

NEW JERUSALEM BIBLE

GALATIANS CHAPTER 1

1 From Paul, an apostle appointed not by human beings nor through any human being but by Jesus Christ and God the Father who raised him from the dead, **2** and all the brothers who are with me, to the churches of Galatia. **3** Grace and peace from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ **4** who gave himself for our sins to liberate us from this present wicked world, in accordance with the will of our God and Father, **5** to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen. **6** I am astonished that you are so promptly turning away from the one who called you in the grace of Christ and are going over to a different gospel **7** not that it is another gospel; except that there are trouble-makers among you who are seeking to pervert the gospel of Christ. **8** But even if we ourselves or an angel from heaven preaches to you a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let God's curse be on him. **9** I repeat again what we declared before: anyone who preaches to you a gospel other than the one you were first given is to be under God's curse. **10** Whom am I trying to convince now, human beings or God? Am I trying to please human beings? If I were still doing that I should not be a servant of Christ. **11** Now I want to make it quite clear to you, brothers, about the gospel that was preached by me, that it was no human message. **12** It was not from any human being that I received it, and I was not taught it, but it came to me through a revelation of Jesus Christ. **13** You have surely heard how I lived in the past, within Judaism, and how there was simply no limit to the way I persecuted the Church of God in my attempts to destroy it; **14** and how, in Judaism, I outstripped most of my Jewish contemporaries in my limitless enthusiasm for the traditions of my ancestors. **15** But when God, who had set me apart from the time when I was in my mother's womb, called me through his grace and chose **16** to reveal his Son in me, so that I should preach him to the gentiles, I was in no hurry to confer with any human being, **17** or to go up to Jerusalem to see those who were already apostles before me. Instead, I went off to Arabia, and later I came back to Damascus. **18** Only after three years did I go up to Jerusalem to meet Cephas. I stayed fifteen days with him **19** but did not set eyes on any of the rest of the apostles, only James, the Lord's brother. **20** I swear before God that what I have written is the truth. **21** After that I went to places in Syria and Cilicia; **22** and was still unknown by sight to the churches of Judaea which are in Christ, **23** they simply kept hearing it said, 'The man once so eager to persecute us is now preaching the faith that he used to try to destroy,' **24** and they gave glory to God for me.

GALATIANS CHAPTER 2

1 It was not until fourteen years had gone by that I travelled up to Jerusalem again, with Barnabas, and I took Titus with me too. **2** My journey was inspired by a revelation and there, in a private session with the recognised leaders, I expounded the whole gospel that I preach to the gentiles, to make quite sure that the efforts I was making and had already made should not be fruitless. **3** Even then, and although Titus, a Greek, was with me, there was no demand that he should be circumcised; **4** but because of some false brothers who had secretly insinuated themselves to spy on the freedom that we have in Christ Jesus, intending to reduce us to slavery **5** people we did not defer to for one moment, or the truth of the gospel preached to you might have been compromised. . . **6** but those who were recognised as important people -- whether they actually were important or not: There is no favouritism with God -those recognised leaders, I am saying, had nothing to add to my message. **7** On the contrary, once they saw that the gospel for the uncircumcised had been entrusted to me, just as to Peter the gospel for the circumcised **8** (for he who empowered Peter's apostolate to the circumcision also empowered mine to the gentiles), **9** and when they acknowledged the grace that had been given to me, then James and Cephas and John, who were the ones recognised as pillars, offered their right hands to Barnabas and to me as a sign of partnership: we were to go to the gentiles and they to the circumcised. **10** They asked nothing more than that we should remember to help the poor, as indeed I was anxious to do in any case. **11** However, when Cephas came to Antioch, then I did oppose him to his face since he was manifestly in the wrong. **12** Before certain people from James came, he used to eat with gentiles; but as soon as these came, he backed out and kept apart from them, out of fear of the circumcised. **13** And the rest of the Jews put on the same act as he did, so that even Barnabas was carried away by their insincerity. **14** When I saw, though, that their behaviour was not true to the gospel, I said to Cephas in front of all of them, 'Since you, though you are a Jew, live like the gentiles and not like the Jews, how can you compel the gentiles to live like the Jews?' **15** We who were born Jews and not gentile sinners **16** have nevertheless learnt that someone is reckoned as upright not by practising the Law but by faith in Jesus Christ; and we too came to believe in Christ Jesus so as to be reckoned as upright by faith in Christ and not by practising the Law: since no human being can be found upright by keeping the Law. **17** Now if we too are found to be sinners on the grounds that we seek our justification in Christ, it would surely follow that Christ was at the service of sin. Out of the question! **18** If I now rebuild everything I once demolished, I prove that I was wrong before. **19** In fact, through the Law I am dead to the Law so that I can be alive to God. I have been crucified with Christ **20** and yet I am alive; yet it is no longer I, but Christ living in me. The life that I am now living, subject to the limitation of human nature, I am living in faith, faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave himself for me. **21** I am not setting aside God's grace as of no value; it is merely that if saving justice comes through the Law, Christ died needlessly.

GALATIANS CHAPTER 3

1 You stupid people in Galatia! After you have had a clear picture of Jesus Christ crucified, right in front of your eyes, who has put a spell on you? **2** There is only one thing I should like you to tell me: How was it that you received the Spirit -- was it by the practice of the Law, or by believing in the message you heard? **3** Having begun in the Spirit, can you be so stupid as to end in the flesh? **4** Can all the favours you have received have had no effect at all -- if there really has been no effect? **5** Would you say, then, that he who so lavishly sends the Spirit to you, and causes the miracles among you, is doing this through your practice of the Law or because you believed the message you heard? **6** Abraham, you remember, put his faith in God, and this was reckoned to him as uprightness. **7** Be sure, then, that it is people of faith who are the children of Abraham. **8** And it was because scripture foresaw that God would give saving justice to the gentiles through faith, that it announced the future gospel to Abraham in the words: All nations will be blessed in you. **9** So it is people of faith who receive the same blessing as Abraham, the man of faith. **10** On the other hand, all those who depend on the works of the Law are under a curse, since scripture says: Accursed be he who does not make what is written in the book of the Law effective, by putting it into practice. **11** Now it is obvious that nobody is reckoned as upright in God's sight by the Law, since the upright will live through faith; **12** and the Law is based not on faith but on the principle, whoever complies with it will find life in it. **13** Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law by being cursed for our sake since scripture says: Anyone hanged is accursed, **14** so that the blessing of Abraham might come to the gentiles in Christ Jesus, and so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith. **15** To put it in human terms, my brothers: even when a will is only a human one, once it has been ratified nobody can cancel it or add more provisions to it. **16** Now the promises were addressed to Abraham and to his progeny. The words were not and to his progenies in the plural, but in the singular; and to your progeny, which means Christ. **17** What I am saying is this: once a will had been long ago ratified by God, the Law, coming four hundred and thirty years later, could not abolish it and so nullify its promise. **18** You see, if the inheritance comes by the Law, it no longer comes through a promise; but it was by a promise that God made his gift to Abraham. **19** Then what is the purpose of the Law? It was added to deal with crimes until the 'progeny' to whom the promise had been made should come; and it was promulgated through angels, by the agency of an intermediary. **20** Now there can be an intermediary only between two parties, yet God is one. **21** Is the Law contrary, then, to God's promises? Out of the question! If the Law that was given had been capable of giving life, then certainly saving justice would have come from the Law. **22** As it is, scripture makes no exception when it says that sin is master everywhere; so the promise can be given only by faith in Jesus Christ to those who have this faith. **23** But before faith came, we were kept under guard by the Law, locked up to wait for the faith which would eventually be revealed to us. **24** So the Law was serving as a slave to look after us, to lead us to Christ, so that we could be justified by

faith. 25 But now that faith has come we are no longer under a slave looking after us; 26 for all of you are the children of God, through faith, in Christ Jesus, 27 since every one of you that has been baptised has been clothed in Christ. 28 There can be neither Jew nor Greek, there can be neither slave nor freeman, there can be neither male nor female -- for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 And simply by being Christ's, you are that progeny of Abraham, the heirs named in the promise.

GALATIANS CHAPTER 4

1 What I am saying is this: an heir, during the time while he is still under age, is no different from a slave, even though he is the owner of all the property; 2 he is under the control of guardians and administrators until the time fixed by his father. 3 So too with us, as long as we were still under age, we were enslaved to the elemental principles of this world; 4 but when the completion of the time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born a subject of the Law, 5 to redeem the subjects of the Law, so that we could receive adoption as sons. 6 As you are sons, God has sent into our hearts the Spirit of his Son crying, 'Abba, Father'; 7 and so you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir, by God's own act. 8 But formerly when you did not know God, you were kept in slavery to things which are not really gods at all, 9 whereas now that you have come to recognise God -- or rather, be recognised by God -- how can you now turn back again to those powerless and bankrupt elements whose slaves you now want to be all over again? 10 You are keeping special days, and months, and seasons and years 11 I am beginning to be afraid that I may, after all, have wasted my efforts on you. 12 I urge you, brothers,-be like me, as I have become like you. You have never been unfair to me; 13 indeed you remember that it was an illness that first gave me the opportunity to preach the gospel to you, 14 but though my illness was a trial to you, you did not show any distaste or revulsion; instead, you welcomed me as a messenger of God, as if I were Christ Jesus himself. 15 What has happened to the utter contentment you had then? For I can testify to you that you would have plucked your eyes out, were that possible, and given them to me. 16 Then have I turned into your enemy simply by being truthful with you? 17 Their devotion to you has no praiseworthy motive; they simply want to cut you off from me, so that you may centre your devotion on them. 18 Devotion to a praiseworthy cause is praiseworthy at any time, not only when I am there with you. 19 My children, I am going through the pain of giving birth to you all over again, until Christ is formed in you; 20 and how I wish I could be there with you at this moment and find the right way of talking to you: I am quite at a loss with you. 21 Tell me then, you are so eager to be subject to the Law, have you listened to what the Law says? 22 Scripture says that Abraham had two sons, one by the slave girl and one by the freewoman. 23 The son of the slave girl came to be born in the way of human nature; but the son of the freewoman came to be born through a promise. 24 There is an allegory here: these women stand for the two covenants. The one given on Mount Sinai -- that is Hagar, whose children are born into slavery; 25 now Sinai is a mountain in Arabia and represents Jerusalem in its present state,

for she is in slavery together with her children. **26** But the Jerusalem above is free, and that is the one that is our mother; **27** as scripture says: Shout for joy, you barren woman who has borne no children! Break into shouts of joy, you who were never in labour. For the sons of the forsaken one are more in number than the sons of the wedded wife. **28** Now you, brothers, are like Isaac, children of the promise; **29** just as at that time, the child born in the way of human nature persecuted the child born through the Spirit, so now. **30** But what is it that scripture says? Drive away that slave girl and her son; the slave girl's son is not to share the inheritance with the son of the freewoman. **31** So, brothers, we are the children not of the slave girl but of the freewoman.

GALATIANS CHAPTER 5

1 Christ set us free, so that we should remain free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be fastened again to the yoke of slavery. **2** I, Paul, give you my word that if you accept circumcision, Christ will be of no benefit to you at all. **3** I give my assurance once again to every man who accepts circumcision that he is under obligation to keep the whole Law; **4** once you seek to be reckoned as upright through the Law, then you have separated yourself from Christ, you have fallen away from grace. **5** We are led by the Spirit to wait in the confident hope of saving justice through faith, **6** since in Christ Jesus it is not being circumcised or being uncircumcised that can effect anything -- only faith working through love. **7** You began your race well; who came to obstruct you and stop you obeying the truth? **8** It was certainly not any prompting from him who called you! **9** A pinch of yeast ferments the whole batch. **10** But I feel sure that, united in the Lord, you will not be led astray, and that anyone who makes trouble with you will be condemned, no matter who he is. **11** And I, brothers -- if I were still preaching circumcision, why should I still be persecuted? For then the obstacle which is the cross would have no point any more. **12** I could wish that those who are unsettling you would go further and mutilate themselves. **13** After all, brothers, you were called to be free; do not use your freedom as an opening for self-indulgence, but be servants to one another in love, **14** since the whole of the Law is summarised in the one commandment: You must love your neighbour as yourself. **15** If you go snapping at one another and tearing one another to pieces, take care: you will be eaten up by one another. **16** Instead, I tell you, be guided by the Spirit, and you will no longer yield to self-indulgence. **17** The desires of self-indulgence are always in opposition to the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are in opposition to self-indulgence: they are opposites, one against the other; that is how you are prevented from doing the things that you want to. **18** But when you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law. **19** When self-indulgence is at work the results are obvious: sexual vice, impurity, and sensuality, **20** the worship of false gods and sorcery; antagonisms and rivalry, jealousy, bad temper and quarrels, disagreements, **21** factions and malice, drunkenness, orgies and all such things. And about these, I tell you now as I have told you in the past, that people who behave in these ways will not inherit the kingdom of God. **22** On the other hand the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness,

goodness, trustfulness, **23** gentleness and self-control; no law can touch such things as these. **24** All who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified self with all its passions and its desires. **25** Since we are living by the Spirit, let our behaviour be guided by the Spirit **26** and let us not be conceited or provocative and envious of one another.

GALATIANS CHAPTER 6

1 Brothers, even if one of you is caught doing something wrong, those of you who are spiritual should set that person right in a spirit of gentleness; and watch yourselves that you are not put to the test in the same way. **2** Carry each other's burdens; that is how to keep the law of Christ. **3** Someone who thinks himself important, when he is not, only deceives himself; **4** but everyone is to examine his own achievements, and then he will confine his boasting to his own achievements, not comparing them with anybody else's. **5** Each one has his own load to carry. **6** When someone is under instruction in doctrine, he should give his teacher a share in all his possessions. **7** Don't delude yourself: God is not to be fooled; whatever someone sows, that is what he will reap. **8** If his sowing is in the field of self-indulgence, then his harvest from it will be corruption; if his sowing is in the Spirit, then his harvest from the Spirit will be eternal life. **9** And let us never slacken in doing good; for if we do not give up, we shall have our harvest in due time. **10** So then, as long as we have the opportunity let all our actions be for the good of everybody, and especially of those who belong to the household of the faith. **11** Notice what large letters I have used in writing to you with my own hand. **12** It is those who want to cut a figure by human standards who force circumcision on you, simply so that they will not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. **13** Even though they are circumcised they still do not keep the Law themselves; they want you to be circumcised only so that they can boast of your outward appearance. **14** But as for me, it is out of the question that I should boast at all, except of the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. **15** It is not being circumcised or uncircumcised that matters; but what matters is a new creation. **16** Peace and mercy to all who follow this as their rule and to the Israel of God. **17** After this, let no one trouble me; I carry branded on my body the marks of Jesus. **18** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, my brothers. Amen.

EPHESIANS CHAPTER 1

1 Paul, by the will of God an apostle of Christ Jesus, to God's holy people, faithful in Christ Jesus. **2** Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ. **3** Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with all the spiritual blessings of heaven in Christ. **4** Thus he chose us in Christ before the world was made to be holy and faultless before him in love, **5** marking us out for himself beforehand, to be adopted sons, through Jesus Christ. Such was his purpose and good pleasure, **6** to the praise of the glory of his grace, his free gift to us in the Beloved, **7** in whom, through his blood, we

gain our freedom, the forgiveness of our sins. Such is the richness of the grace **8** which he has showered on us in all wisdom and insight. **9** He has let us know the mystery of his purpose, according to his good pleasure which he determined beforehand in Christ, **10** for him to act upon when the times had run their course: that he would bring everything together under Christ, as head, everything in the heavens and everything on earth. **11** And it is in him that we have received our heritage, marked out beforehand as we were, under the plan of the One who guides all things as he decides by his own will, **12** chosen to be, for the praise of his glory, the people who would put their hopes in Christ before he came. **13** Now you too, in him, have heard the message of the truth and the gospel of your salvation, and having put your trust in it you have been stamped with the seal of the Holy Spirit of the Promise, **14** who is the pledge of our inheritance, for the freedom of the people whom God has taken for his own, for the praise of his glory. **15** That is why I, having once heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus, and your love for all God's holy people, **16** have never failed to thank God for you and to remember you in my prayers. **17** May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. **18** May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, how rich is the glory of the heritage he offers among his holy people, **19** and how extraordinarily great is the power that he has exercised for us believers; this accords with the strength of his power **20** at work in Christ, the power which he exercised in raising him from the dead and enthroning him at his right hand, in heaven, **21** far above every principality, ruling force, power or sovereignty, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. **22** He has put all things under his feet, and made him, as he is above all things, the head of the Church; **23** which is his Body, the fullness of him who is filled, all in all.

EPHESIANS CHAPTER 2

1 And you were dead, through the crimes and the sins **2** which used to make up your way of life when you were living by the principles of this world, obeying the ruler who dominates the air, the spirit who is at work in those who rebel. **3** We too were all among them once, living only by our natural inclinations, obeying the demands of human self-indulgence and our own whim; our nature made us no less liable to God's retribution than the rest of the world. **4** But God, being rich in faithful love, through the great love with which he loved us, **5** even when we were dead in our sins, brought us to life with Christ -- it is through grace that you have been saved **6** and raised us up with him and gave us a place with him in heaven, in Christ Jesus. **7** This was to show for all ages to come, through his goodness towards us in Christ Jesus, how extraordinarily rich he is in grace. **8** Because it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith; not by anything of your own, but by a gift from God; **9** not by anything that you have done, so that nobody can claim the credit. **10** We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus for the good works which God has already designated to make up our way of life. **11** Do not forget, then, that there was a time when you who were gentiles

by physical descent, termed the uncircumcised by those who speak of themselves as the circumcised by reason of a physical operation, **12** do not forget, I say, that you were at that time separate from Christ and excluded from membership of Israel, aliens with no part in the covenants of the Promise, limited to this world, without hope and without God. **13** But now in Christ Jesus, you that used to be so far off have been brought close, by the blood of Christ. **14** For he is the peace between us, and has made the two into one entity and broken down the barrier which used to keep them apart, by destroying in his own person the hostility, **15** that is, the Law of commandments with its decrees. His purpose in this was, by restoring peace, to create a single New Man out of the two of them, **16** and through the cross, to reconcile them both to God in one Body; in his own person he killed the hostility. **17** He came to bring the good news of peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. **18** Through him, then, we both in the one Spirit have free access to the Father. **19** So you are no longer aliens or foreign visitors; you are fellow-citizens with the holy people of God and part of God's household. **20** You are built upon the foundations of the apostles and prophets, and Christ Jesus Himself is the cornerstone. Every structure knit together in him grows into a holy temple in the Lord; **22** and you too, in him, are being built up into a dwelling-place of God in the Spirit.

EPHESIANS CHAPTER 3

1 It is because of this that I, Paul, a prisoner of the Lord Jesus on behalf of you gentiles. . . .
2 You have surely heard the way in which God entrusted me with the grace he gave me for your sake; **3** he made known to me by a revelation the mystery I have just described briefly **4** a reading of it will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. **5** This mystery, as it is now revealed in the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets, was unknown to humanity in previous generations: **6** that the gentiles now have the same inheritance and form the same Body and enjoy the same promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. **7** I have been made the servant of that gospel by a gift of grace from God who gave it to me by the workings of his power. **8** I, who am less than the least of all God's holy people, have been entrusted with this special grace, of proclaiming to the gentiles the unfathomable treasure of Christ **9** and of throwing light on the inner workings of the mystery kept hidden through all the ages in God, the Creator of everything. **10** The purpose of this was, that now, through the Church, the principalities and ruling forces should learn how many-sided God's wisdom is, **11** according to the plan which he had formed from all eternity in Christ Jesus our Lord. **12** In him we are bold enough to approach God in complete confidence, through our faith in him; **13** so, I beg you, do not let the hardships I go through on your account make you waver; they are your glory. **14** This, then, is what I pray, kneeling before the Father, **15** from whom every fatherhood, in heaven or on earth, takes its name. **16** In the abundance of his glory may he, through his Spirit, enable you to grow firm in power with regard to your inner self, **17** so that Christ may live in your hearts through faith, and then, planted in love and built on love, **18** with all God's holy people you will have the

strength to grasp the breadth and the length, the height and the depth; **19** so that, knowing the love of Christ, which is beyond, you knowledge may be filled with the utter fullness of God. **20** Glory be to him whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine; **21** glory be to him from generation to generation in the Church and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. Amen.

EPHESIANS CHAPTER 4

1 I, the prisoner in the Lord, urge you therefore to lead a life worthy of the vocation to which you were called. **2** With all humility and gentleness, and with patience, support each other in love. **3** Take every care to preserve the unity of the Spirit by the peace that binds you together. **4** There is one Body, one Spirit, just as one hope is the goal of your calling by God. **5** There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, **6** and one God and Father of all, over all, through all and within all. **7** On each one of us God's favour has been bestowed in whatever way Christ allotted it. **8** That is why it says: He went up to the heights, took captives, he gave gifts to humanity. **9** When it says, 'he went up', it must mean that he had gone down to the deepest levels of the earth. **10** The one who went down is none other than the one who went up above all the heavens to fill all things. **11** And to some, his 'gift' was that they should be apostles; to some prophets; to some, evangelists; to some, pastors and teachers; **12** to knit God's holy people together for the work of service to build up the Body of Christ, **13** until we all reach unity in faith and knowledge of the Son of God and form the perfect Man, fully mature with the fullness of Christ himself. **14** Then we shall no longer be children, or tossed one way and another, and carried hither and thither by every new gust of teaching, at the mercy of all the tricks people play and their unscrupulousness in deliberate deception. **15** If we live by the truth and in love, we shall grow completely into Christ, who is the head **16** by whom the whole Body is fitted and joined together, every joint adding its own strength, for each individual part to work according to its function. So the body grows until it has built itself up in love. **17** So this I say to you and attest to you in the Lord, do not go on living the empty-headed life that the gentiles live. **18** Intellectually they are in the dark, and they are estranged from the life of God, because of the ignorance which is the consequence of closed minds. **19** Their sense of right and wrong once dulled, they have abandoned all self-control and pursue to excess every kind of uncleanness. **20** Now that is hardly the way you have learnt Christ, **21** unless you failed to hear him properly when you were taught what the truth is in Jesus. **22** You were to put aside your old self, which belongs to your old way of life and is corrupted by following illusory desires. **23** Your mind was to be renewed in spirit **24** so that you could put on the New Man that has been created on God's principles, in the uprightness and holiness of the truth. **25** So from now on, there must be no more lies. Speak the truth to one another, since we are all parts of one another. **26** Even if you are angry, do not sin: never let the sun set on your anger **27** or else you will give the devil a foothold. **28** Anyone who was a thief must stop stealing; instead he should exert himself at some honest job with his own hands so that he may have something to share

with those in need. 29 No foul word should ever cross your lips; let your words be for the improvement of others, as occasion offers, and do good to your listeners; 30 do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God who has marked you with his seal, ready for the day when we shall be set free. 31 Any bitterness or bad temper or anger or shouting or abuse must be far removed from you -- as must every kind of malice. 32 Be generous to one another, sympathetic, forgiving each other as readily as God forgave you in Christ.

EPHESIANS CHAPTER 5

1 As God's dear children, then, take him as your pattern, 2 and follow Christ by loving as he loved you, giving himself up for us as an offering and a sweet-smelling sacrifice to God. 3 Among you there must be not even a mention of sexual vice or impurity in any of its forms, or greed: this would scarcely become the holy people of God! 4 There must be no foul or salacious talk or coarse jokes -- all this is wrong for you; there should rather be thanksgiving. 5 For you can be quite certain that nobody who indulges in sexual immorality or impurity or greed -- which is worshipping a false god -- can inherit the kingdom of God. 6 Do not let anyone deceive you with empty arguments: it is such behaviour that draws down God's retribution on those who rebel against him. 7 Make sure that you do not throw in your lot with them. 8 You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; behave as children of light, 9 for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and uprightness and truth. 10 Try to discover what the Lord wants of you, 11 take no part in the futile works of darkness but, on the contrary, show them up for what they are. 12 The things which are done in secret are shameful even to speak of; 13 but anything shown up by the light will be illuminated 14 and anything illuminated is itself a light. That is why it is said: Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you. 15 So be very careful about the sort of lives you lead, like intelligent and not like senseless people. 16 Make the best of the present time, for it is a wicked age. 17 This is why you must not be thoughtless but must recognise what is the will of the Lord. 18 Do not get drunk with wine; this is simply dissipation; be filled with the Spirit. 19 Sing psalms and hymns and inspired songs among yourselves, singing and chanting to the Lord in your hearts, 20 always and everywhere giving thanks to God who is our Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. 21 Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ. 22 Wives should be subject to their husbands as to the Lord, 23 since, as Christ is head of the Church and saves the whole body, so is a husband the head of his wife; 24 and as the Church is subject to Christ, so should wives be to their husbands, in everything. 25 Husbands should love their wives, just as Christ loved the Church and sacrificed himself for her 26 to make her holy by washing her in cleansing water with a form of words, 27 so that when he took the Church to himself she would be glorious, with no speck or wrinkle or anything like that, but holy and faultless. 28 In the same way, husbands must love their wives as they love their own bodies; for a man to love his wife is for him to love himself. 29 A man never hates his own body, but he feeds it and looks after it; and that is the way Christ treats the Church, 30 because we are parts of his Body. 31 This

is why a man leaves his father and mother and becomes attached to his wife, and the two become one flesh. **32** This mystery has great significance, but I am applying it to Christ and the Church. **33** To sum up: you also, each one of you, must love his wife as he loves himself; and let every wife respect her husband.

EPHESIANS CHAPTER 6

1 Children, be obedient to your parents in the Lord -- that is what uprightness demands. **2** The first commandment that has a promise attached to it is: Honour your father and your mother, **3** and the promise is: so that you may have long life and prosper in the land. **4** And parents, never drive your children to resentment but bring them up with correction and advice inspired by the Lord. **5** Slaves, be obedient to those who are, according to human reckoning, your masters, with deep respect and sincere loyalty, as you are obedient to Christ: **6** not only when you are under their eye, as if you had only to please human beings, but as slaves of Christ who wholeheartedly do the will of God. **7** Work willingly for the sake of the Lord and not for the sake of human beings. **8** Never forget that everyone, whether a slave or a free man, will be rewarded by the Lord for whatever work he has done well. **9** And those of you who are employers, treat your slaves in the same spirit; do without threats, and never forget that they and you have the same Master in heaven and there is no favouritism with him. **10** Finally, grow strong in the Lord, with the strength of his power. **11** Put on the full armour of God so as to be able to resist the devil's tactics. **12** For it is not against human enemies that we have to struggle, but against the principalities and the ruling forces who are masters of the darkness in this world, the spirits of evil in the heavens. **13** That is why you must take up all God's armour, or you will not be able to put up any resistance on the evil day, or stand your ground even though you exert yourselves to the full. **14** So stand your ground, with truth a belt round your waist, and uprightness a breastplate, **15** wearing for shoes on your feet the eagerness to spread the gospel of peace **16** and always carrying the shield of faith so that you can use it to quench the burning arrows of the Evil One. **17** And then you must take salvation as your helmet and the sword of the Spirit, that is, the word of God. **18** In all your prayer and entreaty keep praying in the Spirit on every possible occasion. Never get tired of staying awake to pray for all God's holy people, **19** and pray for me to be given an opportunity to open my mouth and fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel **20** of which I am an ambassador in chains; pray that in proclaiming it I may speak as fearlessly as I ought to. **21** So that you know, as well, what is happening to me and what I am doing, my dear friend Tychicus, my trustworthy helper in the Lord, will tell you everything. **22** I am sending him to you precisely for this purpose, to give you news about us and encourage you thoroughly. **23** May God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ grant peace, love and faith to all the brothers. **24** May grace be with all who love our Lord Jesus Christ, in life imperishable.

PHILIPPIANS CHAPTER 1

1 Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, to all God's holy people in Christ Jesus at Philippi, together with their presiding elders and the deacons. 2 Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 3 I thank my God whenever I think of you, 4 and every time I pray for you all, I always pray with joy 5 for your partnership in the gospel from the very first day up to the present. 6 I am quite confident that the One who began a good work in you will go on completing it until the Day of Jesus Christ comes. 7 It is only right that I should feel like this towards you all, because you have a place in my heart, since you have all shared together in the grace that has been mine, both my chains and my work defending and establishing the gospel. 8 For God will testify for me how much I long for you all with the warm longing of Christ Jesus; 9 it is my prayer that your love for one another may grow more and more with the knowledge and complete understanding 10 that will help you to come to true discernment, so that you will be innocent and free of any trace of guilt when the Day of Christ comes, 11 entirely filled with the fruits of uprightness through Jesus Christ, for the glory and praise of God. 12 Now I want you to realise, brothers, that the circumstances of my present life are helping rather than hindering the advance of the gospel. 13 My chains in Christ have become well known not only to all the Praetorium, but to everybody else, 14 and so most of the brothers in the Lord have gained confidence from my chains and are getting more and more daring in announcing the Message without any fear. 15 It is true that some of them are preaching Christ out of malice and rivalry; but there are many as well whose intentions are good; 16 some are doing it out of love, knowing that I remain firm in my defence of the gospel. 17 There are others who are proclaiming Christ out of jealousy, not in sincerity but meaning to add to the weight of my chains. 18 But what does it matter? Only that in both ways, whether with false motives or true, Christ is proclaimed, and for that I am happy; 19 and I shall go on being happy, too, because I know that this is what will save me, with your prayers and with the support of the Spirit of Jesus Christ; 20 all in accordance with my most confident hope and trust that I shall never have to admit defeat, but with complete fearlessness I shall go on, so that now, as always, Christ will be glorified in my body, whether by my life or my death. 21 Life to me, of course, is Christ, but then death would be a positive gain. 22 On the other hand again, if to be alive in the body gives me an opportunity for fruitful work, I do not know which I should choose. 23 I am caught in this dilemma: I want to be gone and to be with Christ, and this is by far the stronger desire 24 and yet for your sake to stay alive in this body is a more urgent need. 25 This much I know for certain, that I shall stay and stand by you all, to encourage your advance and your joy in the faith, 26 so that my return to be among you may increase to overflowing your pride in Jesus Christ on my account. 27 But you must always behave in a way that is worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come to you and see for myself or whether I only hear all about you from a distance, I shall find that you are standing firm and united in spirit, battling, as a team with a single aim, for the faith of the gospel, 28

undismayed by any of your opponents. This will be a clear sign, for them that they are to be lost, and for you that you are to be saved. 29 This comes from God, for you have been granted the privilege for Christ's sake not only of believing in him but of suffering for him as well; 30 you are fighting the same battle which you saw me fighting for him and which you hear I am fighting still.

PHILIPPIANS CHAPTER 2

1 So if in Christ there is anything that will move you, any incentive in love, any fellowship in the Spirit, any warmth or sympathy -- I appeal to you, 2 make my joy complete by being of a single mind, one in love, one in heart and one in mind. 3 Nothing is to be done out of jealousy or vanity; instead, out of humility of mind everyone should give preference to others, 4 everyone pursuing not selfish interests but those of others. 5 Make your own the mind of Christ Jesus: 6 Who, being in the form of God, did not count equality with God something to be grasped. 7 But he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, becoming as human beings are; and being in every way like a human being, 8 he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. 9 And for this God raised him high, and gave him the name which is above all other names; 10 so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus 11 and that every tongue should acknowledge Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father. 12 So, my dear friends, you have always been obedient; your obedience must not be limited to times when I am present. Now that I am absent it must be more in evidence, so work out your salvation in fear and trembling. 13 It is God who, for his own generous purpose, gives you the intention and the powers to act. 14 Let your behaviour be free of murmuring and complaining 15 so that you remain faultless and pure, unspoilt children of God surrounded by a deceitful and underhand brood, shining out among them like bright stars in the world, 16 proffering to it the Word of life. Then I shall have reason to be proud on the Day of Christ, for it will not be for nothing that I have run the race and toiled so hard. 17 Indeed, even if my blood has to be poured as a libation over your sacrifice and the offering of your faith, then I shall be glad and join in your rejoicing 18 and in the same way, you must be glad and join in my rejoicing. 19 I hope, in the Lord Jesus, to send Timothy to you soon, so that my mind may be set at rest when I hear how you are. 20 There is nobody else that I can send who is like him and cares as sincerely for your well-being; 21 they all want to work for themselves, not for Jesus Christ. 22 But you know what sort of person he has proved himself, working with me for the sake of the gospel like a son with his father. 23 That is the man, then, that I am hoping to send to you immediately I can make out what is going to happen to me; 24 but I am confident in the Lord that I shall come myself, too, before long. 25 Nevertheless I thought it essential to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother and fellow-worker and companion-in-arms since he came as your representative to look after my needs; 26 because he was missing you all and was worrying because you had heard that he was ill. 27 Indeed he was seriously ill and nearly died; but God took pity on him -- and not

only on him but also on me, to spare me one grief on top of another. **28** So I am sending him back as promptly as I can so that you will have the joy of seeing him again, and that will be some comfort to me in my distress. **29** Welcome him in the Lord, then, with all joy; hold people like him in honour, **30** because it was for Christ's work that he came so near to dying, risking his life to do the duty to me which you could not do yourselves.

PHILIPPIANS CHAPTER 3

1 Finally, brothers, I wish you joy in the Lord. To write to you what I have already written before is no trouble to me and to you will be a protection. **2** Beware of dogs! Beware of evil workmen! Beware of self-mutilators! **3** We are the true people of the circumcision since we worship by the Spirit of God and make Christ Jesus our only boast, not relying on physical qualifications, **4** although, I myself could rely on these too. If anyone does claim to rely on them, my claim is better. **5** Circumcised on the eighth day of my life, I was born of the race of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrew parents. In the matter of the Law, I was a Pharisee; **6** as for religious fervour, I was a persecutor of the Church; as for the uprightness embodied in the Law, I was faultless. **7** But what were once my assets I now through Christ Jesus count as losses. **8** Yes, I will go further: because of the supreme advantage of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, I count everything else as loss. For him I have accepted the loss of all other things, and look on them all as filth if only I can gain Christ **9** and be given a place in him, with the uprightness I have gained not from the Law, but through faith in Christ, an uprightness from God, based on faith, **10** that I may come to know him and the power of his resurrection, and partake of his sufferings by being moulded to the pattern of his death, **11** striving towards the goal of resurrection from the dead. **12** Not that I have secured it already, nor yet reached my goal, but I am still pursuing it in the attempt to take hold of the prize for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. **13** Brothers, I do not reckon myself as having taken hold of it; I can only say that forgetting all that lies behind me, and straining forward to what lies in front, **14** I am racing towards the finishing-point to win the prize of God's heavenly call in Christ Jesus. **15** So this is the way in which all of us who are mature should be thinking, and if you are still thinking differently in any way, then God has yet to make this matter clear to you. **16** Meanwhile, let us go forward from the point we have each attained. **17** Brothers, be united in imitating me. Keep your eyes fixed on those who act according to the example you have from me. **18** For there are so many people of whom I have often warned you, and now I warn you again with tears in my eyes, who behave like the enemies of Christ's cross. **19** They are destined to be lost; their god is the stomach; they glory in what they should think shameful, since their minds are set on earthly things. **20** But our homeland is in heaven and it is from there that we are expecting a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, **21** who will transfigure the wretched body of ours into the mould of his glorious body, through the working of the power which he has, even to bring all things under his mastery.

PHILIPPIANS CHAPTER 4

1 So then, my brothers and dear friends whom I miss so much, my joy and my crown, hold firm in the Lord, dear friends. **2** I urge Euodia, and I urge Syntyche to come to agreement with each other in the Lord; **3** and I ask you, Syzygus, really to be a 'partner' and help them. These women have struggled hard for the gospel with me, along with Clement and all my other fellow-workers, whose names are written in the book of life. **4** Always be joyful, then, in the Lord; I repeat, be joyful. **5** Let your good sense be obvious to everybody. The Lord is near. **6** Never worry about anything; but tell God all your desires of every kind in prayer and petition shot through with gratitude, **7** and the peace of God which is beyond our understanding will guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus. **8** Finally, brothers, let your minds be filled with everything that is true, everything that is honourable, everything that is upright and pure, everything that we love and admire -- with whatever is good and praiseworthy. **9** Keep doing everything you learnt from me and were told by me and have heard or seen me doing. Then the God of peace will be with you. **10** As for me, I am full of joy in the Lord, now that at last your consideration for me has blossomed again; though I recognise that you really did have consideration before, but had no opportunity to show it. **11** I do not say this because I have lacked anything; I have learnt to manage with whatever I have. **12** I know how to live modestly, and I know how to live luxuriously too: in every way now I have mastered the secret of all conditions: full stomach and empty stomach, plenty and poverty. **13** There is nothing I cannot do in the One who strengthens me. **14** All the same, it was good of you to share with me in my hardships. **15** In the early days of the gospel, as you of Philippi well know, when I left Macedonia, no church other than yourselves made common account with me in the matter of expenditure and receipts. You were the only ones; **16** and what is more, you have twice sent me what I needed in Thessalonica. **17** It is not the gift that I value most; what I value is the interest that is mounting up in your account. **18** I have all that I need and more: I am fully provided, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the offering that you sent, a pleasing smell, the sacrifice which is acceptable and pleasing to God. **19** And my God will fulfil all your needs out of the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus. **20** And so glory be to God our Father, for ever and ever. Amen. **21** My greetings to every one of God's holy people in Christ Jesus. The brothers who are with me send you their greetings. **22** All God's holy people send you their greetings, especially those of Caesar's household. **23** May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

COLOSSIANS CHAPTER 1

1 From Paul, by the will of God an apostle of Christ Jesus, and from our brother Timothy **2** to God's holy people in Colossae, our faithful brothers in Christ. Grace and peace to you from God our Father. **3** We give thanks for you to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, continually in our prayers, **4** ever since we heard about your faith in Christ Jesus and the

love that you show towards all God's holy people **5** because of the hope which is stored up for you in heaven. News of this hope reached you not long ago through the word of truth, the gospel **6** that came to you in the same way as it is bearing fruit and growing throughout the world. It has had the same effect among you, ever since you heard about the grace of God and recognised it for what it truly is. **7** This you learnt from Epaphras, our very dear fellow-worker and a trustworthy deputy for us as Christ's servant, **8** and it was he who also told us all about your love in the Spirit. **9** That is why, ever since the day he told us, we have never failed to remember you in our prayers and ask that through perfect wisdom and spiritual understanding you should reach the fullest knowledge of his will **10** and so be able to lead a life worthy of the Lord, a life acceptable to him in all its aspects, bearing fruit in every kind of good work and growing in knowledge of God, **11** fortified, in accordance with his glorious strength, with all power always to persevere and endure, **12** giving thanks with joy to the Father who has made you able to share the lot of God's holy people and with them to inherit the light. **13** Because that is what he has done. It is he who has rescued us from the ruling force of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of the Son that he loves, **14** and in him we enjoy our freedom, the forgiveness of sin. **15** He is the image of the unseen God, the first-born of all creation, **16** for in him were created all things in heaven and on earth: everything visible and everything invisible, thrones, ruling forces, sovereignties, powers -- all things were created through him and for him. **17** He exists before all things and in him all things hold together, **18** and he is the Head of the Body, that is, the Church. He is the Beginning, the first-born from the dead, so that he should be supreme in every way; **19** because God wanted all fullness to be found in him **20** and through him to reconcile all things to him, everything in heaven and everything on earth, by making peace through his death on the cross. **21** You were once estranged and of hostile intent through your evil behaviour; **22** now he has reconciled you, by his death and in that mortal body, to bring you before himself holy, faultless and irreproachable **23** as long as you persevere and stand firm on the solid base of the faith, never letting yourselves drift away from the hope promised by the gospel, which you have heard, which has been preached to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become the servant. **24** It makes me happy to be suffering for you now, and in my own body to make up all the hardships that still have to be undergone by Christ for the sake of his body, the Church, **25** of which I was made a servant with the responsibility towards you that God gave to me, that of completing God's message, **26** the message which was a mystery hidden for generations and centuries and has now been revealed to his holy people. **27** It was God's purpose to reveal to them how rich is the glory of this mystery among the gentiles; it is Christ among you, your hope of glory: **28** this is the Christ we are proclaiming, admonishing and instructing everyone in all wisdom, to make everyone perfect in Christ. **29** And it is for this reason that I labour, striving with his energy which works in me mightily.

COLOSSIANS CHAPTER 2

1 I want you to know, then, what a struggle I am having on your behalf and on behalf of those in Laodicea, and on behalf of so many others who have never seen me face to face.

2 It is all to bind them together in love and to encourage their resolution until they are rich in the assurance of their complete understanding and have knowledge of the mystery of God **3** in which all the jewels of wisdom and knowledge are hidden. **4** I say this to make sure that no one deceives you with specious arguments. **5** I may be absent in body, but in spirit I am there among you, delighted to find how well-ordered you are and to see how firm your faith in Christ is. **6** So then, as you received Jesus as Lord and Christ, now live your lives in him, **7** be rooted in him and built up on him, held firm by the faith you have been taught, and overflowing with thanksgiving. **8** Make sure that no one captivates you with the empty lure of a 'philosophy' of the kind that human beings hand on, based on the principles of this world and not on Christ. **9** In him, in bodily form, lives divinity in all its fullness, **10** and in him you too find your own fulfilment, in the one who is the head of every sovereignty and ruling force. **11** In him you have been circumcised, with a circumcision performed, not by human hand, but by the complete stripping of your natural self. This is circumcision according to Christ. **12** You have been buried with him by your baptism; by which, too, you have been raised up with him through your belief in the power of God who raised him from the dead. **13** You were dead, because you were sinners and uncircumcised in body: he has brought you to life with him, he has forgiven us every one of our sins. **14** He has wiped out the record of our debt to the Law, which stood against us; he has destroyed it by nailing it to the cross; **15** and he has stripped the sovereignties and the ruling forces, and paraded them in public, behind him in his triumphal procession. **16** Then never let anyone criticise you for what you eat or drink, or about observance of annual festivals, New Moons or Sabbaths. **17** These are only a shadow of what was coming: the reality is the body of Christ. **18** Do not be cheated of your prize by anyone who chooses to grovel to angels and worship them, pinning every hope on visions received, vainly puffed up by a human way of thinking; **19** such a person has no connection to the Head, by which the whole body, given all that it needs and held together by its joints and sinews, grows with the growth given by God. **20** If you have really died with Christ to the principles of this world, why do you still let rules dictate to you, as though you were still living in the world? **21** -'Do not pick up this, do not eat that, do not touch the other,' **22** and all about things which perish even while they are being used -- according to merely human commandments and doctrines! **23** In these rules you can indeed find what seems to be good sense -- the cultivation of the will, and a humility which takes no account of the body; but in fact they have no value against self-indulgence.

COLOSSIANS CHAPTER 3

1 Since you have been raised up to be with Christ, you must look for the things that are above, where Christ is, sitting at God's right hand. **2** Let your thoughts be on things above, not on the things that are on the earth, **3** because you have died, and now the life you have is hidden with Christ in God. **4** But when Christ is revealed -- and he is your life--you, too, will be revealed with him in glory. **5** That is why you must kill everything in you that is earthly: sexual vice, impurity, uncontrolled passion, evil desires and especially greed, which is the same thing as worshipping a false god; **6** it is precisely these things which draw God's retribution upon those who resist. **7** And these things made up your way of life when you were living among such people, **8** but now you also must give up all these things: human anger, hot temper, malice, abusive language and dirty talk; **9** and do not lie to each other. You have stripped off your old behaviour with your old self, **10** and you have put on a new self which will progress towards true knowledge the more it is renewed in the image of its Creator; **11** and in that image there is no room for distinction between Greek and Jew, between the circumcised and uncircumcised, or between barbarian and Scythian, slave and free. There is only Christ: he is everything and he is in everything. **12** As the chosen of God, then, the holy people whom he loves, you are to be clothed in heartfelt compassion, in generosity and humility, gentleness and patience. **13** Bear with one another; forgive each other if one of you has a complaint against another. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same. **14** Over all these clothes, put on love, the perfect bond. **15** And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you were called together in one body. Always be thankful. **16** Let the Word of Christ, in all its richness, find a home with you. Teach each other, and advise each other, in all wisdom. With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and hymns and inspired songs to God; **17** and whatever you say or do, let it be in the name of the Lord Jesus, in thanksgiving to God the Father through him. **18** Wives, be subject to your husbands, as you should in the Lord. **19** Husbands, love your wives and do not be sharp with them. **20** Children, be obedient to your parents always, because that is what will please the Lord. **21** Parents, do not irritate your children or they will lose heart. **22** Slaves, be obedient in every way to the people who, according to human reckoning, are your masters; not only when you are under their eye, as if you had only to please human beings, but wholeheartedly, out of respect for the Master. **23** Whatever your work is, put your heart into it as done for the Lord and not for human beings, **24** knowing that the Lord will repay you by making you his heirs. It is Christ the Lord that you are serving. **25** Anyone who does wrong will be repaid in kind. For there is no favouritism.

COLOSSIANS CHAPTER 4

1 Masters, make sure that your slaves are given what is upright and fair, knowing that you too have a Master in heaven. **2** Be persevering in your prayers and be thankful as you stay

awake to pray. **3** Pray for us especially, asking God to throw open a door for us to announce the message and proclaim the mystery of Christ, for the sake of which I am in chains; **4** pray that I may proclaim it as clearly as I ought. **5** Act wisely with outsiders, making the best of the present time. **6** Always talk pleasantly and with a flavour of wit but be sensitive to the kind of answer each one requires. **7** Tychicus will tell you all the news about me. He is a very dear brother, and a trustworthy helper and companion in the service of the Lord. **8** I am sending him to you precisely for this purpose: to give you news about us and to encourage you thoroughly. **9** With him I am sending Onesimus, that dear and trustworthy brother who is a fellow-citizen of yours. They will tell you everything that is happening here. **10** Aristarchus, who is here in prison with me, sends his greetings, and so does Mark, the cousin of Barnabas -- you were sent some instructions about him; if he comes to you, give him a warm welcome **11** and Jesus Justus adds his greetings. Of all those who have come over from the circumcision, these are the only ones actually working with me for the kingdom of God. They have been a great comfort to me. **12** Epaphras, your fellow-citizen, sends his greetings; this servant of Christ Jesus never stops battling for you, praying that you will never lapse but always hold perfectly and securely to the will of God. **13** I can testify for him that he works hard for you, as well as for those at Laodicea and Hierapolis. **14** Greetings from my dear friend Luke, the doctor, and also from Demas. **15** Please give my greetings to the brothers at Laodicea and to Nympha and the church which meets in her house. **16** After this letter has been read among you, send it on to be read in the church of the Laodiceans; and get the letter from Laodicea for you to read yourselves **17** Give Archippus this message, 'Remember the service that the Lord assigned to you, and try to carry it out.' **18** This greeting is in my own hand - PAUL. Remember the chains I wear. Grace be with you.