COLOSSIANS

CHAPTER 1

1. **Paul, one sent with a mission pertaining to Christ Jesus** (or: an envoy of [the] Anointed Jesus; an emissary who has his origin in Christ Jesus) **through God's will, and Timothy, the brother** (or: = fellow believer; or: brother Timothy),
2. **To the set-apart folks** (the holy ones) **within Colossae – even to ones full of faith** (or: to faithful and trusting people) **– to [the] brothers within Christ** (or: and to loyal fellow believers [who are] in union with [the] Anointed [other MSS add: Jesus])**:**
Grace and favor, as well as peace and harmony [= shalom], **to you folks from God our Father** [other MSS read: from God, our Father and Lord, Jesus Christ].

3**. We habitually express gratitude for the goodness in grace, and give thanks to God, the Father** [other MSS: to the God and Father] **of our Lord, Jesus Christ, at all times continually thinking and speaking goodness concerning** (or: praying about) **you folks,**
4. **hearing of your faith and trust [being, resident, or having its source] within Christ Jesus** (or: in union with [the] Anointed Jesus) **and the love which you folks habitually have and hold [which is extended and given] into all the set-apart folks** (or: holy ones; saints)
5. **because of the expectation** (or: hope) **– the one continuously lying stored away as a reserve – resident within the atmospheres** (or: heavens), **which you folks already heard** (or: heard before) **within the word** (message; discourse; or: Logos) **concerning the Truth** (or: the word of truth; the idea belonging to and having its source in Reality; the message which is truth and reality) **which originates in and pertains to the message of ease, goodness and well-being** (or: which belongs to the good news).
6. **This [word] is being continuously present alongside [and proceeding] into you folks, just as it is also continuously existing within all the ordered System** (within the entire the world of culture, religion, economics and government; or: in the entire universe), **repeatedly bearing fruit of itself and constantly being grown and caused to be increasing, just as also within you folks, from [the] day in which you heard and at once fully experienced – in intimate knowing and accurate realization – the grace of God, within Truth** (or: God's favor resident within [the] truth; God's grace in the midst of reality; or: the favor which, in reality, is God).

7. **Just in this way, you folks [were taught and] learned from Epaphras, our beloved fellow-slave, who is full of faith and loyal, an attending servant of the Christ on our** [other MSS: your] **behalf** (or: who is a faithful dispenser of the Christ [who is] over us [or: you folks]),

8. **the person also clearly showing and making evident to us your love in spirit** (or: your love within [the] Breath-effect; your love in union with [the] Spirit).

9. **And because of this** (or: So that is why) **we, from the day on which we heard, are not ceasing constant praying** (thinking and speaking toward things being well) **over your [situation] and asking** (or: making a request) **on behalf of you folks, to the end that you may be filled full with the entire contents of the accurate, full, experiential, intimate knowledge of His will** (His design, purpose, plan and intention; or: so that you may know and experience all that He wants you to know and experience) **within the sphere of all wisdom and spiritual understanding** (comprehension; a junction of that which is sent together; discernment; being able to make the pieces fit together).
10. **[Thus we pray for you] to walk about** (i.e., to live your life) **worthily** (with corresponding value) **pertaining to the Lord** (the Owner; [= Yahweh or Christ]) **into all pleasing** (or: into every desire to please; into entire pleasure) **within every good work or virtuous action, habitually bearing fruit and constantly being folks [that] are being progressively caused to grow and increase in the full, accurate, experiential and intimate knowledge of God** (or: with God's full experience of intimate knowledge and insight; or: by the added insight and experiential knowledge which is God),
11. **being continuously empowered in every ability** (being ones progressively enabled within all power) **corresponding to** (or: down from and in the sphere of) **the strength of His glory** (or: the might pertaining to and having its source in His reputation or His manifestation of that which calls forth praise; or: = the strength coming from His manifested presence [= Shekinah]) **into every [situation of] persistent remaining under [difficulties] to humbly give patient support** (or: unto all relentless endurance) **and long-waiting before rushing into emotions** (or: long endurance; a long time before breathing violently with passion; or: perseverance; tolerance towards others), **accompanied by** (or: together with) **joy.**
12**. [We are folks who are] constantly giving thanks to the Father: the One calling you** [other MSS: us] **– as well as making [you; us] competent** (sufficient; qualified; fit; suitable) **– into the divided share** (portion; part) **of the lot of the inheritance** (allotted possession) **of the set-apart folks** (or: pertaining to the holy ones; belonging to the saints) **within the Light;**
13. **He who drags us out of danger** (or: rescued us) **forth from out of the midst of the authority of the Darkness** (Darkness's jurisdiction and right; = the privilege of ignorance), **and changes [our] position** (or: transported [us], thus, giving [us] a change of standing, and transferred [us]) **into the midst of the kingdom and reign of the Son of His love**

(or: of the Son Who has the characteristics and qualities of His love; the Son Whose origin is His love; or: the Son of the love which is Him; the Son which is His love),

14. **in Whom** (or: in union with [which Son]) **we continuously have and hold the redemption** (the release and liberation procured by payment of a ransom) **[which results in] the sending away** (the dismissal; the divorce; the flowing

away) **of the failures** (of the errors pertaining to falling short and straying to the side of the target; of the sins; of the mistakes).
15. **It is [this Son] Who is the Image** (the Exact Formed Likeness; the Figure and Representation; visible likeness; portrait) **of the not-seen God** (or: the unable to be seen God; the invisible God), **the Firstborn of all creation**

(or: of every creature; or: of every framing and founding; of every act of reducing from a state of disorder and wildness; or: pertaining to the whole creation; or: = the Inheritor of all creation Who will also assume authority over and responsibility for every creature [note: this is the duty of the firstborn]),

16. **because within Him was created** (or: in union with Him is founded and settled, is built and planted, is brought into being, is produced and established) **the whole** (or: all things) **– the things within the atmospheres and skies** (or: heavens), **and the things upon the earth** (or: land); **the visible things, and the unseen** (or: unable to be seen; invisible) **things: whether thrones** (seats of power) **or lordships** (ownership systems) **or governments** (rulers; leadership systems; sovereignties) **or authorities – the whole** (or: all things) **has been created and continues founded and stands framed through means of Him, and [proceeds, or was placed] into Him** (or: = He is the agent and goal of all creation).

17. **And He is before** (prior to; or: maintains precedence of) **all things and all people, and the whole has** (or: all things have) **been placed together and now continues to jointly-stand** (stands cohesively; is made to have a co-standing) **within the midst of and in union with Him,**
18. **and so He is the Head** (or: Source) **of the body – which is the called-out community** (the ecclesia; the summoned congregation) **– Who is the Beginning** (or: the Ruler; the Originator), **a Firstborn forth from out of the midst of dead folks, to the end that He may be birthed** (come into existence; or: come to be) **within all things and in all people: He continuously holding first place**

(or: constantly being preeminent; or: habitually being the First One; or: continuing being the First Man [note: this phrase has in Greek literature been used as a title]),

19. **because WITHIN Him all – the entire contents** (that which fills everything; all the full measure [of things]) **– delights to settle down and dwell as in a house** (or: because He approved all the fullness [of all existence] to permanently reside within Him)
20. **and THROUGH Him at once to transfer the whole** (= all of existential creation), **away from a certain state to the level of another which is quite different** (or: to change all things, bringing movement away from being down; to reconcile all things; to change everything from estrangement and alienation to friendship and harmony and move all), **INTO Him – making** (constructing; forming; creating) **peace and harmony through the blood of His cross** (execution stake)**: through Him, whether the things upon the earth** (or: land) **or the things within the atmospheres and heavens!**

21. **And you folks, being at one time people having been alienated away** (being estranged; being rendered as belonging to another; = having been put out of the family) **and enemies** (or: hated ones) **by the divided thoughts** (in the dualistic perceptions and things going through the mind in every direction) **and by** (or: in) **the miserable deeds** (gushes of wicked actions; laborious and painful works) **–**
22. **yet now He at once reconciled** (or: changed and transferred to a different state; [*p*46 & B read: you folks were reconciled]) **within the body of His flesh** (= His physical being), **through His death, to place you folks alongside, down before Him and in His sight: set-apart** (holy) **folks and flawless** (unblemished; blameless) **ones, even people not accused, with nothing laid to your charge** (or: unaccusable ones; unimpeachable ones; folks without reproach),
23. **since in fact** (or: inasmuch as) **you folks are continually remaining on** (or: are constantly persisting) **by trust and in the faith, being ones having been provided with a foundation so as to continue grounded, even seated so as to be settled ones, and not people being repeatedly moved elsewhere** (shifted; removed; or, as a middle: shifting yourselves) **away from the expectation** (or: hope) **pertaining to, belonging to and having its source in the message of ease, goodness and well-being of which you hear** (or: heard)**: the [message] being heralded** (announced; publicly proclaimed and preached) **within all creation which is under the sky** (or: heaven) **– of which I, Paul, am myself come to be a herald, an emissary, and an attending servant** (or: a dispenser).

24**. I am at this moment continuing to rejoice within the experiences and my sufferings over your [situation]** (or: on your behalf), **and I am progressively filling up in turn – so as to supply what is lacking and create a balance – within my flesh** (or: = with the means of my natural situation) **the deficiencies** (or: the results from what is lacking) **with regard to the pressures** (squeezings; tribulations; tight spots) **that pertain to the Anointed One** (or: that belong to and affect Christ) **over [the situation of] His body, which is the called-out community** (the summoned-forth congregation; the ecclesia),
25. **of which I am come to be an attending servant** (or: a dispenser), **corresponding to** (or: down from; in the sphere of) **God's household administration** (or: God's directives for the tasks of a household manager; the stewardship whose source is God and pertains to His house; God's economy; God's scheme and arrangement which He planned for His household) **– the [detailed plan] being given by me unto you** (or: to me [and infused] into you) **– to fulfill God's Word** (or: to make full the message pertaining to God; to make a full presentation of God's message; to deliver God's thought and idea in full)**:**
26. **the Secret** (or: sacred mystery) **having been hidden away and remaining concealed from the ages** (or: from [past] eons), **as well as from the generations, yet now** (at the present time) **is set in clear light for His set-apart folks** (or: was manifested to His holy ones; is caused to be seen by His saints; is shown for what it is, in His sacred people),

27. **to whom God wills** (or: purposed; intends) **to make known by intimate experience, what [are] the riches of the glory of this Secret** (or: the wealth which has it source in this sacred mystery's manifestation which calls forth praise) **within the multitudes** (among the nations; in the Gentiles; among the swarms of ethnic groups), **which is** (or: exists being) **Christ within you folks, the expectation of the glory**

(or: which is [the] Anointed in union with you people: the hope of the manifestation which calls forth praise; or: which is [the] Anointing within the midst of you folks – the expectation which is the glory),

28. **Whom** [other MSS: which] **we ourselves habitually proclaim down the line** (or: announce in accord with the pattern), **constantly putting [Him] into the minds of every person** (or: human) **and repeatedly teaching every person** (or: human), **within the sphere of all wisdom, to the intent that we may place every person** (or: human) **finished** (mature; perfect with respect to purpose; complete; as having reached the goal) **by [our] side, within and in union with Christ** [other MSS add: Jesus],

29. **unto which [goal] I habitually work hard** (or: progressively toil on) **and become weary, constantly struggling as in a contest, corresponding to** (or: down from and on the level of) **His inward working** (or: energy and operation)**: the One continuously operating** (energizing and inwardly working) **within me – within power** (or: in ability).

CHAPTER 2

1. **You see, I continue wanting you folks to have seen and thus perceive** (realize; know) **[the] size of and how extensive a contest I am having and how intense a struggle I constantly hold** (or: continue to have) **over [the situation of] you and the folks in Laodicea, and as many as have not seen my face in [the] flesh,**

2. **to the end that their hearts may be called near, alongside, for comfort, relief, aid and encouragement – being joined cohesively** (jointly knitted; welded together; literally: mounted together in copulation) **and united in love – even into all the riches** (or: wealth) **pertaining to the state of having been brought to fullness** (or: of the full assurance) **whose source is comprehension** (discernment; a junction of that which is sent together for a person to be able to catch on and understand); **into full, accurate, intimate and experiential knowledge of God's Secret: Christ**

(or: of the secret of the God who is Christ; or: the secret from God, which is [the] Anointing; [with other MSS: of the sacred mystery of the God and Father, in relation to the Christ {or: having its source in [the] Anointing; or: belonging to Christ}]),

3. **within Whom** (or: in which) **are** (continually exist) **all the hidden-away** (or: concealed) **treasures** (or: treasure chests or vaults; storehouses) **of the wisdom and experiential, intimate knowledge and insight.**

4. **Now I am presently saying this so that no one may be derailing you in a persuasive discourse or reasoning, by logic and reasoning that are off to the side and thus cheats by false reckoning,**
5. **for though** (or: even if) **I am presently absent** (or: being away), **in the flesh, nevertheless I continue being together with you folks in the spirit** (or: by the Spirit; in union with the Breath-effect), **constantly rejoicing and seeing** (or: observing) **your arranged succession** (or: drawing up of rank and file for an ordered disposition in battle array; or: post and place in line; also: = a body of soldiers or militia) **– as well as the solid body having a backbone which is the result of strengthening unto firmness – of your trust and faith** (or: pertaining to your faithfulness and loyalty; which have the qualities of confidence and conviction of you folks) **[which is being placed] into Christ** (or: [which flows] into [the] Anointing).

6. **Therefore, as you folks receive** (or: took to your side and accepted) **the Christ – Jesus, the Lord** (the Owner; the Master) **– continue walking about** (i.e., ordering your life) **within Him** (and: in union with Him),
7. **being people having been rooted** (or: having been caused to take root) **– even ones being constantly built upon The House** (i.e., added to the structure) **– within Him; also being folks repeatedly made steadfast and stabilized with good footing within the faith** (or: confirmed by the conviction; made secure for trust), **just as you are taught** (or: were instructed), **continuously superabounding** (being surrounded by more than enough) **within it – within gratitude and thanksgiving** (or: in an expression of the ease and goodness of grace, as well as the well-being of favor).

8. **Keep watching out for and beware that someone will not be the one progressively** (or: repeatedly) **carrying you off captive** (as booty or a prey) **through the philosophy and empty seduction** (or: a trick having no content) **being handed down from and being in line with the tradition of the people** (or: corresponding to the thing handed along from humans), **down from** (or: in line with and corresponding to) **the elementary principles** (or: rudimentary teachings and fundamental assumptions) **of the organized System** (the world of culture, religion, government or economy), **and not down from Christ** (or: in accord with the sphere of and in line with Christ),
9. **because within Him all the fullness of the Deity** (the Godship and feminine aspect of the Divine Nature) **is bodily settling down and taking up permanent residence** (= is continuously dwelling in person),
10. **and you folks, being ones having been filled up** (or: made full), **are** (or: exist) **continuously within Him, Who is** (or: exists being) [other MSS: the One being] **the Head of** (or: = Source of) **all government and authority** (or: of every beginning and right; of all rule and privilege),
11. **within Whom you folks were also circumcised** (or: in union with Whom you are cut around and off) **by** (or: in; to; with) **a circumcision not done by hands** (not handmade)**: in the sinking out and away from** (or: the stripping off and undressing of; the going out and away from) **the body of the flesh**

(= the corporate body of the Jewish religion and national heritage; or: = the natural body, or, the body pertaining to the natural realm; or: = the estranged human nature and alienated self) **– in the circumcision of the Christ** (in Christ's circumcision; in the circumcision which pertains to and has its source in Christ; or: in the circumcision which is the Anointing),
12. **being buried together** (jointly entombed) **in Him – within the placing into** (in the immersion and saturation; in the plunging for permeation; within the overwhelming; in the dipping into; within the baptism) **– within Whom you folks were awakened and caused to rise up together through the faith having its source in** (or: coming from) **the inward operation of God** (or: the trust belonging to the effectual energizing from and which is God)**: the One awakening and raising Him up, forth from out of the midst of dead folks.**

13. **And you folks – continuously being dead ones within** [other MSS: by] **the falls to the side, and in** (or: by) **the uncircumcision of your flesh** (= physical bodies or national heritage; or: = estranged human nature and alienated self) **– He makes** (or: made) **alive together: you** [other MSS: us] **jointly together with Him, gracing us and granting favor to us [for; in] all the effects of the falls and stumbling to the side** (= false steps),
14. **anointing and wiping out the handwriting in the decrees** (bonds; bills of debt; ordinances; statutes) **put down against us, which was continuing to be under, within and set in opposition to us, and He has picked it up and lifted it from out of the midst, nailing it to the cross** (or: on the execution stake),
15. **after Himself causing the sinking out and away of** (or: stripping off and away [of power and abilities]; undressing [them of arms and glory]; putting off and laying away [of categories and classifications]; or: divesting Himself of) **the governments and the authorities** (or: the ruling folks or people of primacy, and the privileged folks). **And then He made a public exhibit, in a citizen's bold freedom of speaking the truth, leading them in a triumphal procession within it [i.e., the cross].**
(or: Undressing Himself {or: Stripping [them] off from Himself}, He also made a public display of the rulers and the authorities, with boldness leading them as captives in His victory procession in it {or: in union with Him}.)

16. **Therefore, do not let anyone habitually pass judgment on you** (or: make decisions for you) **in [matters of] eating and drinking, nor in a part of a festival, or of a new moon, or of sabbaths** (= concerning things that are of a religious nature),
17. **which things are a shadow of the things being about to be** (or: of the impending), **yet the body belongs to the Christ**
(or: So we see, the body is Christ; or: Now the body has its origin in the Christ; or: Yet the body has the character and qualities of [the] Anointed; [note: A.T. Robertson sees in this construction "the body" {figure of: "the substance"} as casting the shadow; Vincent is similar]).

18. **Let no one be acting as an umpire, or an arbiter in the public games, so as to decide down against you, or to disqualify you, in regard to the prize – in lowness of understanding, intellect, frame of mind and deportment, continuously wanting [you] also [to be] in ritual-relating to the agents**

(or: in religious activity originating from the messengers [note: e.g., old covenant rituals]; or: by cultic religious service or external worship of or through the "angels"), **while continuously stepping randomly and rashly** (or: to no purpose; thoughtlessly; feignedly) **into things which he has** [or, with other MSS: he has not] **seen** [note: this may refer to being initiated into cultic secrets or mysteries], **progressively being made natural and instinctual by the inner senses and perceptions of his flesh**

(or: habitually being puffed up under [the influence of] the mind of his flesh [= his natural abilities and conditions, or by his alienated self, or by the human nature that has been conformed to the System]),

19. **and thus not continuously** (or: terminating the continuum of) **getting strength from** (or: apprehending and becoming strong by) **the Head** (or: the Source), **from out of Whom all the body** (or: the entire body), **being constantly fully furnished and supplied to excess with funds and nourishment, and progressively joined cohesively** (welded together; knitted and compacted together; united and made to go together as in mounting for copulation) **through the instrumentality of the joints** (connections; junctures; fastenings) **and links** (things bound together, as by ligaments), **goes on growing and increasing God's growth**

(or: the growth of God; the growth having its source in God; the growth pertaining to God; the growth and increase which is God; or: the growth from God).

20. **Since** (or: If) **you folks died together with Christ, away from the world's elementary principles** (or: the rudimentary teachings and fundamental assumptions of the organized System [e.g., of religion, education or culture]), **why, as living in [the] world** (in an organized system), **are you constantly being subjected to** (or, as a middle: submitting to; binding yourself to) **rules** (decrees; commands; thoughts or imaginations; "dogmas" [of the system])**:**

21. **"You should not** (or: may not) **touch** (handle; light or kindle), **nor yet should you** (or: may you) **taste by sipping** (= partake of or enjoy), **nor yet should you** (or: may you) **come into contact!"**

22. **– which are all things [that are proceeding] into decay and ruin** (thus: corruption) **by consuming and being used up or misused – down from and corresponding to the commands** (or: on the level of directives and instructions), **as well as teachings and trainings, of humans** (whose source is mankind; from people)**?**

23. **– which things, indeed, having a message** (a word; an expression; may = a promise or reputation) **of wisdom in self-imposed observance of ritual or self-willed form of worship, and in humility** (= self-abasement), **even in asceticism** (unsparing) **of [the] body, [yet are] not of any value or worth [and lead] toward a filling up of the flesh to the point of satiation**

(= a gratification of the alienated self; = a satisfying of the estranged human nature; or: = a bringing of religious works to the full; or: [and have] no honor, facing a fullness and plenty which are flesh; or: = are worthless, with a view to having enough in the natural realm)**!**

CHAPTER 3

1. **Since, therefore, you folks were awakened and raised up together in the Christ** (or: If, then, you are aroused and raised with the Anointed One), **be constantly seeking and trying to find the upward things** (or: the things being above), **where the Christ is** (exists being), **continuously sitting within the right [side]** (or: at the right [hand]; = at the place of receiving, and in the place of honor and the power) **of God.**
2. **Be constantly minding** (thinking about; setting your disposition toward) **the upward things** (or: the things above), **not the things upon the earth,**
3. **for you folks died, and your life has been hidden** (concealed) **together with the Christ, within the midst of God** (or: in union with God).
4. **Whenever the Christ, our life** [other MSS: your life], **may be brought to light** (or: may be manifested), **you folks, also, will be brought to light** (will be manifested), **together with Him, within the midst of glory** (or: in union with a manifestation which calls forth praise; or: in a good reputation).

5. **Make dead** (Put into a state of deadness; Deaden; = Kill), **therefore, the** [other MSS: your] **members** (body parts; = aspects of your life) **upon the earth** (= that pertain to this earthly existence)**: prostitution** (fornication; sexual immorality), **uncleanness, [unbridled] passion** ([uncontrolled] feeling or [excessive] emotion), **worthless over-desire** (rushing upon bad things; obsessive evil cravings), **and the desire to have more and gain advantage over another** (or: greedy, grasping thoughts and behavior) **– which is idolatry** (the worship of forms, shapes, images or figures; or: service to pagan concepts)
6. **– because of which things God's inherent fervor** (natural impulse and propensity; internal swelling and teeming passion of desire; or: anger; wrath) **is repeatedly coming** [other MSS add: upon the sons of The Disobedience (or: those having the condition of being unpersuaded; or: the stubbornness); note: “the disobedience” could refer to Adam and Eve eating from the tree, and thus, the “sons of the disobedience” could refer to all of mankind] **–**
7. **within which things you folks also at one time** (once; formerly) **walked about** (= lived your lives), **when you were living within these things.**
8. **But now, you folks as well, at once put all these things away from you** (as of clothes put off and laid away)**: inherent fervor**

(or: So at this time you yourselves in one stroke set away and get rid of all the [following]: even natural impulse, propensity, internal swelling and teeming desire; or: Yet now, you people at once lay aside all intense anger, rage and wrath), **strong passion** (rushing of emotions; outbursts of rage), **worthlessness** (poorness of quality; influence of the bad; hateful intentions), **[and] from out of you mouth: blasphemy** (abusive and injurious

talk; slander**) [and] foul-mouthed abuse** (obscenity; ugly words; deformed and shameful language).

9. **Do not keep on** (or: Stop) **lying unto one another! [Be] folks at once stripping off from yourselves** (undressing yourselves from) **the old humanity** (the old man; = the old Adam), **together with its practices,**
10. **and then [be] suddenly clothing yourselves with** (or: entering within) **the new one** (the fresh one which existed only recently), **the one being continuously** (or: repeatedly; progressively) **renewed** (made back up new again, in kind and character) **into full, intimate and experiential knowledge and insight which is down from and corresponds to the image** (an exactly formed visible likeness) **of its Creator** (of the One framing and founding it from a state of wildness and disorder),
11. **wherein** (or: in which place) **there is no Greek** [figure of the multitudes who are non-Jews, and of those who are cultured and civilized] **and Jew** [figure of a covenant people of God], **circumcision and uncircumcision** [figure for religious in-groups and out-groups; there is no longer a covenant people versus non-covenant people], **barbarian** [foreigner who speaks a different language], **Scythian** [figure or example of wild, uncivilized groups], **slave, freeman, but to the contrary, Christ [is] all, and within all**

(or: Christ [is] all humanity, and within all mankind; or: Christ [is] everything or all things, and within everything and all things; [note: the Greek is plural, and is either masculine, signifying "mankind," or neuter, signifying all creation, in these phrases]).

12. **Therefore, as God's chosen, set-apart and beloved ones** (or: God's sacred, loved and chosen people), **clothe yourselves with** (or: enter within) **bowels** (internal organs; = the tender parts; seat of deep feelings) **of compassion, kindness** (adaptable usefulness), **humility** (the minding and disposition of things of lowness or of low station), **gentleness** (meekness; mildness), **waiting long before rushing with emotions** (even-tempered; long-suffering; = putting up with people and situations for a long time),
13. **being folks continuously holding up [things or situations] pertaining to one another** (or: habitually holding yourselves up, belonging to one another; constantly putting up with one another) **and incessantly giving grace or doing a favor to** (for; among) **yourselves, if ever anyone may continue having** (or: holding) **a complaint toward someone. Just as the Lord** [= Christ or Yahweh; some MSS: Christ; Aleph* & some Vulgate MSS read: God] **also gave** (or: gives) **grace and favor to you** (for you; in you; among you folks), **thus also you folks [do the same].**
14. **Now upon** (= on top of) **all these things [put on; superimpose] the Love, which continues being** (or: is) **a joining link of perfection**

(a tie which binds together and pertains to the goal of maturity, being the result of fruitfulness; [the] fastening connection of the finished product; [the] bond producing perfection; a binding conjunction which brings union, which is the goal).

15. **And let the peace** [= shalom] **of the Christ** (belonging to and originating in the Christ; the harmony which is the Anointing [other MSS: God]) **continuously umpire** (act as a judge in the games) **within your hearts** (= in union with the core of your being) **– into which [peace] you folks are called** (were called; were invited), **within one body. And progressively come to be thankful people** (or: continue becoming folks expressing gratitude for the goodness, ease and well-being that comes in grace).
16. **Let Christ's Word** (or: the Logos, which is the Christ; the Idea which is the Anointing; or: the message of the Christ [other MSS: of God; of {the} Lord]) **be continuously making its home within you folks** (constantly indwelling you) **richly, within the midst of and in union with all wisdom, habitually teaching [it] and placing [it] in the minds of yourselves by psalms, in hymns, by spiritual songs and odes, within grace and amidst favor constantly singing within your hearts to God**

(or: habitually singing to God [other MSS: to {the} Lord], in union with the grace resident within your hearts {= the core of your being}).

17. **And everything – whatsoever you may be habitually doing, in word or in action** (within a message, or within a work or deed) **– [do] everything** (all; all things) **within and in union with [the] Name of [the] Lord, Jesus** [other MSS: of Jesus Christ; others: of {the} Lord, Jesus Christ], **constantly giving thanks** (expressing gratitude) **to Father God** (or: in union with God, [the] Father) **through Him.**

18. **Wives, be habitually aligned to humbly support** (or, as a middle: place yourselves under) **[your] husbands** (or: Women, continue subjecting yourselves to the adult males [note: this was culturally appropriate at that time]), **in the same way as there has progressively come again to be a connection in [the] Lord** (or: since there has been an arrival back in union with [our] Master and Owner).
19. **Husbands, habitually love [your] wives** (or: Adult males, be constantly showing love to the women), **and do not become repeatedly sharp toward them** (or: stop being rough, bitter or insensitive to them).
20. **Children, continue submissively hearing** (or: paying attention), **being constantly obedient to the parents in regard to all things** (corresponding to every situation), **for this continues being well-pleasing, within the Lord.**
21. **Fathers, do not constantly excite** (or: continuously incite or stimulate; repeatedly irritate, vex or provoke) **your children, so that they may not become habitually without strong passion** (discouraged and timid; without motivation).
22**. Slaves, in regard to all things continue submissively hearing, paying attention and being constantly obedient to those [being] owners** (masters; lords) **on the level and the sphere of flesh** (= human, or "earthly," masters) **– not within eye-slavery** (bondage to eyes; = slavery to doing in order to be seen, or working only when someone is watching), **as desiring to please people** (or: wanting to be pleasing to people so as to win their favor; human-pleasers), **but**

rather within simplicity (or: singleness) **of heart** (or: single-hearted sincerity), **constantly being folks reverenced by the fear of** (or, as a middle: being ones habitually engendering reverence because of respectful fear toward) **the Lord** [= Yahweh or Christ; *p*46 & other MSS: God].
23. **Everything – whatever you folks may be habitually doing – be constantly working** (doing business; practicing a trade; earning a living**) from out of soul** (from the whole being: intellect, emotions, will), **as to** (for; in) **the Lord** [= Yahweh or Christ] **and not for people** (to mankind),
24. **having seen, and thus, knowing that you folks will receive back from the Lord** [Yahweh or Christ] **and take away the corresponding compensation of and from the allotted inheritance. Be constantly slaving for Christ, the Owner** (Lord; Master) [or, with other MSS, and as an indicative: For you are constantly performing as a slave in (or: by) the Lord, in {the} Anointed One].
25. **Certainly, the person habitually doing wrong** (constantly acting unjustly or inequitably; repeatedly being unfair and walking contrary to the Way pointed out) **will receive in himself what he wrongly does** (or: will take for his own dealing what inequity and unfairness he did) **– and there is no partiality** (favoritism; consideration because of personal appearance or of the face presented; receiving of a facade; taking of personage into account).

CHAPTER 4

1. **Owners** (Masters; Lords), **continuously hold at your side and present the right** (the just; the fair; the equitable) **and the equal** (what is the same as something else) **to and for [your] slaves – [from] having seen, and thus knowing, that you folks also continuously have an Owner** (Master; Lord) **within heaven** (or: [the] atmosphere; [other MSS: {the} heavens {or: atmospheres}]).

2. **Be habitually occupied diligently in prayer** (or: Be constantly stout toward thinking with a view to well-being; Be continuing persistent and persevering by speaking toward goodness [in situations]) **within an expression of gratitude** (or: thanksgiving), **continuously watching and remaining awake and alert in it,**
3. **at the same time also progressively praying** (speaking to goodness) **about us, to the end that God may open a door of the Word for us to speak the secret of the Christ** (or: may open a door pertaining to the message, for us to speak the mystery which has its origin in the Christ – the secret which is the Christ), **because of which, also, I have been bound** (or: tied; = imprisoned),
4. **so that I may set it [i.e., the secret] in clear light** (may bring it to light; may manifest it), **as it is continuously binding me** (making it necessary for me) **to speak.**

5. **Be habitually walking about within wisdom** (= living your lives in union with Wisdom)**: toward those outside** (or: to outsiders; = those not a part of the called-out community), **being ones constantly buying for yourselves – as**

from out of the market place – the fitting situation (or: redeeming or purchasing the season within yourselves; or: = making the best use of the opportunity in the public concourse),
6. **[with] your word** (your conversation; your message) **– at all times within grace** (or: = always favorable) **– being one having been prepared and fitted by salt** (or: seasoned in salt; or: = one being interesting and not insipid), **[and for you] to have seen, and thus be aware, how it continues binding for you folks to be habitually answering each person with discernment** (or: making a decided reply to or separating [issues] away in order to respond with a decision for each individual).

7. **Tychicus, the beloved brother and faithful** (or: loyal) **attending servant and fellow slave within [the] Lord** [= Christ or Yahweh], **will personally make known all the things with reference to me,**
8. **whom I send toward you folks unto this very thing, so that you might intimately become acquainted with the things about** (or: concerning) **us** [with other MSS: so that he may come to intimately experience and know the things about and concerning you], **and that he may call your hearts to his side for comfort, relief, aid and encouragement** (or: so he can be a paraclete for you folks).
9. **Together with Onesimus, the faithful and beloved brother – who is from among you folks – they will personally and intimately acquaint you with** (make known to you) **all the things here.**

10. **Aristarchus, my fellow captive** (the one taken at spear-point, together with me), **continues embracing and greeting you folks, as does Mark, cousin of Barnabas, concerning whom you received goal-oriented directions [that] if he should ever come to you, receive** (accept and hospitably welcome) **him,**
11. **and Jesus, the one habitually being designated** (or: termed) **Justus – these being the only folks from among** (or: out forth from) **the Circumcision** (= Jews) **[who are] fellow workers [laboring] into God's reign and kingdom – which folks came to be a soothing emollient** (a consoling exhortation; a solace) **to me** (for me; in me).

12. **Epaphras, the one from among you folks, a slave of Christ Jesus, continues embracing and greeting you folks, at all times** (or: always) **in constant struggle as in a contest over [the circumstances of] you folks, within prayers** (speaking to goodness and well-being), **to the end that you can stand [as] mature folks** (or: complete people; finished ones; those having reached the goal; perfect ones) **and people having been brought to fullness** (or: carried to the full measure) **within all God's will** (intent, design and purpose).
13. **You see, I am presently bearing witness for him that he constantly has** (or: continuously holds) **toil-caused pain** (misery; travail) **over you folks and those within Laodicea, and the people within Hierapolis.**

14. **Luke, the beloved healer** (or: physician) **continues embracing and greeting you folks – also Demas.**
15. **Embrace and greet the brothers within Laodicea, also Nympha and the called-out gathering** (or: community) **that corresponds to her house.**
16. **And whenever the letter** (or: epistle) **may be read** (caused to be known again) **beside you** (= in your presence and to you), **you folks make an arrangement to the end that it may also be read within the set-apart community of the Laodiceans; and so that you folks may also read the one from out of Laodicea.**

17. **And say to Archippus,**
    "Be constantly observing and seeing to the attending service which you received and took to your side, within [the] Lord [= Christ or Yahweh], **to the end that you may make it full** (or: fulfill it).**"**

18. **The embrace and greeting [is] by my hand – Paul's. Call to mind** (Remember; Be mindful of) **my bonds** (= chains; = imprisonment).
    Grace and favor [are] with you folks! It is so (Amen).

[written circa A.D. 58 – Based on the critical analysis of John A.T. Robinson]