

## Colossians

Col 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timotheus *our* brother,

*Paul was a fierce persecutor of the church and chief among sinners. Acts 26:11 And I punished them oft in every synagogue, and compelled *them* to blaspheme; and being exceedingly mad against them, I persecuted *them* even unto strange cities. Two questions arise about Paul's conversion and being chosen to be apostle which can become stumbling to the weak in faith:*

*1. Christ appeared to Paul on his way to Damascus where he was going to persecute Christ's church. Someone could say that if Jesus wants to help my unbelief he should show himself to me who am better than Paul who hurt many Christians. Why did Christ appear to Paul? After Christ appeared to Paul (Saul) we read in Acts 22:10 And I (Saul) said, What shall I do, Lord? And the Lord said unto me, Arise, and go into Damascus; and there it shall be told thee of all things which are appointed for thee to do.*

Acts 22:14 And he (Ananias) said, The God of our fathers hath chosen thee, that thou shouldest know his will, and see that Just One, and shouldest hear the voice of his mouth. Acts 22:15 For thou shalt be his witness unto all men of what thou hast seen and heard.

*Christ specifically appeared to Paul to appoint him to be His apostle to the Gentiles and to write portions of God's word. He confirmed his Apostleship: 2Cor 12:12 Truly the signs of an apostle were wrought among you in all patience, in signs, and wonders, and mighty deeds. Since God's word was completed by Apostles and prophets of New Testament, God does not need to appear or speak directly to men any longer. The authority of apostles and prophets is now vested in His completed word: 2Tim 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 2Tim 3:17 That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.*

*Faith comes not by seeing Jesus but by hearing the word of God : Rom 10:17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*

*2. Why did Christ choose his greatest enemy and honored him to become His greatest apostle (by his labors) and not instead choose one of his faithful servants who suffered persecution even from Paul himself? This can be used by the enemy to cast doubt on God's equity. What was the cause? 1Tim 1:16 Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting. God used Paul to set the ultimate example that Christ can change lives. No matter how much a person is opposed to Christ, Paul's example reminds us that God is able to change that person. Additionally God foreknew that Paul would labor for His cause more than others.*

1Cor 15:10 and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.

*Paul became an apostle by God's will, lived in God's will and pursued God's will. That is why he could endure all his sufferings and persecutions and accomplish so much for God. When we are*

*in God's will and do His will we can be assured of His grace to meet all the opposition of the world, the flesh and the devil to do His will. If we expect to have the victory promised to us by God we need to let God examine us by His word daily and seek His guidance to ensure that we are in His will and are pursuing His will. On the contrary we should not expect to endure pressures and temptations when we are out of his will and going our own ways.*

Col. 1:2 To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ which are at Colosse Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. *Not saints and brethren as though they were distinct one from the other. Faithful brethren are also saints. Believers are saints not by attaining sainthood but are saints by nature. The word saint in Greek means holy one. A born again believer may not act holy but has a holy nature because Christ in him is holy.*

Col 1:3 We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you,

Col 1:4 Since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus, and of the love *which ye have* to all the saints,

*True faith results in selfless love (agape). When we exercise faith in Christ and love to His people it encourages other believers to thank God and pray for us. Faith and selfless love is mutually encouraging to believers. On the contrary unbelief and lack of selfless love results in discouragement among believers.*

*Apostle Paul prayed for other churches likewise with thanksgiving:*

Eph\_1:16 Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers;

1Th\_1:2 We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers;

*Let's look at Christ as our example of praying for the believers.*

*Why does Christ pray for the believers?*

John 17:9 I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine. *We pray for believers after the example of Christ because they belong to God as God's children. Loving Christians is to show love to God because they are the spiritual children of God.*

*How does Christ pray for the believers?*

Joh 17:15 I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. *Christians are in need of each other's prayer to be kept from this present evil world and all the evil forces that are in opposition to Christ and His believers.* 1Jn\_5:19 *And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness.*

Joh 17:17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth. *The Greek word translated sanctify comes from the root word "holy" and means to make holy by separating from corrupt things and dedicating to God. God's Word is the means by which God makes us more holy and devoted to Himself. Personal lives and societies of men degenerate to more profanity, corruption and unclean lusts as they forsake the pure and holy word of God.*

John 17:21 That they all may be one; as thou, Father, *art* in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. Php 2:2 Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, *being* of one accord, of one mind. *The more true Christians are united the more credible their confession of Christ will be to the world.*

*How do Christians get more united in Christ? By having the mind of Christ. 1Co\_2:16 But we have the mind of Christ.*

*How do we develop the mind of Christ? The Word of God expresses the thoughts of God and how God thinks. The more we occupy our mind with the Word of God by studying it, meditating on it, memorizing it, paying attention to it and taking it to heart the more we will think like God.*

Pro\_4:13 Take fast hold of instruction; let her not go: keep her; for she is thy life. Pro 4:20 My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. Pro 4:21 Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. Pro 4:22 For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh.

Col. 1:5 For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel;

*What is that hope in Heaven?*

*-It is hope of eternal life in Heaven: Tit\_1:2 In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;*

*-It is the hope of being with Christ in Heaven: Joh 14:2 In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. Joh 14:3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.*

*-It is the hope of having glorified bodies that will live forever. 1Co 15:52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.*

1Co 15:53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality.

*Our hope in heaven is not a human hope the fulfillment of which is not certain but a hope that is sure to be fulfilled. How do we know that hope of heaven is a certain hope that will be fulfilled?*

Tit\_1:2 In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;

Col 1:6 Which is come unto you, as *it is* in all the world; and bringeth forth fruit, as *it doth* also in you, since the day ye heard *of it*, and knew the grace of God in truth:

*How do people believe the Gospel and bring forth fruit according to this verse?*

1. *The first requirement is hearing “the word of the truth of the Gospel” V.5. Rom\_10:17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. However hearing is not enough for us to bring fruit for God but understanding is also needed. Mat 13:23 But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit,*

2. *The second requirement is knowing “the grace of God in truth”. The Greek word for knowing conveys such a sure and thorough knowledge upon which one would even venture his life. Because of that kind of knowledge of the truth Christians were willing rather to be martyred for their faith than deny its truth. This is the kind of the knowledge of truth that brings forth fruit for God.*

3. *The third requirement to bring fruit for God is to know “the grace of God in truth”. A. The grace of God is needed to save us. Eph\_2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not*

of yourselves: *it is the gift of God: B. The grace of God causes us to bring fruit to the glory of God. 1Cor. 15:10* But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me. *We all have tendencies to operate by our own strength instead of by His grace.*

“The grace of God in truth”. *What is the truth?* Joh 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. Joh 17:17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth. *The grace of God is revealed by the truth of the scriptures and is brought by Jesus Christ who is the Truth himself.*

Joh 1:17 For the law was given by Moses, *but* grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.

Col 1:7 As ye also learned of Epaphras our dear fellowservant, who is for you a faithful minister of Christ;

*Who was Epaphras and what made him so special and dear to Paul?*

Col 4:12 “Epaphras, who is *one of you*”. *He was a believer in the church at Colosse who was ministering to them. “always labouring fervently for you in prayers, that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God”.* *Why did he pray so fervently for them?* Col 4:13 For I bear him record, that he hath a great zeal for you, and them *that are* in Laodicea, and them in Hierapolis.

*When we have true zeal for each other we will pray fervently for one another.*

*Another reason that Epaphras was so dear to Paul:* Phm 1:23 There salute thee Epaphras, my fellowprisoner in Christ Jesus; *Epaphras not only served together with Paul but was willing to suffer with Paul which shows his great devotion to Christ and His saints.*

*Epaphras was not ashamed, jealous, indifferent toward or fearful of Apostle Paul but was faithful to serve with him even to the point of endangering his life. There are similar tendencies in us that Satan will fully take advantage of to pull us away from serving together and with faithful servants of God.*

Col 1:8 Who also declared unto us your love in the Spirit. *True Christian love can only be generated and exercised by the Holy Spirit. The Colossians were born by the Spirit and loved in the Spirit.*

Col 1:9 For this cause we also, since the day we heard *it*, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;

*The good report of the believers in Colossae that was given by Epaphras caused Apostle Paul to pray so much for them seeing that there was such a progress and potential for growth and fruitfulness for the Lord. Fruitfulness on our part motivates prayerfulness on the parts of believers.*

*He does not pray for health and wealth for them but “that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will”. Why? Because nothing is more important for believers than learning and doing God’s will.*

*What does the will of God involve according to this verse? How do we get filled with the knowledge of God's will?*

*God's will consists of "all wisdom and spiritual understanding" from His word. To get wisdom and spiritual understanding we need the help of the Holy Spirit to rightly divide the word of God.*

*To divide the Word of God rightly we need to compare scripture with scripture 1Co 2:13 Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; how? By comparing spiritual things with spiritual. In this manner we take into consideration the whole council of God in a spiritual matter. Failure to rightly divide the word of God can result in carnal understanding of the scriptures and applying it with men's wisdom. 2Pe 3:16 As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.*

*The Apostle prays and desires that they "might be filled with the knowledge of his will". Our desire for the spiritual progress of our fellow believers leads to our prayers for them so they seek and know the will of God.*

Col 1:10 That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;

*How do we walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing according to this verse? 1. By being fruitful. Joh 15:8 Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples. Mat 3:8 Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance: what are some fruit worthy of repentance? Forgiveness vs bitterness, being kind vs. being harsh, loving vs. hating one another. Being fruitful in every good work; Not the works we think are good but what God has determined. Eph 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them. examples: labor of love toward believers (Heb. 6:10), labor of reaching the lost for Christ by planting and watering the seed of God's word in the heart of men(1Cor. 3:6)...*

*"Increasing in the knowledge of God": No matter how much we have learned and grown we are still in need of learning more of both the general and specific will of God. When we stop learning and increasing in the knowledge of God we are displeasing the Lord.*

2Pe 3:18 But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. God by His grace enables us to understand and apply the knowledge of His word.

Col 1:11 Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness;

*"Strengthened" here is for what purpose? For patience and longsuffering. Strength to bear in sufferings, persecutions in conflicts in relationships, etc. God rewards our patience and longsuffering by His strength with joyfulness. The reason that we don't bear difficulties with joyfulness is that we try to bear affliction by our own strength and not God's strength.*

*How do we get this strength?*

1. *By asking: Psa 29:11 The LORD will give strength unto his people.*

2. *By following the ways of God : Pro 10:29 The way of the LORD is strength to the upright. *The more holy we become the more we become like Christ and the more divine strength we will have for patience and suffering**

3. *By wisdom: Pro 24:5 A wise man is strong; yea, a man of knowledge increaseth strength.*

4. *By putting on the whole armor of God: Eph 6:10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Eph 6:11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.*

Neh 8:10 for the joy of the LORD is your strength. *The Joy of the Lord and His strength feed on each other.*

Col 1:12 Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet (made us fit) to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:

1Pe 1:4 To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,

Col 1:13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated *us* into the kingdom of his dear Son:

*What represents darkness in contrast to light:*

*God is light, Satan is darkness, the word of God as truth is light, the lies of Devil are darkness, Psa 119:130 The entrance of thy words giveth light. *The entrance of Devil's words bring darkness.**

Eph 5:8 For ye were sometimes darkness, but now *are ye* light in the Lord

Col 1:14 In whom we have redemption through his blood, *even* the forgiveness of sins:

*Why did we obtain redemption and forgiveness? Because of His grace.*

Eph 1:7 In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace; because of the riches of his grace.

Col 1:15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: *not first born among all creatures. First born of every creature denotes preeminence, that is, being first in relation to all of creation.*

Col 1:16 For by him (Jesus Christ) were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether *they be* thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

*God names the different powers to magnify the power of Christ above all created beings. 1Pe 3:22 Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him.*

Rom 11:36 For of him, and through him, and to him, *are* all things: to whom *be* glory for ever. *Since He made us for Himself, how should that affect our thinking about our life? 2Co 5:15 And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again. Satan decided to live for himself and his own glory and as a result was cursed to everlasting torments of hell fire.*

*Why were all things made? Rev. 4:11 “for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created”. That is why we should live to please Him by doing His will and not pursue our own will and pleasures. Then our life will be truly fulfilled and satisfying.*

Col 1:17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

*By him all things consist (stand together). Since he holds our being together so that we don't fall apart in disorder, how should that affect our thoughts toward Him? Let Him be in control of our lives because He knows best how to make things fit together so they work out for our good. People's lives fall apart in one way or another because they want to be in control (pride). They are deceived to think that they can lead their lives better than Christ.*

Col 1:18 And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all *things* he might (not possible but certainly) have the preeminence (be first). *His description as the head, the beginning, the firstborn, the pre eminent all emphasize His position as the first and supreme over all creation.*

*Christ as head of His people not only gives guidance but also gives the strength to follow His guidance.*

Eph 1:19 And what *is* the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,

Eph 1:20 Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set *him* at his own right hand in the heavenly *places*,

Eph 1:21 Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come:

*When we understand how elevated the position of Christ is we will realize that He deserves the same honor that God deserves.*

Joh 5:23 That all *men* should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father.

Col 1:19 For it pleased *the Father* that in him should all fullness dwell;

*What fullness is that?* Col\_2:9 For in him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.

Eph 4:13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

Eph\_3:19 And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.

*What is the difference between us getting filled with all the fullness of God and Christ in whom is all the fullness of God. Some religious sects believe we can become God and God was once a man.*

Eph 5:18 be filled with the Spirit. *This command shows that some may not be filled with the Spirit but Christ as God did not need to be filled with God the Holy Spirit because all the fullness of God always dwells in Him.*

*Also comparing scripture with scripture we conclude that for us to get filled with all the fullness of God cannot mean becoming God because we read: Isa 45:6 I am the LORD, and there is none else.*

Col 1:20 And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, *I say*, whether *they be* things in earth, or things in heaven.

*Some sects have used this verse to give the false teaching that all people will eventually be reconciled to God and go to Heaven. By comparing scripture with scripture to understand the whole council of God with regards to this matter we can easily see that the majority of people by choice refuse to reconcile with God through the blood of Christ shed on the cross. Mat 7:13 Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Mat 7:14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.*

*“by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven”. Men on earth were reconciled to God by the blood of Christ. As a result they received divine nature that could not sin though their carnal nature will continue to sin till death. 1Jn 3:9 Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.*

*Heavenly beings that did not join Satan in rebellion against God were still capable of rebellion as Satan was. Angles were somehow changed to live in permanent peace with God in Heaven in the eternal state. They will be no more capable of rebellion against God in Heaven.*

\*Eph 1:10 That in the dispensation of the fullness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; *even* in him:

\*Col 1:21 And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in *your* mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled.

\*Jas 4:4 Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God. Worldly mindedness provokes and offends God because the ways of the world are often against the ways of God.



Why did Christ reconcile us to God?

\*Col 1:22 In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unreprouvable in his sight:

Col 1:23 If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and *be* not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, *and* which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;

How can we become stable Christians?

Eph 4:11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets (*the ministry of apostles and prophets ceased when the Word of God was completed which can fully equip us for all service, 2Tim 3,16-17*); and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; Eph 4:12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Eph 4:13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: Eph 4:14 That we *henceforth* be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, *and* cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; Col 2:7 Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.

*A tree that is moved often (unstable) will not take root and bear fruit. A Christian that is unstable will not develop the strength to bear lasting fruit.*

Joh 15:4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. *The word "continue" in Col 1:23 has a word in it that is also used in this verse which means to remain.*

Joh 8:31 ...If ye continue (remain) in my word, *then* are ye my disciples indeed; *A true follower of Christ will continue in His Word.*

Col 1:24 Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the church:

Rejoice in suffering? Why?

1Pe 4:13 But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.

*God blesses suffering for Christ's sake with joy unspeakable*

Col 1:25 Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God;

*How did he fulfil the word of God? Paul became the Apostle to the Gentiles to fulfill the word of God that the Gentiles should hear the Gospel.*

Luk 2:30 *after seeing the child Jesus* Simon said: For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,

Luk 2:31 Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;

Luk 2:32 A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.

Rom 11:13 For I speak to you Gentiles, inasmuch as I am the apostle of the Gentiles.

Rom 15:9 And that the Gentiles might glorify God for *his* mercy; as it is written, For this cause I will confess to thee among the Gentiles, and sing unto thy name.

Rom 15:10 And again he saith, Rejoice, ye Gentiles, with his people.

### **Colossians 1:26-29**

Col 1:26 *Even* the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints:

Eph\_3:9 And to make all *men* see what *is* the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:

*What is this mystery?*

Col 1:27 To whom God would make known what *is* the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:

Christ is in us as Gentiles (non-Jews) as well as the believing Jews since he died for the Jews and the Gentiles on the cross.

Eph 2:14 For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition *between us*;

Eph\_3:8 Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ;

*What are some of the riches of the glory of this mystery?*

Col\_2:3 In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

Eph\_1:7 In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

Eph\_1:18 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,

Heb\_11:26 Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward.

2Pe\_1:4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises

1Pe\_1:7 That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

Gal\_5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance. The fruit of the spirit are more valuable to acquire than riches.

Col 1:28 Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus:

*All (believers and unbelievers) need to be warned and taught; warning of pending eternal judgement and torments of hell fire on the unsaved and warnings of going astray from the ways of the Lord for the saved. Warnings and teachings must be based on the word of God (2tim 3,16-17).*

*Both warnings and teaching are to be done in wisdom. How and when to address a person (or persons) and what should be said or conveyed all require guidance of the Holy Spirit and wisdom of God to be effective. Warning moves a person to see his need for teaching. The ultimate goal of warning and teaching is to "present every man perfect in Christ Jesus."*

Col 1:29 Whereunto I also labour, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily.

*The Greek word for striving has the root word "agony". Labor for Christ sometimes involves agonizing experiences which could not be born by our own strength. To accomplish the work of Christ successfully requires His working (Greek word "enery") in us and through us.*

Eph\_3:16 That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;

### Colossians 2 verses 1 to 3

Col 2:1 For I would that ye knew what great conflict I have for you, and *for* them at Laodicea, and *for* as many as have not seen my face in the flesh;

*The Apostle Paul cared so much for believers he had not even seen that he was willing to take such pains for them. We can help other believers in many ways though we may not see them: prayers, meeting material needs, writing letters etc.*

An example of His great conflict for believers:

2Co\_1:8 For we would not, brethren, have you ignorant of our trouble which came to us in Asia, that we were pressed out of measure, above strength, insomuch that we despaired even of life:

*To what purpose did he have such a great conflict?*

Col 2:2 That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ;

*Who comforts our hearts? The comforter (the Holy Spirit). Joh\_14:16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;*

*Material riches like modern technology bring comfort to people (comfortable life). Spiritual riches bring spiritual comfort to the hearts of men.*

*"being knit together in love": love ties us together . To knit two things together first they need to be brought close to each other: Love motivates us to think of one another, pray for one another and help one another, meet with one another, all of which bring us closer to each other.*

“All riches of the full assurance of understanding” *of what?*

1. Specifically “acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ”

*There are mysteries (things hidden before) about the operation of God among men that when revealed to us we will acknowledge them by faith:*

Rom 11:25 For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.

1Co 15:51 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,

Eph 3:4 Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ

Eph 3:5 Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit;

Eph 3:6 That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel:

Eph 5:31 For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.

Eph 5:32 This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

1Ti 3:16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.

Col 2:3 In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Prov 8:11 For wisdom *is* better than rubies; and all the things that may be desired are not to be compared to it.

2. *In a general sense “full assurance of understanding” of the knowledge of the truths of Christ are to be considered treasures. Why? Because of the fruit they bring in our lives: more obedience, bolder witness, more faith, salvation, etc.*

Colossians 2: 4 to 7

**Col 2:4** And this I say, lest any man should beguile you with enticing words.

*Through men the enemy wants to lure us in his traps to spoil us.*

Col 2:8 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. *Whatever is not after Christ will ultimately lead to damage of souls.*

Rom\_16:18 For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.

*The enemy tries to convince us that Christ and His word is not enough and we need to look elsewhere but we read in Col 2:3 In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Col 2:10 “And ye are complete in him”. Apostle Paul was fully convinced of the importance of pursuit of Christ.*

Php\_3:8 Yea doubtless, and I count all things *but* loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them *but* dung, that I may win Christ.

**Col 2:5** For though I be absent in the flesh, yet am I with you in the spirit, joying and beholding your order, and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ.

*Apostle Paul had extraordinary ability in his relation to churches in his absence. With regards to occurrence of immorality in the Church in Corinth he writes:*

1Co 5:3 For I verily, as absent in body, but present in spirit, have judged already, as though I were present, *concerning him that hath so done this deed,*

*How can we be safe from the deception of seducers and false teachers according to the next two verses?*

**Col 2:6** As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, *so walk ye in him.*

*As we initially obeyed Christ through repentance from our sins and receiving Him as our Lord and savior let us continue following Him by going His ways as revealed in His word and not our ways. Walking in Christ is to go the ways of His word. Psalm 119:9 Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the LORD.*

**Col 2:7** Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.

*“Rooted”*: *The deeper a tree gets rooted the stronger and more stable it gets.*

Eph\_4:14 That we *henceforth* be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, *and* cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

*How do we get rooted in Christ? Eph\_3:17 That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love. Love of Christ is like the most fertile soil to let our lives take roots in.*

*“built up in Him”*: *The house of our lives must be built on Christ as a strong foundation like a rock.*

Mat 7:24 Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:

Mat 7:25 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.

*“stablished in the faith”*. *The more we continue in the faith in God’s word the more firm and stable believers we will become. As a result we will be less in danger of being deceived by seducers of our souls.*

*“ abounding therein”*: *We need to abound (increase) in faith in His word to withstand the assaults of the enemy. Why? Because the stronger we become in the faith of Christ the more subtle schemes and hidden snares will the enemy use to trap and deceive us from the holy paths of Christ.*

*“with thanksgiving”*. *A thankful heart inclines God to continue to give more grace to us to grow in faith and in the discernment of the enemy’s deceptions.*

<sup>8</sup> Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

*Spoil is translation for a word that means to carry off booty.*

Mar 3:27 No man can enter into a strong man's house, and spoil (plunder) his goods, except he will first bind the strong man; and then he will spoil his house.

*The person plundered will feel weak and desperate because of the loss of all his goods. What will the deceivers spoil us of? Our most important treasure: our faith in God's word. Satan spoiled Eve of her trust in what God had said and lead her and Adam in the ruin of their sin. The end of what appeared to be an appealing and promising choice was death.*

*How will deceivers spoil us of our faith according to this verse? Through philosophy and vain deceit. Philosophy means love of wisdom which itself is a noble thing if it is derived from the word and works of God. The result of that wisdom is to confirm and strengthen our faith in God. But the enemy uses philosophy to clothe a deceptive wisdom that is derived from the traditions of men and has its roots and foundation in the ways of the world. This philosophy will appear to be attractive and pleasing to the human mind and nature but at the end it will rob us of our faith because it will oppose the wisdom of God. 1Co 1:20 Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?*

1Co 1:18 For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness. *The wisdom of God and this world are in their core and origin contrary to each other .*

*The Jews mixed God's word with traditions of men and the result was what Christ said to them: "Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition" Mar 7:13*

*The Gentile Christian mixed the faith of Christ with superstitions and idolatry. Col 2:18 Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels.*

*Christians are prone to deception: Gal 1:6 I marvel that ye are **so soon** removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Gal 1:7 Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.*

1Pe 1:18 Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation *received* by tradition from your fathers;

*Vain deceit is lies that are attractive, promising and convincing words and thoughts which are hollow and destitute of truth.*

1Ti 6:20 O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science (knowledge) falsely so called. Example: Darwinism.

*To convince us that we don't need to turn to such philosophies the Apostle says:*

<sup>9</sup> For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.<sup>10</sup> And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:

*Note that the Apostle first emphasizes the greatness of Christ. Then if we are in Christ we are complete in Him because God is complete. The word fullness and complete have the same root word which has to do with filling. Since we are full in Christ who has the fullness of God in Him therefore we need to keep our faith pure by not mixing it with traditions and philosophies of men.*

<sup>11</sup> in whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ: *our circumcision is of the heart by the Spirit of God and not that of the body by men's hands.* Tit 3:5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and

renewing of the Holy Ghost; *the only way the body of the sins of the flesh can be put off is by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Spirit which is the new birth.*

Gal 6:15 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature.

2Co 5:17 Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

<sup>12</sup> buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with *him* through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.

*Baptized Christians are addressed about the significance of their baptism. The Greek word for baptism means immersion. The first instance the word baptize is used is in Mat 3:11 I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire:*

*Obviously “buried with him” does not convey a physical burial but an inner experience as a result of union with Christ.*

*Before someone is buried he must die. How do believers die in this sense?*

Rom 6:6 Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with *him*, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. Why should our old nature be crucified?

*Man in his natural state is “corrupt according to the deceitful lusts” (Eph4:22) and is against God and must be spiritually crucified. The only person that can effectively put to death our old nature is Christ: “buried with him”.*

*Christ baptizes us with the Holy Spirit into his body. 1Cor 12:13 For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body. Through this spiritual baptism we become part of the body of Christ.*

Baptism conveys both dying and rising with Christ. Water baptism is a physical sign of spiritual baptism already taken place by the Holy Spirit to make us part of the body of Christ through being born again. Water baptism is to fulfill righteousness (Mat 3:15) as an act of obedience to Christ. Acts of obedience to God or good works are the fruits of faith and not the cause of faith. True faith comes only by hearing the Word of God (Rom. 10:17) and not by doing the words of God. To require mixing faith with acts of obedience to obtain salvation would contradict salvation by faith alone. Eph 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God:

What is the purpose of baptism? Rom 6:4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. *To live out our baptism successfully consider these verses:*

Rom 6:11 Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Rom 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

<sup>13</sup> And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; *New life comes only from Christ and in union with Him.*

<sup>14</sup> blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;

*The ordinances (Greek word dogma) were various washings for uncleanness, sacrifices and offerings for sin the law required. They frequently reminded men of the judgements of their sins which were against them and had to be atoned for. All those “dogmas” against us were destroyed at the cross so a Christian can live with a clear conscience freed from the bondage of guilt.*

Heb 9:14 How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

<sup>15</sup> and having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it. *The power of Satan over us that kept us in bondage to sin and the spiritual death was destroyed at the cross. As a result of Christ triumph over Satan and all his powers a Christian can serve Jesus Christ with a clear conscience and joy.*

Colossians 2 verses 16 to 19

Col 2:16 Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days: Col 2:17 Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ.

*Another way the enemy tried to deceive believers was to hinder them by binding their consciences with ceremonial regulations of the law. The ceremonial laws were shadows of the Truth which is Jesus Christ. The deceivers might mix the Christian faith with those regulations that were done away at the cross (v.14) to make the sacrifice of Christ as insufficient for our salvation. We see that in our days many religions that claim to be Christian add keeping of certain laws or rules to the finished work of Christ as requirement for salvation. Salvation is no more by faith alone but a mixture of faith and obedience to commandments of God or of their particular denominations. This is appealing to the human reasoning but is based on the wisdom of man and not God. If we do not truly be convinced of salvation by faith alone we can get deceived to a partially work based salvation. Gal 3:1 O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you? Gal 3:2 This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? This is an eternally important question. Wrong answer to this question will cost us an eternity in the torments of hell with no escape.*

Col 2:18 Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind, *Here is another effective way the deceived deceive others: a combination of outward humility (e.g. an austere lifestyle) and apparent gain of higher knowledge such as angelic revelations.*

*The Greek word translated worship is translated religion 3 times in NT. This conveys detailed knowledge and access to angelic beings not accessible to others. In some religions angels are called upon for help but this is offensive to Christ because it conveys that Christ's intercession is not sufficient. 1Tim 2:5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;*

*In other religions claim is made that men have received new words from God in addition to the words of the Bible. Such claims sound very impressive and appealing to curios men. However all such claims are offensive to God because they convey the thought that what God has said in the*



*scriptures is not sufficient to live by.* Tim 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 2Tim 3:17 That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.

Col 2:19 And not holding the Head, from which all the body by joints and bands having nourishment ministered, and knit together, increaseth with the increase of God. *It is Christ who feeds His body of believers with knowledge and helps us increase in Him. He wants us to increase:*

Luk 17:5 And the apostles said unto the Lord, Increase our faith. How does He increase our faith? Rom 10:17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Joh 3:30 He must increase, but I must decrease. *If we want Christ to increase in us we must decrease. How? By humbling ourselves through developing the mind of Christ who was humble.*

Php 2:3 Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Php 1:9 And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment; How? Rom 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

1Th 3:12 And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men, even as we do toward you:

*On the contrary: we can decrease in godliness, in discernment, love, faith and godliness.*

2Ti 2:16 But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness.

Psa 53:3 Every one of them is gone back: they are altogether become filthy; *there is none that doeth good, no, not one.*

*What can we do so we don't go back to sin and our old wicked ways?* Hebrews 2:1 Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip.

#### Colossians 3 verses 3 to 6

Col 3:3 For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. "Ye are dead" *in Greek is literally you died as a completed action. Who died and when did he die?*

Rom 6:6 Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with *him*, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. *Our old man died when we believed in Jesus Christ and at the same time a new man was created in Christ whose life is hid with Christ.*

*Our life is hid with Christ. Our life is secure in Christ. We live by faith.* 2Co 5:7 (For we walk by faith, not by sight:). Php 1:21 For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

Col 3:4 When Christ, *who is* our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.

1Jn 3:2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

*Glory belongs to God because he is glorious. We can see earthly glory by the sight of great cities and palaces of kings and great men like those of ancient Egypt and Rome. God's glory is a supernatural glory by which He glorifies us. We can have some idea of God's glory from the scriptures:* Exo 24:17 And the sight of the glory of the LORD was like devouring fire on the top

of the mount in the eyes of the children of Israel. Lev 9:23 And Moses and Aaron went into the tabernacle of the congregation, and came out, and blessed the people: and the glory of the LORD appeared unto all the people. We will appear with Christ in glory Rev 21:23 And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.

Col 3:5 Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: *if we don't mortify them they will hurt us. Cancer cells must be destroyed or else they will spread and will kill us. So is sin if we do not get cleansed of it by confessing and forsaking it. How do we mortify lusts? By the word of God and prayer we can overcome them when they assail us. Lusts are like destructive forces that aim at destroying our spiritual lives. For example the right reaction to the very common and tempting sin of fornication (pornea) is: 1Cor 6:18 Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body. Think of fornication as a tornado. If you get too close to it by playing with the thoughts of it which are accompanied with pleasures, you will be forcibly captured by it. Run for shelter in Christ before you get destroyed by it.*

*Covetousness is spiritual idolatry which can easily be excused and ignored by the carnal mind. Many businesses and money making activities feed on the sin of covetousness or the promotion of it. How can we protect ourselves from the subtle sin of covetousness? Heb 13:5 Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. 1Ti 6:8 And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. 1Ti 6:6 But godliness with contentment is great gain.*

Col 3:6 For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience: *Sin weakens us and brings shame and reproach with it.*

Psa 31:10 For my life is spent with grief, and my years with sighing: my strength faileth because of mine iniquity, and my bones are consumed. Psa 31:11 I was a reproach among all mine enemies, but especially among my neighbours, and a fear to mine acquaintance: they that did see me without fled from me. Psa 31:12 I am forgotten as a dead man out of mind: I am like a broken vessel.

*Sin provokes God to wrath:*

Col 3:6 For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience: Eph 5:3 But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; Eph 5:4 Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks. Eph 5:5 For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Eph 5:6 Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience. Eph 5:7 Be not ye therefore partakers with them.

Rom 1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;

Col 3:12 Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;

*Let's define and connect these qualities:*

*Elect of God means chosen by God in Christ to serve Him and promote His glory and honor. The first attribute in the verse above is holiness. If we are an elect of God we must be holy because He is holy. Holy is set apart for God's use and service. The more we devote ourselves to God and His service the more holy we become like the Lord Jesus who is the Holy one of God. All His thoughts, words and actions were to please and serve His heavenly father. If we are holy then we will exercise His holy attributes:*

*Mercy is to be exercised by us because we found mercy. How do we exercise mercy? Luk 10:37 And he said, He (the Samaritan that helped a wounded man left by himself) that shewed mercy on him (by taking care of him) . Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise. Luk 6:36 Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful.*

*Mercy leads to kindness: Luke 6:35 But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil.*

*To be kind it takes humbleness of mind. Humbleness of mind is to think low and little of oneself in comparison to God and others. This will lead a person to think of God and others above himself. As a result a life of service to self turns to a life of service to God and others.*

*Humbleness leads to meekness, Mat 11:29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. Moses became the meekest man on the face of the earth. His meekness showed itself in his reaction to those rebellious Israelites whom he helped and lead out of their bondage in Egypt. When he was tried and opposed and even hated by his people at times he beseeched the Lord rather than getting angry and bitter toward His people. That is why he could still love and pray for them and seek their welfare before God.*

*Meekness will bring longsuffering. The Greek word consists of the words far and wrath. Longsuffering is ability to suffer long under adversity and pressure without getting angry and hateful.*

Col 3:13 Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. *Forbearing prepares us to forgive. There can be disagreement even among the best of men (Paul and Barnabas) but forgiving is a serious command Mat 6:15 But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.*

*A sweet blessing comes to our soul when we forbear and forgive contrary to our human nature that wants to hold grudge and revenge.*

Col 3:14 And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.

The top priority of a Christian is to love God and men who were made in His image. Agape is God's type of love explained in detail in 1 Cor. 13. 1Co 13:4 Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, 1Co 13:5 Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; 1Co 13:6 Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth;

1Co 13:7 Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.

Col 3:15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.

*We are called to pursue peace with God and men. Heb 12:14 Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord: When we are peaceful we represent Christ better because He is the prince of peace who brought to us the Gospel of peace.*

Rom 14:17 For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.

Col 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

Eph 5:19 Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;

*The Greek word translated dwell has the word house in it. When a person lives in a house he is in contact with those in the house. The Word must dwell richly in us not poorly. As a rich person is one who has a lot of money so is a spiritually rich person one who has a lot of the Word living in him.*

*In all wisdom: the Word must live in us to affect our thinking, words and deeds so we get conformed to Christ because it is the word of Christ. Knowing the Word and not to know how to apply it is like having a very useful tool but not know how to use it.*

*Teaching one another helps us to get sharpened in our use of the Word. Teaching one another also will improve our communication of the word to others. Teaching one another is not the same as the gift of teaching for we know that not all will be given that gift. Eph 4:11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;*

*It is one thing to know the Word and use it ourselves but another to speak it effectively to others. Many do not grow to teach the Word to one another.*

Heb 5:11 Of whom we have many things to say, and hard to be uttered, seeing ye are dull of hearing. Heb 5:12 For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. Heb 5:13 For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. Heb 5:14 But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use (gegumnasmena from which we get gymnastics) have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil. *When we don't exercise and move our bodies we get lazy. When we don't exercise the use of the Word we become spiritually dull.*

Admonishing one another : warn, exhort. (Greek word consist of mind + put: "put in mind")

Singing with grace in your hearts. *When we sing for Christ and to Him God's grace enables us to sing in a God pleasing way.*

Col 3:17 And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him. Col 3:23 And whatsoever ye do, do *it* heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Eph 5:20 Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;

Col 3:18 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord. Eph 5:22 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. Eph 5:23 For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. Eph 5:24 Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so *let* the wives *be* to their own husbands in every thing.

1Pe 3:1 Likewise, ye wives, *be* in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives;

*The following verses prove that the Apostle Paul did not write above verses because he was a male chauvinist or prejudiced against women:*

1Ti 2:13 For Adam was first formed, then Eve. 1Ti 2:14 And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression. 1Co 11:8 For the man is not of the woman; but the woman of the man. 1Co 11:9 Neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman for the man.

Col 3:19 Husbands, love *your* wives, and be not bitter against them.

Eph 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

Eph 5:26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,

Eph 5:28 So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself.

Eph 5:29 For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church: 1Co 13:4 Charity suffereth long, *and* is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, 1Co 13:5 Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; 1Co 13:6 Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth;

1Co 13:7 Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.

1Pe 3:7 Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with *them* according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.

Col 3:20 Children, obey *your* parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord.

ph 6:1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.

Eph 6:2 Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;)

Eph 6:3 That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.

Col 3:21 Fathers, provoke not your children *to anger*, lest they be discouraged.

Eph 6:4 And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

*Children can be provoked to anger easier than adults. Over 20 times we read in the Old Testament that God is provoked to anger by sin of his people Deut. 9:8 Also in Horeb (where the 10 commandments were given) ye provoked the LORD to wrath, so that the LORD was angry with you to have destroyed you. If God who is very forbearing was provoked to wrath by their sins*

*against Him how much more can children by our sins against them. Extending to adults: we could provoke others to wrath by our sinning against them.*

*Remedies to pacify wrath and anger: Pro 21:14 A gift in secret pacifieth anger: and a reward in the bosom strong wrath. Pro 15:1 A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger. *Humbling ourselves before those we have hurt by confessing our faults can help better the relationship . Jas 5:16 Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.**

Col 3:22 Servants, obey in all things *your* masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God:

Eph 6:5 Servants, be obedient to them that are *your* masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ;

Eph 6:6 Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart;

Eph 6:7 With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men:

Col 3:23 And whatsoever ye do, do *it* heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;

Rom\_12:11 Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord;

Col 3:24 Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ. *When whatever we do we do for his glory then our expectation is from Him.* Psa\_62:5 My soul, wait thou only upon God; for my expectation *is* from him.

Col 3:25 But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons.

Col 4:1 Masters, give unto *your* servants that which is just and equal; knowing that ye also have a Master in heaven.

Give to your servant that which is just: *a just man does what is just.*

*Who is just?* Heb. 10:38 the just shall live by his faith. *A just man is one who lives by faith in the word of God which results in doing that which is lawful and right according by the Word of God. That which is equal is equity: fairness in compensating for the work done. Provide for them what is a proper wage, work environment, rest and time with their family. Help them to look forward to coming to work.*

*The opposite is injustice:* James 5:4 Behold, the hire of the labourers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of sabaoth.

*How does the Lord as our master treat us? He loves us, leads us, cares for us.*

*A good master loves and cares for his servants.* Mat 7:12 Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets. *A good master would treat his servants as he would want to be treated if he were a servant.*

Col 4:2 Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving;

*it is one thing to pray but it is another to continue in prayer. It takes serious persistence to continue in prayer. Why is thanksgiving mentioned? Before we ask for more we need to show to God that we are thankful for what he already has given us. A person that keeps asking for more and is not thankful for what he has or gets will not likely get more.*

Mat 26:41 Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed *is* willing, but the flesh *is* weak.

Mar 13:33 Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is.

Mar 13:34 *For the Son of man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch.*

Mar 13:35 Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning:

Mar 13:36 Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping.

Mar 13:37 And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch.

Col 4:3 Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds:

Col 4:4 That I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak

*Even Paul asked for prayer. An open door to speak for Christ is part of succeeding to speak for Him. The next part is to speak effectively for Him. Both are needed. Gospel mysteries are to be understood and expressed. It takes the Holy spirit to enable speaking the Gospel truths and enlighten the understanding of the hearers when the Gospel is preached.*

“for which I am also in bonds” to speak the Gospel truths has a suffering of one kind or another associated with it which keeps many from speaking the Word boldly.

2Tim 3:12 Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.

Col 4:5 Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time.

Eph 5:15 See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise,

Eph 5:16 Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

*Here are some reasons why to conduct ourselves wisely: to give good impression about Christ whose name we bear. Not bring reproach upon His holy name. To make best of each encounter with people because each encounter is an opportunity to exercise our faith and Christian love to the glory of God. Not to hinder or impede the interest of others in the Gospel.*

“circumspect” (Eph. 5:15) in Greek means accurately, diligently. We are to conduct ourselves carefully and thoughtfully.

*Great example of being wise toward them that are without is Daniel who in immoral Babylon behaved himself so wisely that he was promoted to next to highest office in the land. He carefully avoided the defilements around him and lived a pure life in the midst of a corrupt culture.*

“Redeeming the time”: *We need to redeem the time for God because of the presence of evil. Evil would take our time captive so that it is either wasted or used for wrong ends rather than God’s glory. In other words we need to rescue our time from loss.*

*If we don’t know how to spend our time let’s pray and ask that God would show us.*

1Cor. 10:31 Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God. *This command implies that we should spend the time God gives us for His glory.*

Col 4:6 Let your speech *be* always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man. 1Pe 3:15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and *be* ready always to *give* an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

*What will help make our speech graceful?* Pro\_22:11 He that loveth pureness of heart, for the grace of his lips the king shall be his friend.

“Seasoned with salt”: as the salt gives flavor and preserves food so does a graceful tongue will have good effects on hearers and protects us against saying corrupt words.

Pro\_16:24 Pleasant words *are as* an honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones.

Pro\_25:11 A word fitly spoken *is like* apples of gold in pictures of silver.

Pro\_16:21 The wise in heart shall be called prudent: and the sweetness of the lips increaseth learning.

Col 4:7 All my state shall Tychicus declare unto you, *who is* a beloved brother, and a faithful minister and fellowservant in the Lord: Col 4:8 Whom I have sent unto you for the same purpose, that he might know your estate, and comfort your hearts;

*Here are more verses to learn about Tychicus:*

Eph\_6:24 Grace *be* with all them that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. Amen. To the Ephesians written from Rome, by Tychicus.

Act\_20:4 And there accompanied him into Asia Sopater of Berea; and of the Thessalonians, Aristarchus and Secundus; and Gaius of Derbe, and Timotheus; and of Asia, Tychicus and Trophimus.

2Ti\_4:12 And Tychicus have I sent to Ephesus.