

13. COLOSSIANS

Version 6: 3-20-16

Chapter 1

1:1 Sha'ul, an ambassador of YAHUSHUA, The Messiah,
by the will of YAHWEH, and Timothy, the brother,

Sha'ul means requested.
Timothy means honoring YAHWEH.

1:2 to the set apart ones and faithful brothers
in The Messiah at Colosse.
Favor to you and well being
from YAHWEH, our Father,
and The Master, YAHUSHUA, The Messiah.
Colosse means monstrosities.

1:3 We give thanks to The Elohim and Father
of our Master, YAHUSHUA, The Messiah,
praying always concerning you,
1:4 having heard of your trust
in The Messiah, YAHUSHUA,
and of your love to all the set apart ones,
1:5 because of the hope
which is being reserved for you in The Heaven,
of which you have already heard
in the message of the truth of the good news
1:6 which is near to you just as even in all the world
and is bringing forth fruit
just as it also is in you from the day you heard it
and recognized the favor of YAHWEH in truth,
1:7 just as you also have learned from Epaphras,
our dear fellow slave
who is over you as a faithful slave of The Messiah;
Epaphras means lovely.
1:8 who also is declaring to us your love
in the Divine Nature of YAHWEH.

pneuma - a current of air, i.e. breath or a breeze, vital principle, mental disposition, etc.
There is no "spirit" in Hebrew thought. Spirit is a Greek creation that did not exist until well after the Greek culture was established.
In Hebrew thought the breath represented the "essence" of a person, their character or "nature".
In reference to YAHWEH this is His Divine Nature. It is the "New Nature" of the believer, the "new man".
The Greek influence has permeated our own culture to the point it is difficult to separate it from our own thinking. This was not true for the Hebrews. They knew nothing of Greek thought as their own culture developed.

1:9 For this reason we also, from the day we heard it,
do not cease to pray concerning you,
and to ask that you might be filled
with the recognition of His will
in all wisdom and supernatural comprehension,
1:10 you walking worthy of The Master,
for the sake of everything pleasing,
being fruitful in every good work
and increasing in the recognition of YAHWEH,
1:11 enabled with every ability
according to the vigor of His glorious power,
for the sake of all endurance and patience
amidst cheerfulness,
1:12 giving thanks to The Father who has enabled us
to be a sharer of the inheritance of the set apart ones
by means of The Light.
YAHUSHUA

1:13 He has delivered us from the authority of the darkness
and has transferred us into
the kingdom of The Son of His love,
1:14 in whom we have redemption through His blood,
the pardon of the offenses

aphesis – freedom; pardon. Translated as deliverance, forgiveness, liberty, remission. Pardon is a legal concept of freedom.

Sin is rebellion, refusing to do what YAHWEH has taught us He desires. As such it is an offense to Him. It's important to consider the ways in which we offend Him, and the consequences of such action. It requires our death!

1:15 He is the representation
of the not able to be seen YAHWEH,
the firstborn of every created thing,
1:16 because by Him everything has been created;
that which is in the skies and that which is on the earth,
that capable of being seen, and that not capable of being seen,
whether thrones or dominions or first in rank or authorities.

arche – a commencement or chief in order, time, place, or rank. The context suggests "first in rank" – leaders.

Everything has been created by means of Him
and for His sake.

1:17 And He is above everything.
And by Him everything is held together.

sunistemi – to set together; Lit. – stand with; i.e. by implication to introduce or to exhibit; to stand near or to constitute.
While the Greek leaves us with some options on how to interpret this, it seems to suggest the idea of establishment and consistency.

1:18 And He is the head of the body, the assembly,
who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead,
in order that in everything He might become the first in rank,

ekklesia – a calling out. An assembly. Even the synagogues are defined as assemblies. There was **no church** in those days. That term did not exist in Hebrew or Greek.

1:19 because it was pleasing
that in Him all the fullness resides permanently.

1:20 And because of Him everything is reconciled to Himself,
whether on the earth or in the skies,
having made peace through the blood of His torture stake.

1:21 And you having been at one time alienated
and hateful in the mind in hurtful works
He has now already reconciled

1:22 by means of the body of His flesh through death,
presenting you set apart, and unblemished,
and unaccused in His presence,

hagios –sacred; physically pure, morally blameless; consecrated. – holy, saint.
To be holy is to be set apart for a special purpose.

1:23 if indeed you remain in the faith, grounded and settled,
and not being moved away from the hope of the good news
which you have heard, which has been proclaimed
to every creature under the sky,
of which I, Sha'ul, have become a servant.

This "if" is very important.
It reminds us that it is indeed possible to not remain in the faith; in other words, to apostatize (which means to walk away from). Your redemption is not secure until you are in Eternity with YAHWEH.
It is **not guaranteed** just because you at one point believe in the good news of YAHUSHUA's life, death, and resurrection.

The doctrine of "Eternal Security" in **not** correctly based on Scripture.

1:24 I now am happy in my sufferings for your sake,
and am supplementing in my flesh
that which is lacking in the troubles of The Messiah,
for the sake of His body which is the assembly,

The belief was held that as members of "His body", as His followers, one would endure "troubles". These were in effect a part of His own sufferings.

1:25 of which I have become a servant
according to the stewardship of YAHWEH
which has been given to me for your sake,
to fulfill The Word of YAHWEH,
1:26 the mystery which has been fully concealed
from ages and from generations,
but now has been rendered apparent to His set apart ones.
1:27 To them YAHWEH has chosen
to make known what is the abundance
of the magnificence of this mystery among the Gentiles:
which is The Messiah in you,
the anticipation of the magnificence.

Sha'ul's calling was to take the message of The Hebrew Messiah to the Gentiles (pagans, non-Yisra'elites). This concept was given in Scripture long ago, but how it was to be accomplished few were able to recognize.
As a zealous Hebrew Pharisee Sha'ul was uniquely positioned to know The Scriptures well enough to be used to take the full message of deliverance to the Gentiles - after he first tried to present it only to the Yisra'elites.
And he received his qualification for this task **only from the risen and ascended Messiah**.
How the reconciliation of Yisra'elite and Gentile in The Messiah, YAHUSHUA, was to happen was indeed a mystery. Now it is revealed.

1:28 Him we proclaim, cautioning every person
and teaching every person by all wisdom,
in order that we might present every person complete
in The Messiah, YAHUSHUA.

1:29 Toward this goal I also work hard,
struggling according to His energy
which is working in me in miraculous power.

Chapter 2

2:1 Indeed I want you to understand
how much anxiety I have for you and those at Laodicea,
and *for* as many as have not looked intently
at my appearance in the flesh,

Laodicea means the people's rights.

2:2 in order that their hearts might be comforted
having been united by love
and for the sake of all the abundance
of the full assurance of comprehension
into the recognition of the mystery of YAHWEH,
both of The Father and of The Messiah;
2:3 in whom are hidden
all the abundance of wisdom and knowledge.
2:4 Now I say this so that no one
deludes you with persuasive words.

2:5 Indeed even if I am absent in the flesh,
on the other hand, I am with you in nature,
rejoicing and observing your orderly manner
and the stability of your trust in The Messiah.
2:6 In the manner therefore that you have received
The Messiah, YAHUSHUA, The Master, walk about in Him,
2:7 being rooted and built up in Him

and established in the faith as you have been taught,
superabounding in it with thanksgiving.

2:8 Watch out *so that* not anyone
will lead you captive through philosophy and empty delusion,
according to the traditions of men,
according to the basic principles of the world,
and not according to The Messiah,

The concept is more than mere philosophy. It points toward "Jewish sophistry", which means false arguments based on religious principles.
The concept of "the traditions of men" is a very serious problem, even with our current copies of The Scriptures. Those traditions have modified what YAHWEH gave to those who were inspired to write His Word.
It's extremely easy to become misled by those traditions. One **must** study His Word on their own and let His Divine Nature guide you into all Truth, just as His Word declares. Do **not** accept something just because someone you respect has told you it is so. Do your own homework!

2:9 **because in Him resides permanently
all the fullness of the divinity bodily.**

theotes – divinity.
It is translated, incorrectly, as "godhead". That term is a religious creation intended to convey a religious concept. It's not necessary. All that needs to be stated is what the word means. Significant, however, is the identification that all of this divinity (the divine nature of The Supreme Being) resides permanently in The Messiah.

2:10 And you are complete in Him,
who is the head of every principality and authority,
2:11 by whom you also have been circumcised
with the circumcision not made with hands,
by putting off the body of the offenses of the flesh,
by means of the circumcision of The Messiah,
2:12 having been buried with Him in baptism,
in which you also have been raised up with Him
through trust in the working of YAHWEH,
Who has raised Him from the dead.

Baptism symbolizes our death – the death of the old nature. It symbolizes the removal of the penalty for offenses. It's like a circumcision, a cutting off – in this case, our offense debt. Fleshly circumcision is symbolic of this supernatural truth.

2:13 And you being dead in your errors
and the uncircumcision of your flesh,
He has made alive together with Him,
having pardoned you from all errors,

paraptoma – a side-slip; error; transgression. fall, fault, sin, offence, trespass.

2:14 having erased the handwriting of ordinances
which exist against us,
and He has taken it from our midst,
nailing it to His torture stake.

The handwriting still exists. It's a permanent record of our offenses. (acts of rebellion against The Word of YAHWEH.) The penalty for each offense is death.
The verb is present tense meaning it's still in place. Only now we are no longer held guilty for them because of the shed blood of YAHUSHUA.
The "handwriting against us" is the legal basis by which we deserve to die.
It is this offense debt that has been **passed-over**, by the blood of YAHUSHUA. It was accomplished during The Festival of Passover! It's the most important festival of all!

2:15 Having plundered principalities and authorities,
He made a public spectacle of them,

triumphing over them by it.

2:16 Therefore let no one condemn you in food or in drink,
or in regard to a festival or a new moon or Sabbaths,

2:17 which are a foreshadowing of things to come.

However, the substance is The Messiah's.

The substance is the "real thing", which takes precedence over the symbolic things that have preceded it.

2:18 Let not even one defraud you of salvation,
through delighting in humility

and worship of the YAH-messengers,

intruding into that which he has not discerned clearly,

puffed up without cause for the sake of his fleshly mind,

"delighting in humility" is a Hebraism for pride in one's great level of humility; hence, an oxymoron.

aggelos is the Greek word used here. It means messenger, deputy, one sent by another. It is pronounced ahn-geh-los, from which we get 'angel'. In Hebrew thought there is no such thing as an 'angel'. A messenger is the exact same meaning for the Hebrew term used in parallel with the Greek term. One sent by YAHWEH is a YAH-messenger. Sha'ul is teaching the Colossians not to get caught up in the Gnostic teachings that were being pushed upon them. The above elements were involved in that teaching.

2:19 and not holding fast to the Head

from whom the entire body

through the joints and ligaments being supplied

and being knit together is growing by the growth of YAHWEH.

2:20 Therefore if you have died with The Messiah

from the basic principles of the world

why as though living in the world

are you subject to regulations,

This is also part of Sha'ul's message. Baptism is the symbolism of our personal death and resurrection in The Messiah. As we trust in Him and what He's done for us we receive His substitutionary death, His "atonement" for our offense debt. We are to consider that we have died to offenses through The Messiah.

2:21 do not touch, do not taste, do not handle,

2:22 which all are rotting away with their usage

according to the injunctions and instructions of human beings?

2:23 These things certainly holding a message of wisdom

in piety, *false* humility, and neglect of the body,

are not of any value for the maturing of the flesh.

Chapter 3

3:1 Therefore if you have been raised up with The Messiah
seek those things which are above where The Messiah is,

sitting at the right hand of YAHWEH!

3:2 Exercise your mind on that which is above,

not on that which is on the earth!

3:3 Indeed you have died,

and your life is concealed with The Messiah in YAHWEH.

3:4 When The Messiah, our life, is rendered apparent,

then you also will have been

rendered apparent with Him amidst great honor.

This is a most interesting verse. The first "rendered apparent" is in the subjunctive mood. It implies an event that has the possibility of taking place – it might happen. The verse is not suggesting it won't happen, but rather that we don't know when it will occur. However, the second "rendered apparent" is in the future passive indicative mood – which means what is stated. When The Messiah is rendered apparent next time we will also have been rendered apparent with Him. That's an amazing concept.

3:5 Therefore put to death your members

which are on the earth,

immoral sex,
impurity,
lust,
desire for what is forbidden,
and avarice which is idolatry.

Have you ever thought of these things as your body parts? If you're "married" to them you become one with them.

3:6 Because of these things the determined anger of YAHWEH is coming upon the children of disbelief,

3:7 in which you yourselves have also walked at one time when you were living in them.

3:8 But now put away also all determined anger,

rage,
harm,
blasphemy,
vile conversation from your mouth!

3:9 Do not lie to one another since you have wholly divested yourself of the old human nature with its practices,

3:10 and have been clothed with the new *nature* which is being renovated for the sake of full discernment according to the likeness of Him who is creating it,

3:11 in which there is neither Greek nor Yisra'elite, circumcised nor uncircumcised, foreigner, savage, slave *nor* free, but instead

The Messiah is everything and is in everything.

The new nature **is** the Divine Nature of YAHWEH. It is His nature, now dwelling in you as a result of your trusting fully in the work of YAHUSHUA's redeeming love. It's traditionally translated as "The Holy Spirit". However, "spirit" is a Greek creation that was unknown to Hebrew thought. Instead, the Hebrews saw this as the "sacred breath" (the literal translation of the words) of YAHWEH. The breath represented the inner essence, the nature or character, of the person. Thus, it is YAHWEH's nature, His character, that is given to us by Him as a result of our trust in Him and in His Son.

3:12 Therefore as *the* chosen of YAHWEH, set apart and beloved, put on tender compassions, kindness, humbleness, gentleness, patience,

tender compassions is literally intestines of compassion. The Hebrews believed the emotions resided in the "guts", the intestines.

3:13 putting up with one another, and granting favor to one another if anyone has a complaint against another. Just as even The Messiah has granted favor to you, so you also do the same.

3:14 Now above all these is love which is the uniting principle of completeness.

3:15 And let the well being of YAHWEH arbitrate in your hearts, into which also you have been called as one body. And be thankful!

brabeuo – to arbitrate; to govern. An arbitrator does not dominate, but rather, advises.

3:16 Let the word of The Messiah dwell within you abundantly, in all wisdom teaching and warning one another with psalms and hymns and non-carnal songs, singing with gratitude in your hearts to The Master.

3:17 And everything that you might ever do in word or deed,
do it all in the name of The Master, YAHUSHUA,
giving thanks to The Elohim and Father, because of Him.

3:18 Wives, be subordinate to your own husbands,
as is fitting in The Master!

Lower in rank. It does not mean blind obedience. It means to
respect his authority, which has been given to him by
YAHWEH Himself.

3:19 Husbands, love the wife and do not be bitter toward her!
angry, resentful, harsh, unpleasant, etc.

3:20 Children, listen attentively to your parents in everything
because this is well pleasing to YAHWEH.

Pay attention to what they ask you or tell you, and do not
rebel against them.

3:21 Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger
lest they become discouraged.

3:22 Hired slaves, listen attentively in all things
to your masters according to the flesh,
not with service that needs watching like "men-pleasers",
but rather in sincerity of heart, revering YAHWEH.

3:23 And if you do anything at all
work with your whole life as unto The Master
and not as unto human beings,

3:24 understanding that from The Master
you will receive the reward of the inheritance.

Indeed you serve The Master, The Messiah, as a slave.

3:25 Now he who is doing wrong
will be taken care of for what he has done.
And there is no favoritism.

Chapter 4

4:1 Masters, give your hired slaves what is just and fair,
understanding that you also have a Master in The Heaven.

4:2 Persevere in prayer,
keeping alert in it with thanksgiving,

4:3 at the same time praying also concerning us
in order that YAHWEH might open to us
an entrance for the word to speak the mystery of The Messiah,
because of which I am even in chains,

4:4 in order that I might make it clearly known
as I ought to speak.

4:5 Walk with wisdom toward those outside,
redeeming the time,

4:6 your speech *being* always according to favor,
being seasoned with salt,
understanding how you ought to respond to each one.

Salt is a preservative. It's also a symbol of the bond of a
covenant, preserving it forever.

4:7 Tychicus, a beloved brother, a reliable servant,
and fellow slave in The Master,
will tell you everything concerning me.

Tychicus means fortunate.

4:8 I am sending him to you for this very purpose,
that he might know your circumstances
and comfort your hearts,

4:9 together with Onesimus, a trustworthy and beloved brother,
who is from among you.

They will make known to you everything that is here.

Onesimus means profitable.

4:10 Aristarchus, my fellow prisoner, greets you,
together with Mark, the cousin of Bar Nabas,
about whom you have received instructions.

If he comes to you, welcome him,

Aristarchus means best ruler.
Mark means a defence.
Bar Nabas means son of consolation.

4:11 and Yahoshua who is called Justus.

These *are* the only fellow workers

for The Kingdom of YAHWEH from the circumcision
who have come along side of me.

This is the second of three places in which "Jesus" is substituted for "Joshua" - correctly, Yahoshua. It is a gross error in translation, and is directly related to the perversion of YAHUSHUA, the personal name of The Messiah. See Acts 7.45, Heb. 4.8.

4:12 Epaphras, who is from among you,
a slave of The Messiah, greets you,
always struggling on your behalf in prayers,
in order that you might stand mature and complete
in every desire of YAHWEH.

4:13 Indeed I bear him witness
that he has a great zeal on behalf of you,
and those in Laodicea, and those in Hierapolis.

Hierapolis means temple city.

4:14 Luke, the beloved physician, and Demas greet you.

Luke is Greek for Lucan which means a light.
Demas means popular.

4:15 Greet the brothers who are in Laodicea,
and Nymphas and the assembly that is in his house.

Nymphas means bridal.

4:16 And when this letter has been read among you,
work in order that it might be read also
in the assembly of the Laodiceans,
and that you likewise might read the letter from Laodicea.

4:17 And say to Archippus,
"Watch over the ministry
which you have received in The Master,
in order that you might fulfill it."

Archippus means horse chief.

4:18 This salutation by my own hand, Sha'ul.

Remember my chains.

Favor *be* with you.

Amen.