

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, sleeper, 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 **mutulators** 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 **dwelt 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.