

Colossians

Minus the “rabbi trails”

(NOTE: In the practical advice of chapters 2-3 it is less clear what should be included as theological backbone, and what should be excluded as Paul’s “footnotes”.)

Paul, an apostle of Yeshua the Messiah by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,² to the holy ones and faithful brethren in Messiah *who are* at Colossae: Grace to you and peace from God our Father.³ We give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Yeshua Messiah, praying always for you,⁴ since we heard of your faith in Messiah Yeshua and the love which you have for all the saints;...⁹ For this reason also, since the day we heard *of it*, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,¹⁰ so that you may walk in a manner worthy of the Master, to please *Him* in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;¹¹ strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously¹² giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the holy ones in light.¹³ For He delivered us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son,...²¹ And although you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, *engaged* in evil deeds,²² yet He has now conciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him set apart and blameless and beyond reproach--²³ if indeed you continue in faith firmly established and steadfast, and not moved away from the hope of the good news that you have heard, which was proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, was made a servant ...⁶ As you therefore have received Messiah Yeshua the Master, so walk in Him,⁷ having been firmly rooted *and now* being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, *and overflowing* with gratitude.⁸ See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Messiah.⁹ For in Him all the fullness of the Shekinah dwells in bodily form,¹⁰ and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority;¹¹ and in Him you were also circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in the removal of the body of the flesh by the circumcision of Messiah;¹² having been buried with Him through immersion, in which you were also raised up with Him through God’s faithful work when He raised him from the dead...^{3:1} If then you have been raised up with Messiah, keep seeking the things above, where Messiah is seated at the right hand of God.² Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.³ For you have died and your life is hidden with Messiah in God.⁴ When Messiah, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory...¹² And so, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience;¹³ bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.¹⁴ And beyond all these things *put on* love, which is the perfect bond of unity.¹⁵ And let the peace of Messiah rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful.¹⁶ Let the word of Messiah richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms *and* hymns *and* spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.¹⁷ And whatever you do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Master Yeshua, giving thanks through Him to God the Father...^{4:2} Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with *an attitude of* thanksgiving ...⁵ Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity.