

Colossians 1:15-28
(New Living Translation)

¹⁵ Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation,[a] ¹⁶ for through him God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth. He made the things we can see and the things we can't see— such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world. Everything was created through him and for him. ¹⁷ He existed before anything else, and he holds all creation together. ¹⁸ Christ is also the head of the church, which is his body. He is the beginning, supreme over all who rise from the dead.[b] So he is first in everything. ¹⁹ For God in all his fullness was pleased to live in Christ, ²⁰ and through him God reconciled everything to himself. He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth by means of Christ's blood on the cross.

²¹ This includes you who were once far away from God. You were his enemies, separated from him by your evil thoughts and actions. ²² Yet now he has reconciled you to himself through the death of Christ in his physical body. As a result, he has brought you into his own presence, and you are holy and blameless as you stand before him without a single fault.

²³ But you must continue to believe this truth and stand firmly in it. Don't drift away from the assurance you received when you heard the Good News. The Good News has been preached all over the world, and I, Paul, have been appointed as God's servant to proclaim it.

²⁴ I am glad when I suffer for you in my body, for I am participating in the sufferings of Christ that continue for his body, the church. ²⁵ God has given me the responsibility of serving his church by proclaiming his entire message to you. ²⁶ This message was kept secret for centuries and generations past, but now it has been revealed to God's people. ²⁷ For God wanted them to know that the riches and glory of Christ are for you Gentiles, too. And this is the secret: Christ lives in you. This gives you assurance of sharing his glory.

²⁸ So we tell others about Christ, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all the wisdom God has given us. We want to present them to God, perfect[c] in their relationship to Christ.

Challenged & Blessed

Paul's Message to the Church



Hidden Mystery Now Exposed

Colossians 1:15-28

We have been told to keep the powers that move the world's happiness by observing certain festivals in certain ways. We have to eat certain foods in order to gain favor with God. We must worship the new moons on certain days for certain reasons.

In order to find favor with God we must participate in self-abasement; voluntarily punish ourselves to atone for our wrongdoing.

We must worship angels.

We must completely deny ourselves to release our soul from bondage to the body in order that we may be permitted union with the divine.

We are divided into two groups of people, those that are circumcised verses the uncircumcised. You must be circumcised in order to gain God's love.

We must avoid any attempts that try to deceive us and live according to the Gospel of Jesus through which we are set free from the sins of the flesh by virtue of Christ Jesus' death and resurrection. We are to not let anyone worry us by criticizing what we eat or drink or what holy days we ought to observe or bothering us over new moons or Sabbaths. All of these things have at most only a symbolical value: we are to remember that the solid fact and hope in life is Christ Jesus.

Jesus Shall Reign



1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun does its suc -
 2 To him shall end - less prayer be made, and prais - es
 3 Peo - ple and realms of ev - 'ry tongue dwell on his
 4 Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er he reigns: the pris - 'ners
 5 Let ev - 'ry crea - ture rise and bring pe - cu - liar



ces - sive jour - neys run; his king - dom stretch from
 thron - e to crown his head; his name like sweet per -
 love with sweet - est song; and in - fant voic - es
 leap to lose their chains, the wea - ry find e -
 hon - or to our king; an - gels de - scend with



shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.
 fume shall rise with ev - 'ry morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
 shall pro - claim their ear - ly bless - ings on his name.
 ter - nal rest, and all who suf - fer want are blest.
 songs a - gain, and earth re - peat the loud a - men.