12. For I have experienced being brought low, and I have experienced abounding. In everything and in all things I have been taught both to be full and to hunger, both to abound and to be without.
13. I can do all things through Christ, Who empowers me.
14. But you did well to communicate with me in my distress.
15. For you Philippians also know that in the beginning of the gospel, when I came from Macedonia, not one church communicated with me in regard to giving and receiving, except you alone.
16. And when I was in Thessalonica, you sent to supply my need both once and twice.
17. I do not say this because I am seeking a gift, but because I am seeking fruit that may abound to your credit.

18. But I have all things and abound. I am full after receiving from Epaphroditus the things you sent, a sweet-smelling savor, a sacrifice acceptable and well pleasing to God.
19. But my God will supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.
20. Now to our God and Father be glory into the ages of eternity. Amen.
21. Salute every saint in Christ Jesus.

22. All the saints salute you, and especially those of the household of Caesar.
23. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

To the Philippians, written from Rome, delivered by Epaphroditus

The Epistle of Paul to the

Colossians

CHAPTER ONE

1. Paul, an apostle by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,
2. To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ who are in Colosse: Grace and peace be to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
3. We give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.
4. For this cause we also, from the day that we heard, do not cease to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;
5. That you may walk worthily of the grace that is given to you, even as it also has in all the world, and is bringing forth fruit, just as it is among you, from the day that you heard and knew the grace of God in truth;
6. Even as you also learned from Epaphras, our beloved fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ for you;
7. Who has also informed us of your love in the Spirit.
8. Who has also informed us of your love in the Spirit.
9. For this cause we also, from the day that we heard of it, do not cease to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;
10. That you may walk worthily of the
Lord, unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work and growing in the knowledge of God;
11. Being strengthened with all power according to the might of His glory, unto all endurance and long-suffering with joy;
12. Giving thanks to the Father, Who has made us qualified for the share of the inheritance of the saints in the light;
13. Who has personally rescued us from the power of darkness and has transferred us unto the kingdom of the Son of His love;
14. In Whom we have redemption through His own blood, even the remission of sins;
15. Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation;
16. Because by Him were all things created, the things in heaven and the things on earth, the visible and the invisible, whether they be thrones, or lordships, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by Him and for Him.
17. And He is before all, and by Him all things subsist.
18. And He is the Head of the body, the church; Who is the beginning, the firstborn from among the dead, so that in all things He Himself might hold the preeminence.
19. For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell;
20. And, having made peace through the blood of His cross, by Him to reconcile all things to Himself; by Him, whether the things on the earth, or the things in heaven.
21. For you were once alienated and enemies in your minds by wicked works; but now He has reconciled you
22. In the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy and unblamable and unimpeachable before Him;
23. If indeed you continue in the faith grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which you have heard, and which was proclaimed in all the creation that is under heaven; of which I, Paul, became a servant.
24. Now, I am rejoicing in my sufferings for you, and I am filling up in my flesh that which is behind of the tribulations of Christ, for the sake of His body, which is the church;
25. Of which I became a servant, according to the administration of God that was given to me for you in order to complete the Word of God;
26. Even the mystery that has been hidden from ages and from generations, but has now been revealed to His saints:
27. To whom God did will to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory;
28. Whom we preach, admonishing every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, so that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.
29. For this cause I also labor, striving according to His inner working, which works in me with power.

CHAPTER TWO
1. Now I want you to understand what great concern I have for you, and for those in Laodicea, and as many as have not seen my face in the flesh;
2. That their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, unto the knowledge of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ;
3. In Whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.
4. Now this I say so that no one may deceive you by persuasive speech.
5. For though I am indeed absent in the flesh, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing and beholding your order, and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ.
6. Therefore, as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, be walking in Him;
7. Being rooted and built up in Him, and being confirmed in the faith, exactly as you were taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.
8. Be on guard so that no one takes you captive through philosophy and vain deceit, according to the traditions of men, according to the elements of the world, and not according to Christ.
9. For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily;
10. And you are complete in Him, Who is the Head of all principality and power
11. In Whom you have also been circumcised with the circumcision not made by hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ;
12. Having been buried with Him in baptism, by which you have also been raised with Him through the inner working of God, Who raised Him from the dead.
13. For you, who were once dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has now made alive with Him, having forgiven all your trespasses.
14. He has blotted out the note of debt against us with the decrees of our sins, which was contrary to us; and He has taken it away, having nailed it to the cross.*
15. After stripping the principalities and the powers, He made a public spectacle of them, and has triumphed over them in it.**
16. Therefore, do not allow anyone to judge you in eating or in drinking, or with regard to a festival, or new moon, or the Sabbaths,
17. Which are a foreshadow of the things that are coming, but the body of Christ.
18. Do not allow anyone to defraud you of the prize by doing his will in self-abasement and the worship of angels, intruding into things that he has not seen, vainly puffed up by his own carnal mind***
19. And not holding fast to the Head, from Whom all the body, being supplied and knit together by the joints and bands, is increasing with the increase of God.
20. Therefore, if you have died together with Christ from the elements of the world, why are you subjecting yourselves to the decrees of men as if you were living in the world?
21. They say, “You may not handle! You may not taste! You may not touch!”

*Verse 14 does not in any way mean that the commandments of God were nailed to the cross. The phrase “note of debt against us with the decrees of our sins” means the note of debt, or the listing of our sins against God. Our sins and the debt of our sins were nailed to the cross when Jesus Christ was crucified and died. Upon true repentance of sins to God the Father, Jesus Christ blots out the note of debt through the remission of our sins. Jesus Christ, Who knew no sin, was made sin for us. He was nailed to the cross as a sin offering for the sins of the whole world. The note of debt of our sins was symbolically nailed to the cross, not the commandments of God which stand forever.

**“It” in the phrase, “has triumphed over them in it,” means that through His crucifixion, death and resurrection Jesus Christ triumphed over all the powers of evil, Satan the Devil and the demonic fallen angels.

***Verses 16-18 do not abolish the dietary laws of clean and unclean meats, the festivals or the weekly Sabbath of God. Rather, Paul is clearly affirming that the Gentiles in Colosse were to continue to observe these commandments as they had been taught. Paul was instructing the Colossians to disregard the criticisms and harsh judgments of those outside the church, because the observance of these days are a continuing foreshadow of the things that are yet to come in God’s plan. By being faithful and keeping these commandments of God, they would always be worshiping the true God, be built up in Jesus Christ and never loose the understanding of God’s plan. By true obedience to God the Father and Jesus Christ, they would not be deceived by vain philosophies of men, nor would they be seduced into the worship of fallen angels—Satan and his demons.
22. The use of all such things leads to corruption, according to the commandments and doctrines of men,
23. Which indeed have an outward appearance of wisdom in voluntary worship of angels, and self-abasement, and unsparing treatment of the body, not in any respect to the satisfying of the needs of the flesh.

CHAPTER THREE

1. Therefore, if you have been raised together with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is sitting at the right hand of God.
2. Set your affection on the things that are above, and not on the things that are on the earth.
3. For you have died, and your life has been hid together with Christ in God.
4. When Christ, Who is our life, is manifested, then you also shall be manifested with Him in glory.
5. Therefore, put to death your members which are on earth—sexual immorality, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil desires, and covetousness, which is idolatry.
6. Because of these things, the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience,
7. Among whom you also once walked, when you were living in these things.
8. But now, you should also put off all these things: wrath, indignation, malice, blasphemy, and foul language from your mouth.
9. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old man together with his deeds,
10. And have put on the new man, who is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him Who created him;
11. Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision,
CHAPTER FOUR

1. Masters, give that which is just and equal to your servants, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.  
2. Continue steadfastly in prayer, watching in it with thanksgiving,  
3. And praying for us also, so that God may open to us a door to proclaim the message of the mystery of Christ, for which I have also been imprisoned,  
4. That I may make it manifest, as it is necessary for me to speak.  
5. Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside the church, redeeming the time.  
6. Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how to answer each one.  
7. Tychicus, a beloved brother, and a faithful minister and fellow servant in the Lord, will make known to you everything concerning me.  
8. I sent him to you for this very reason, that he might know your circumstances and might encourage your hearts;  
9. Together with Onesimus, a faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you. They will make known to you all the things that have taken place here.  
10. Aristarchus, my fellow prisoner, salutes you and Mark, the cousin of Barnabas, concerning whom you received instructions (if he comes to you, receive him);  
11. And Jesus who is called Justus; who are all of the circumcision. They are my only fellow workers for the kingdom of God who have been a consolation to me.  
12. Epaphras, a servant of Christ who is from among you, salutes you. He is always striving for you in his prayers, that you may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.  
13. For I bear witness to him that he has much zeal for you, and for those in Laodicea, and for those in Hierapolis.  
14. Luke, the beloved physician, salutes you, and Demas does also.  
15. Salute the brethren in Laodicea, and Nymphas, and the church in his house.  
16. After you have read the epistle, see that it also is read in the church of the Laodiceans, and that you also read the one from Laodicea.  
17. And say this to Archippus: Devote yourself to the ministry that you have received in the Lord, to fulfill it.  

To the Colossians, written from Rome, delivered by Tychicus and Onesimus.