesians 5:32 - This is a **profound mystery**--but **I am talking about** Christ and the church.
- Ephesians 5:33 - **However**, **each** one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must **respect** her husband.

Ephesians 6

- ¶ Ephesians 6:1 - Children, obey your **parents** in the Lord, for this is **right**.
- Ephesians 6:2 - "**Honor** your father and **mother**"--which is the **first commandment** with a promise--
- Ephesians 6:3 - "so that it may **go well** with you and that you may **enjoy long life** on the **earth**."
- ¶ Ephesians 6:4 - **Fathers**, do not **exasperate** your children; **instead**, **bring them up** in the **training** and **instruction** of the Lord.
- ¶ Ephesians 6:5 - Slaves, obey your **earthly masters** with **respect** and **fear**, and with **sincerity** of heart, **just** as you **would** obey Christ.
- Ephesians 6:6 - Obey them not **only** to **win** their **favor** when their **eye** is on you, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart.
- Ephesians 6:7 - **Serve** **wholeheartedly**, as if you **were serving** the Lord, not people,

Ephesians 6:8 - **because** you know that the Lord *will reward each* one for **whatever good** they do, **whether** they are **slave or free**.

¶ Ephesians 6:9 - *And masters, treat your slaves in the same way. Do not threaten them, since* you know that he who is **both their Master and yours** is in **heaven**, and **there is no favoritism** with him.

The Armor of God

¶ Ephesians 6:10 - **Finally**, be **strong** in the Lord and in **his mighty power**.

Ephesians 6:11 - Put on the full armor of God, so that you can *take your stand against the devil's schemes*.

Ephesians 6:12 - For our **struggle** is not against **flesh and blood**, but against the **rulers**, against the **authorities**, against the **powers** of this **dark world** and against the **spiritual forces** of evil in the **heavenly realms**.

Ephesians 6:13 - **Therefore** put on the full armor of God, so that when the **day** of evil comes, you may be **able** to stand your **ground**, and **after** you **have done** everything, to stand.

Ephesians 6:14 - Stand **firm then**, with the **belt** of **truth buckled around** your **waist**, with the **breastplate** of **righteousness in place**,

Ephesians 6:15 - and with your **feet fitted** with the **readiness** that comes from the gospel of peace.

Ephesians 6:16 - In **addition** to all this, take up the **shield** of faith, with which you can **extinguish** all the **flaming arrows** of the evil one.

Ephesians 6:17 - Take the **helmet** of **salvation** and the **sword** of the Spirit, which is the **word** of God.

¶ Ephesians 6:18 - And *pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying* for all the **Lord's** people.

Ephesians 6:19 - *Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery* of the gospel,

Ephesians 6:20 - for which I am an **ambassador** in **chains**. Pray that I may **declare** it fearlessly, as I **should**.

Final Greetings

¶ Ephesians 6:21 - **Tychicus**, the **dear brother** and **faithful servant** in the Lord, will **tell** you *everything*, so that you also may know how I am and **what** I am doing.

Ephesians 6:22 - I am **sending** him to you for *this very purpose*, that you may know *how we* are, and that he may **encourage** you.

¶ Ephesians 6:23 - Peace to the **brothers** and **sisters**, and *love with faith* from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 6:24 - **Grace** to all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with an **undying** love.

Philippians 1

¶ Philippians 1:1 - **Paul** and **Timothy**, **servants** of Christ Jesus, To all God's **holy people** in Christ Jesus **at Philippi**, together with the **overseers** and **deacons**:

¶ Philippians 1:2 - Grace and **peace** to you from God **our Father** and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Thanksgiving and Prayer

¶ Philippians 1:3 - *I thank my God every time I remember you.*

Philippians 1:4 - *In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy*

Philippians 1:5 - *because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now,*

Philippians 1:6 - *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.*

¶ Philippians 1:7 - It is **right** for me to **feel** this way about all of you, since I have you in my **heart** and, whether I am in **chains** or **defending** and **confirming** the gospel, all of you **share** in God's grace with me.

Philippians 1:8 - God can **testify how I long** for all of you with the **affection** of Christ Jesus.

¶ Philippians 1:9 - And this is my **prayer**: that your love may abound more and more in **knowledge** and **depth** of **insight**,

Philippians 1:10 - so that you may be **able** to **discern** what is **best** and may be **pure** and **blameless** for the day of Christ,

Philippians 1:11 - **filled** with the **fruit** of **righteousness** that **comes** through Jesus Christ--to the **glory** and **praise** of God.

Paul's Chains Advance the Gospel

- ¶ **Philippians 1:12** - Now I **want** you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to *me* has **actually served to advance** the gospel.
- Philippians 1:13** - As a **result**, it has become **clear throughout** the **whole palace guard** and to **everyone else** that I am in *chains* for Christ.
- Philippians 1:14** - And because of my *chains*, **most** of the brothers and sisters have become confident in the Lord and **dare** all the more to **proclaim** the gospel without fear.
- ¶ **Philippians 1:15** - It is true that **some** preach Christ out of **envy** and **rivalry**, but **others** out of **goodwill**.
- Philippians 1:16** - The **latter** do so out of love, **knowing** that I am **put here** for the **defense** of the gospel.
- Philippians 1:17** - The **former** preach Christ out of **selfish ambition**, not **sincerely**, **supposing** that they can **stir up trouble** for me **while** I am in chains.
- Philippians 1:18** - But what **does it matter?** The **important thing** is that in every way, whether from **false motives** or true, Christ is **preached**. And because of this I rejoice. **Yes**, and I will continue to rejoice,
- Philippians 1:19** - for I know that through *your prayers* and God's **provision** of the Spirit of Jesus Christ what has happened to me will **turn out** for my **deliverance**.
- Philippians 1:20** - I **eagerly expect** and **hope** that I will in **no way** be **ashamed**, but will have **sufficient courage** so that now as always Christ will be **exalted** in my body, whether by **life** or by **death**.
- Philippians 1:21** - For to me, to **live** is Christ and to **die** is **gain**.
- Philippians 1:22** - If I am to **go on living** in the body, this will **mean fruitful labor** for me. **Yet** what **shall I choose?** I do not know!
- Philippians 1:23** - I am **tormented between the two**: I **desire** to **depart** and be with Christ, **which is better** by far,
- Philippians 1:24** - but it is more **necessary** for you that I **remain** in the body.
- Philippians 1:25** - **Convinced** of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your **progress** and joy in the faith,
- Philippians 1:26** - so that through my being with you **again** your **boasting** in Christ Jesus will abound on **account** of me.

Life Worthy of the Gospel

- ¶ **Philippians 1:27** - **Whatever happens, 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 the one Spirit, **striving** together as one for the faith of the gospel
- Philippians 1:28** - without being **frightened** in **any way** by those who **oppose** you. This is a **sign** to **them** that they will be **destroyed**, but that you will be **saved**--and that by God.
- Philippians 1:29** - For it has **been granted** to you on **behalf** of Christ not only to **believe** in him, but **also** to **suffer** for him,
- Philippians 1:30** - since you **are going** through the **same struggle** you **saw I had**, and now hear that I **still** have.

Philippians 2

Imitating Christ's Humility

- ¶ **Philippians 2:1** - Therefore if you have any **encouragement** from being **united** with Christ, if any **comfort** from his love, if any **common sharing** in the Spirit, if any **tenderness** and **compassion**,
- Philippians 2:2** - then make my joy **complete** by being **like-minded**, **having** the same love, being one in spirit and of one **mind**.
- Philippians 2:3** - Do nothing out of **selfish ambition** or vain **conceit**. Rather, in **humility value** others above yourselves,
- Philippians 2:4** - not **looking** to your own interests but **each** of you to the interests of the others.
- ¶ **Philippians 2:5** - In your **relationships** with one **another**, have the same **mindset** as Christ Jesus:
- ¶ **Philippians 2:6** - Who, being in very nature God, did not **consider equality** with God **something** to be **used** to his own **advantage**;
- Philippians 2:7** - rather, he made himself nothing by **taking** the very nature of a **servant**, being made in **human likeness**.
- Philippians 2:8** - And being **found in appearance** as a **man**, he **humbled** himself by **becoming obedient** to death--even death on a **cross**!
- ¶ **Philippians 2:9** - Therefore God **exalted** him to the **highest place** and **gave** him the name that is above every name,
- Philippians 2:10** - that **at** the name of Jesus every **knee should bow**, in **heaven** and on earth and **under** the earth,
- Philippians 2:11** - and every **tongue acknowledge** that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the **glory** of God the Father.

Do Everything Without Grumbling

- ¶ **Philippians 2:12** - Therefore, my **dear friends**, as you have **always obeyed**--not only in my **presence**, but **now much more** in my **absence**--**continue** to work out your **salvation** with **fear** and **trembling**,
- Philippians 2:13** - for it is **God** who **works** in you to **will** and to **act** in order to **fulfill** his **good purpose**.
- ¶ **Philippians 2:14** - Do **everything** without **grumbling** or **arguing**,
- Philippians 2:15** - so that you may **become blameless** and **pure**, "**children** of **God** without **fault** in a **warped** and **crooked generation**." Then you will **shine among them** like **stars** in the **sky**
- Philippians 2:16** - as you **hold firmly** to the **word** of **life**. And then I will be **able** to **boast** on the **day** of **Christ** that I did not **run** or **labor** in vain.
- Philippians 2:17** - But even if I am being **poured** out like a **drink offering** on the **sacrifice** and **service** coming from your **faith**, I am **glad** and rejoice with all of you.
- Philippians 2:18** - So you **too** should be glad and rejoice with me.

Timothy and Epaphroditus

- ¶ **Philippians 2:19** - I hope in the Lord Jesus to **send Timothy** to you soon, that I also may be **cheered** when I **receive news** about you.
- Philippians 2:20** - I have **no one else** like him, who will **show genuine concern** for your **welfare**.
- Philippians 2:21** - For **everyone looks** out for **their own interests**, not **those** of Jesus Christ.
- Philippians 2:22** - But you **know** that **Timothy** has **proved himself**, because as a **son** with his father he has **served** with me in the work of the **gospel**.
- Philippians 2:23** - I **hope**, therefore, to send him as soon as I see **how things go** with me.
- Philippians 2:24** - And I am **confident** in the Lord that I **myself** will **come** soon.
- ¶ **Philippians 2:25** - But I **think** it is **necessary** to send **back** to you **Epaphroditus**, my **brother**, **co-worker** and **fellow soldier**, who is also your **messenger**, whom you **sent** to **take care** of my **needs**.
- Philippians 2:26** - For he **longs** for all of you and is **distressed** because you **heard** he was ill.
- Philippians 2:27** - **Indeed** he was ill, and almost died. But **God had mercy** on him, and not on him only but also on me, to **spare me sorrow upon sorrow**.
- Philippians 2:28** - Therefore I am all the more **eager** to send him, so that when you see him **again** you may be glad and I may have **less anxiety**.
- Philippians 2:29** - So then, **welcome** him in the Lord with **great joy**, and **honor people** like him,
- Philippians 2:30** - because he almost died for the work of Christ. He **risked** his life to make **up** for the **help** you yourselves **could not give** me.

Philippians 3

No Confidence in the Flesh

- ¶ **Philippians 3:1** - **Further**, my brothers and sisters, **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.
- Philippians 3:2** - **Watch out** for those **dogs**, those **evildoers**, those **mutilators** of the flesh.
- Philippians 3:3** - For it is we who are the **circumcision**, we who **serve** God by his **Spirit**, who **boast** in Christ Jesus, and who **put no confidence** in the flesh--
- Philippians 3:4** - **though** I myself have **reasons** for such confidence. If **someone else thinks** they have **reasons** to put confidence in the flesh, I have more:
- Philippians 3:5** - **circumcised** on the **eighth day**, of the **people** of **Israel**, of the **tribe** of **Benjamin**, a **Hebrew** of **Hebrews**; in regard to the law, a **Pharisee**;
- Philippians 3:6** - as for **zeal**, **persecuting** the **church**; as for righteousness **based** on the law, **faultless**.
- ¶ **Philippians 3:7** - But **whatever were gains** to me I now consider **loss** for the sake of Christ.
- Philippians 3:8** - What is more, I consider everything a **loss** because of the **surpassing worth** of **knowing** Christ Jesus my Lord, for **whose sake** I have **lost** all things. I consider **them garbage**, that I **may gain** Christ
- Philippians 3:9** - and be **found** in him, not **having** a righteousness of my **own** that comes from the law, but that which is **through** faith in Christ--the righteousness that comes from **God** on the **basis** of faith.
- Philippians 3:10** - I **want** to know Christ--**yes**, to know the power of his resurrection and **participation** in his **sufferings**, **becoming** like him in his **death**,
- Philippians 3:11** - and so, **somehow**, **attaining** to the resurrection from the **dead**.
- ¶ **Philippians 3:12** - Not that I have **already obtained** all **this**, or have **already arrived at** my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus **took** hold of me.
- Philippians 3:13** - Brothers and sisters, 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**,

Philippians 3:14 - I press on toward the goal to **win the prize** for which God **has called me heavenward** in Christ Jesus.

Following Paul's Example

- ¶ Philippians 3:15 - All of us, **then**, who are **mature should** take such a **view** of things. And if on **some point** you **think differently**, that **too** God will **make clear** to you.
- Philippians 3:16 - **Only let us live up** to what we have already **attained**.
- ¶ Philippians 3:17 - **Join together in following** my **example**, brothers and sisters, and **just** as you have us as a **model**, **keep your eyes** on those who live as we do.
- Philippians 3:18 - For, as I have **often told** you **before** and now **tell** you again **even with tears**, many live as **enemies** of the **cross** of Christ.
- Philippians 3:19 - Their **destiny** is **destruction**, their god is their **stomach**, and their **glory** is in their **shame**. Their **mind** is **set on earthly** things.
- Philippians 3:20 - But our **citizenship** is in **heaven**. And we **eagerly await** a **Savior** from **there**, the Lord Jesus Christ,
- Philippians 3:21 - who, by the power that **enables** him to **bring** everything **under his control**, will **transform** our **lowly bodies** so that they will be **like his glorious body**.

Philippians 4

Closing Appeal for Steadfastness and Unity

- ¶ Philippians 4:1 - **Therefore**, my brothers and sisters, you **whom I love and long** for, my **joy and crown**, **stand firm** in the **Lord** in this **way**, **dear friends**!
- ¶ Philippians 4:2 - I plead with **Euodia** and I plead with **Syntyche** to be of the **same mind** in the Lord.
- Philippians 4:3 - **Yes**, and I **ask** you, my **true companion**, **help these women since** they have **contended** at my **side** in the **cause** of the **gospel**, **along with Clement** and the **rest** of my **co-workers**, **whose names** are in the **book** of **life**.

Final Exhortations

- ¶ Philippians 4:4 - Rejoice in the **Lord always**. I will **say it again**: Rejoice!
- Philippians 4:5 - **Let your gentleness** be **evident** to all. The **Lord** is **near**.
- Philippians 4:6 - Do not be **anxious** about anything, but in every situation, **by prayer and petition**, with **thanksgiving**, **present your requests** to God.
- Philippians 4:7 - And the peace of **God**, **which transcends** all **understanding**, will **guard your hearts** and your **minds** in Christ Jesus.
- ¶ Philippians 4:8 - **Finally**, brothers and sisters, whatever is **true**, whatever is **noble**, whatever is **right**, whatever is **pure**, whatever is **lovely**, whatever is **admirable--if** anything is **excellent** or **praiseworthy--think** about **such things**.
- Philippians 4:9 - Whatever you have **learned** or **received** or **heard** from me, or **seen** in me--**put it into practice**. And the **God of peace** will be with you.

Thanks for Their Gifts

- ¶ Philippians 4:10 - I **rejoiced greatly** in the Lord that at **last** you **renewed** your **concern** for me. **Indeed**, you **were concerned**, but you **had no opportunity** to **show** it.
- Philippians 4:11 - I am not **saying** this **because** I am in **need**, for I have **learned** to be content whatever the **circumstances**.
- Philippians 4:12 - I know what it is to be in **need**, and I know what it is to **have plenty**. I have **learned the secret of being** content in **any** and every situation, whether **well fed** or **hungry**, whether **living** in **plenty** or in **want**.
- Philippians 4:13 - I **can** do all this **through him** who **gives me strength**.
- ¶ Philippians 4:14 - **Yet it was good** of you to **share** in my **troubles**.
- Philippians 4:15 - **Moreover**, as you **Philippians** know, in the **early days** of your **acquaintance** with the **gospel**, when I **set out from Macedonia**, not **one church shared** with me in the **matter of giving** and **receiving**, **except you only**;
- Philippians 4:16 - for **even** when I was in **Thessalonica**, you sent me **aid** more than **once** when I was in need.
- Philippians 4:17 - Not that I **desire your gifts**; what I **desire** is that more be **credited** to your **account**.

Philippians 4:18 - I have received **full payment** and have more than **enough**. I am **amply supplied**, now that I have received from **Epaphroditus** the gifts you sent. They are a **fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing** to God.

Philippians 4:19 - And my God will **meet** all your **needs according** to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.

¶ Philippians 4:20 - To **our** God and **Father** be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Final Greetings

¶ Philippians 4:21 - **Greet** all God's people in Christ Jesus. The brothers and sisters who are with me send greetings.

Philippians 4:22 - All God's people **here** send you greetings, **especially those** who belong to **Caesar's household**.

¶ Philippians 4:23 - The **grace** of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your **spirit**. Amen.

Colossians 1

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

¶ Colossians 1:2 - To God's holy people in **Colossae**, the faithful **brothers** and **sisters** in Christ: Grace and peace to you from God our Father.

Thanksgiving and Prayer

¶ Colossians 1:3 - We **always thank** God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, **when we pray** for you,

Colossians 1:4 - *because we* have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the **love you have** for all God's people--

Colossians 1:5 - the faith and love that **spring** from the **hope stored** up for you in heaven and about which you have **already** heard in the **true message** of the gospel

Colossians 1:6 - that has **come** to you. In the **same way**, the gospel is bearing fruit and growing **throughout** the **whole world--just as** it has **been doing** among you since the day you heard it and **truly understood** God's grace.

Colossians 1:7 - You **learned** it from **Epaphras**, our **dear fellow** servant, who is a faithful **minister** of Christ on our **behalf**,

Colossians 1:8 - and who **also told** us of your love in the Spirit.

¶ Colossians 1:9 - For this **reason**, since the day we heard about you, we have not **stopped praying** for you. We **continually ask** God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and **understanding** that the Spirit gives,

Colossians 1:10 - so that you may **live** a life worthy of the Lord and **please** him in every way: bearing fruit in every **good work**, growing in the knowledge of God,

Colossians 1:11 - **being strengthened** with all **power according** to his glorious might so that you may have **great endurance** and **patience**,

Colossians 1:12 - and **giving joyful thanks** to the Father, who has **qualified** you to **share** in the **inheritance** of his holy people in the kingdom of **light**.

Colossians 1:13 - For he has **rescued** us from the **dominion of darkness** and **brought us into** the kingdom of the Son he loves,

Colossians 1:14 - in **whom** we have **redemption**, the forgiveness of sins.

The Supremacy of the Son of God

¶ Colossians 1:15 - The Son is the **image** of the invisible God, the firstborn **over all creation**.

Colossians 1:16 - For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, **visible** and invisible, whether **thrones** or **powers** or **rulers** or **authorities**; all things have been created through him and for him.

Colossians 1:17 - He is **before** all things, and in him all things **hold together**.

Colossians 1:18 - And he is the **head** of the body, the church; he is the **beginning** and the firstborn from among the **dead**, so that in **everything** he might have the **supremacy**.

Colossians 1:19 - For God **was pleased** to have all his fullness **dwell** in him,

Colossians 1:20 - and through him to **reconcile** to **himself** all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by **making peace** through his **blood, shed** on the **cross**.

¶ Colossians 1:21 - **Once** you were **alienated** from God and were **enemies** in your **minds** because of your **evil behavior**.

Colossians 1:22 - But now he has **reconciled** you by Christ's **physical** body through **death** to present you holy in his **sight, without blemish** and **free from accusation--**

Colossians 1:23 - **if you continue** in your faith, **established** and **firm**, and **do not move** from the hope **held out** in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been **proclaimed** to every **creature under** heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant.

Paul's Labor for the Church

- ¶ **Colossians 1:24** - Now I **rejoice** in what I **am suffering** for you, and I fill up in **my flesh** what is **still lacking** in regard to Christ's **afflictions**, for the **sake** of his **body**, which is the church.
- Colossians 1:25** - I have become its servant by the **commission** God **gave** me to present to you the **word** of God in its fullness--
- Colossians 1:26** - the **mystery** that has been **kept hidden** for **ages and generations**, but is now **disclosed** to the **Lord's** people.
- Colossians 1:27** - To **them** God has **chosen** to make **known** among the **Gentiles** the glorious **riches** of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the **hope of glory**.
- ¶ **Colossians 1:28** - He is the **one** we **proclaim, admonishing and teaching** everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone **fully mature** in Christ.
- Colossians 1:29** - To this **end** I **strenuously contend** with all the **energy** Christ so **powerfully works** in me.

Colossians 2

- ¶ **Colossians 2:1** - I **want** you to know how **hard** I am **contending** for you and for **those at Laodicea**, and for all who have not **met me personally**.
- Colossians 2:2** - **My goal** is that they may **be encouraged in heart and united in love**, so that they may have the **full riches of complete understanding**, in order that they may know the **mystery of God, namely, Christ**,
- Colossians 2:3** - in whom are **hidden all the treasures** of wisdom and **knowledge**.
- Colossians 2:4** - I **tell** you this so that no one may **deceive** you by **fine-sounding arguments**.
- Colossians 2:5** - For though I am **absent** from you in body, I am **present** with you in **spirit and delight** to see how **disciplined** you are and how **firm** your faith in Christ is.

Spiritual Fullness in Christ

- ¶ **Colossians 2:6** - So **then, just** as you **received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue** to **live** your lives in him,
- Colossians 2:7** - **rooted and built up in him, strengthened** in the faith as you were **taught, and overflowing with thankfulness**.
- ¶ **Colossians 2:8** - See to it that no one **takes** you **captive** through **hollow and deceptive philosophy**, which **depends on human tradition** and the elemental spiritual forces of this world **rather than on Christ**.
- ¶ **Colossians 2:9** - For in **Christ** all the fullness of the **Deity** lives in **bodily form**,
- Colossians 2:10** - and in Christ you have been **brought to fullness**. He is the head over **every power and authority**.
- Colossians 2:11** - In him you were **also circumcised with a circumcision not performed** by human **hands**. Your **whole self ruled** by the flesh **was put off** when you were circumcised by Christ,
- Colossians 2:12** - having **been buried** with him in **baptism**, in which you were **also raised with him** through your faith in the **working** of God, who raised him from the dead.
- ¶ **Colossians 2:13** - When you were dead in **your sins** and in the **uncircumcision of your flesh**, God made you **alive** with Christ. He **forgave** us all our sins,
- Colossians 2:14** - having **anceled the charge of our legal indebtedness**, which **stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it** to the cross.
- Colossians 2:15** - And having **disarmed the powers and authorities**, he made a **public spectacle** of them, **triumphing** over them by the cross.

Freedom From Human Rules

- ¶ **Colossians 2:16** - **Therefore** do not let anyone **judge** you by what you **eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day**.
- Colossians 2:17** - These are a **shadow** of the things that were to come; the **reality, however, is found** in Christ.
- Colossians 2:18** - Do not let anyone who **delights in false humility and the worship of angels disqualify** you. Such a **person also goes into great detail about** what they have **seen; they are puffed up with idle notions** by their **unspiritual mind**.
- Colossians 2:19** - They have **lost connection** with the head, from whom the whole body, **supported and held together** by its **ligaments and sinews, grows** as God **causes** it to **grow**.
- ¶ **Colossians 2:20** - **Since** you **died** with Christ to the elemental spiritual forces of this world, **why, as though you still belonged** to the world, do you **submit** to its rules:
- Colossians 2:21** - "Do not **handle!** Do not **taste!** Do not **touch!**"?
- Colossians 2:22** - These rules, which have to do with things that are all **destined to perish with use, are based on merely human commands and teachings**.

Colossians 2:23 - Such **regulations indeed** have **an appearance** of wisdom, with their **self-imposed** worship, their false humility and their **harsh treatment** of the body, **but they lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence**.

Colossians 3

Living as Those Made Alive in Christ

- ¶ Colossians 3:1 - Since, then, you have **been raised** with Christ, set your hearts on things above, **where** Christ is, **seated** at the **right hand** of God.
- Colossians 3:2 - Set your **minds** on things above, **not** on earthly things.
- Colossians 3:3 - For you **died**, and your life is now **hidden** with Christ in God.
- Colossians 3:4 - When Christ, who is your life, **appears**, then you also will **appear** with him in **glory**.
- ¶ Colossians 3:5 - Put to **death**, therefore, whatever **belongs** to your earthly **nature**: **sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires** and **greed**, which is **idolatry**.
- Colossians 3:6 - **Because** of these, the **wrath** of God is **coming**.
- Colossians 3:7 - You **used** to **walk** in these **ways**, in the life you **once lived**.
- Colossians 3:8 - But now you **must** also **rid** yourselves of all **such** things as these: **anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language** from your **lips**.
- Colossians 3:9 - Do **not lie** to each other, since you have **taken off** your **old** self with its **practices**
- Colossians 3:10 - and have put on the **new** self, which is **being renewed in knowledge** in the **image** of its **Creator**.
- Colossians 3:11 - **Here** there is no **Gentile** or **Jew, circumcised** or **uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave** or **free**, but Christ is all, and is in all.
- ¶ Colossians 3:12 - Therefore, as **God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe** yourselves with **compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness** and **patience**.
- Colossians 3:13 - **Bear** with each other and **forgive** one another **if any** of you **has** a **grievance against someone**. **Forgive** as the Lord **forgave** you.
- Colossians 3:14 - And **over** all these **virtues** put on love, which **binds** them all **together** in **perfect unity**.
- ¶ Colossians 3:15 - Let the peace of Christ **rule** in your hearts, since as **members** of one **body** you were called to peace. And be **thankful**.
- Colossians 3:16 - Let the **message** of Christ **dwell among** you **richly** as you **teach** and **admonish** one another with all **wisdom** through **psalms, hymns, and songs** from the **Spirit, singing** to God with **gratitude** in your hearts.
- Colossians 3:17 - And whatever you do, **whether** in **word** or **deed**, do it all in the **name** of the Lord **Jesus, giving thanks** to God the **Father** through him.

Instructions for Christian Households

- ¶ Colossians 3:18 - Wives, **submit** yourselves to your **husbands**, as is **fitting** in the Lord.
- ¶ Colossians 3:19 - Husbands, love your **wives** and do not be **harsh** with them.
- ¶ Colossians 3:20 - Children, obey your **parents** in everything, for **this pleases** the Lord.
- ¶ Colossians 3:21 - **Fathers**, do not **embitter** your children, or **they** will **become discouraged**.
- ¶ Colossians 3:22 - **Slaves**, obey your earthly **masters** in everything; and do it, **not only** when their **eye** is on you and to **curry their favor**, but with **sincerity** of heart and **reverence** for the Lord.
- Colossians 3:23 - Whatever you do, **work** at it with all your heart, as **working** for the Lord, not for **human** masters,
- Colossians 3:24 - since you **know** that you will **receive an inheritance** from the Lord as a **reward**. It is the Lord Christ you **are serving**.
- Colossians 3:25 - **Anyone** who **does wrong** will be **repaid** for their **wrongs**, and there is no **favoritism**.
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Colossians 4

- ¶ Colossians 4:1 - **Masters, provide** your **slaves** with **what** is **right** and **fair**, **because** you know that you **also** have a **Master** in heaven.

Further Instructions

- ¶ Colossians 4:2 - **Devote yourselves** to prayer, **being watchful** and **thankful**.
- Colossians 4:3 - And pray for **us, too**, that God may **open a door** for our **message**, so that **we** may proclaim the **mystery** of Christ, for **which** I am in chains.
- Colossians 4:4 - Pray that I may **proclaim it clearly**, as I **should**.

Colossians 4:5 - Be **wise** in the **way** you **act toward outsiders**; **make the most** of every opportunity.

Colossians 4:6 - Let your **conversation** be always **full** of grace, **seasoned** with **salt**, so that you may know **how** to **answer everyone**.

Final Greetings

- ¶ **Colossians 4:7** - **Tychicus** will tell you all the **news** about me. He is a dear brother, a faithful **minister** and fellow servant in the Lord.
- Colossians 4:8** - I am **sending** him to you for the **express purpose** that you may know about our **circumstances** and that he may **encourage your hearts**.
- Colossians 4:9** - He is **coming** with **Onesimus**, our faithful and dear brother, who is one of you. They will tell you **everything** that is **happening here**.
- ¶ **Colossians 4:10** - My fellow **prisoner Aristarchus** sends you **his** greetings, as **does Mark**, the **cousin** of **Barnabas**. (You have received **instructions** about him; **if he comes** to you, **welcome** him.)
- Colossians 4:11** - Jesus, who is **called Justus**, also sends greetings. **These are** the **only Jews among** my **co-workers** for the **kingdom** of God, and they have **proved a comfort** to me.
- Colossians 4:12** - **Epaphras**, who is one of you and a servant of Christ Jesus, sends greetings. He is always **wrestling** in prayer for you, that you may **stand firm** in all the will of God, **mature** and **fully assured**.
- Colossians 4:13** - I **vouch** for him that he is **working hard** for you and for **those** at Laodicea and **Hierapolis**.
- Colossians 4:14** - Our dear **friend Luke**, the **doctor**, and **Demas** send greetings.
- Colossians 4:15** - **Give my greetings** to the **brothers** and **sisters** at Laodicea, and to **Nympha** and the church in **her house**.
- ¶ **Colossians 4:16** - **After this letter has been** read to you, see that it is **also read** in the church of the **Laodiceans** and that you **in turn** read the letter **from** Laodicea.
- ¶ **Colossians 4:17** - Tell **Archippus**: "See to it that you **complete** the **ministry** you have received in the Lord."
- ¶ **Colossians 4:18** - I, **Paul**, write this **greeting** in my **own hand**. **Remember** my chains. Grace be with you.