CIRCULAR LETTER OF PAUL THE APOSTLE
TO THE
EPHESIAN
AND OTHER ASSEMBLIES.

The Apostle’s Salutation.

1 PAUL, an apostle of Christ Jesus, through the will of God, to the holy and faithful in Christ Jesus existing (at Ephesus): Blessing to you, and peace from our Father, God, and Lord Jesus Christ.

2 The Fullness in Christ.

3 Let the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ be blessed, Who has blest us with every spiritual blessing which is in the heavens with Christ; since He had chosen us for Himself before founding a system, to be holy and blameless in love before Him; having prepared us for adoption to Himself through Jesus Christ according to His settled purpose, in accordance with His glorious gift which He presented to us from love; by which we have the redemption through His blood, the release from sins, coming with the rich gift which He poured into us with all wisdom and intelligence; making known to us the mystery of His intention, with His decision which He had determined with Himself to administer at the completion of the periods, when everything was to be centred again in the Messiah, both upon the heavens and upon the earth: in Him, by Whom we have also inherited according to His purpose Who foresees and energizes all things, which have been prepared to accomplish the intention of His will;—so that we who formerly awaited the Messiah might be an evidence of His honour. From Whom you have also heard the true message—the good news of your salvation—and believing in Whom you were sealed with the promise by the Holy Spirit, which is the pledge of our inheritance, to be redeemed by the possession of it, as proof of His honour. Because of which I also, having heard of your fidelity in the Lord Jesus, and love towards all the holy, cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers; so that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom, and comprehension of what is contained in a full knowledge of Him who enlightens the eyes of your hearts: to show you what is the hope of His calling; what is the glorious wealth of His inheritance for the holy; and what the exceeding greatness of His power in us believers, through His mighty energy, which energized in Christ, raising Him from the dead, and seating Him at His right in the heavens, above all government, authority, and power, and dominion; and every name named, not only in this present age but also in that to come; and has subjected everything under His feet; and has given Him to head over all the church, which is His body, the accomplishment of the whole in absolute perfection.

The Believer’s Position in Christ.

And you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you then walked, following this age of the world, under the authority of the prince of darkness, of the spirit of him now working in the sons of carelessness; with whom also we all then associated, in the lusts of our sensuality, practicing the desires of the flesh and of the mind; for we were naturally children of passion, like the rest. But God, being rich in mercy, through His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead through our transgressions, restored us to life with Christ—you are saved by a gift—and raised us together, and seated us together in the heavens with Christ Jesus; so that He might show to the coming ages the surpassing riches of His gift, with which He had benefited us in Christ Jesus. For you are saved by a gift through a faith, and this is not from yourselves: the gift

1 Psalm viii. 6.
9 is from God: not from rituals, so
death that none can boast. For we are His
creation, created in Christ Jesus for
good works, in which God has
decided that we should live.

11 Therefore remember, that then you
were, personally, the heathen—who
are called Uncircumcision by those
called Circumcision in flesh made
by hand—you were at that time with-
out Christ, excluded from the constitu-
tion of Israel, and foreigners to the
covenants of the promise, not having
a hope, and without a God in the
universe. But now in Christ Jesus,
you, who then were far away, have
become near by the blood of Christ.

For He is our peace, Who made the
two one, and removed the dividing
veil of enmity, by His own body;
making void the law of commands by
two thought, so that from these two
He might create in Himself one single
new man, making peace, and reconcil-
ing the two in one body to God
through His Cross; having destroyed
the enmity by means of Himself: and
coming, He announced the good
news of peace to you afar off,
and peace to those near; 
11 because through Him we both have
access in one Spirit to the Father.

Therefore now you are no more
foreigners and aliens: on the con-
trary, you are fellow-citizens with the
saints, and household friends of God;
resting upon the foundation of the
apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ
being Himself the Angle-stone: into
which the structure, harmoniously
arranged, rises up into a holy temple
for the Lord; and into Whom you are
being built for a dwelling-place of
God in Spirit.

The Eternal Secret of God
Revealed in the Church.

3 Because of this I Paul, the prisoner
of Christ Jesus for you heathen,
assuming that you have heard of
the administration of the gift of God which
has been entrusted to me for you; how
that by revelation the secret was made
known to me, as I have already briefly
related, by which you may be able
while reading to perceive my know-
ledge in the secret of Christ—which
in other generations was not made
known to the sons of men, as now it
has been revealed to His holy apostles

and preachers in Spirit—that the 6
heathen are heirs, and participators,
and shareholders, of the promise in
Christ Jesus through the gospel; of
which I became a minister by the free
gift of God, entrusted to me with His
powerful energy. To me, the very 8
least of all the holy, this gift was en-
trusted—to be proclaiming to the
heathen the good news of the im-
measurable wealth of Christ; and to
throw light upon what is the adminis-
tration of the mystery which was hid-
den for ages, with God the Creator of
all things; so that it might now be
made known to the chiefs and authori-
ties in the heavens by means of the
church, what is the perfectly working
wisdom of God, following the in-
tention which He had provided in
Christ Jesus our Lord from the eterni-
ties; by Whom we have free and
confident access through His faith.
Therefore, I pray, be not depressed
by my afflictions for you, since they
are your glory.

For this I bend my knees in the 14
presence of the Father, from Whom
15 every family in heaven and upon
everth is named: so that He may
endow you with His glorious wealth,
strengthening you with power, through
His Spirit in the inner man: that
Christ may dwell in your hearts,
17 through the faith in love; you being
rooted and grounded, so that you may
18 be strengthened to comprehend with
all the holy, what is the width and ex-
tent, and height and depth, and to
19 gain an idea how far the love of Christ
exceeds our research: so that you may
be perfected with all the perfection of
God. But to the Power able to do all, 20
far beyond what we can ask or think,
by means of His power energizing in
us—to Him be the praise in the church,
and in Christ Jesus, during all the
generations of the ages of the eterni-
ties. Amen.

Exhortations to Godliness.

Therefore I entreat you—I, the 4
prisoner of the Lord—to conduct your-
selves worthy of the calling with which
you are called, with all quietness, and
gentleness, and forbearance, support-
ing one another in love; endeavouring
3 to preserve the spirit of unity by the
link of peace. One body and one
spirit, as you were called to a single
hope of your calling; having one Lord,
one faith, one baptism; one God and 6

1 Isa. lviii 19
Father of all, Who is over all, and 7 through all, and in all; and Who gave to each one of us the gift proportionate to the measure of the free gift of Christ. For this, He says, 

HAVING ASCENDED ON HIGH,
He captured captivity,
AND GAVE GIFTS TO MEN.1

But Who ascended? Who is He, if not the same Who descended first into the lowest part of the earth? He Who descended is the very same as He Who ascended above all the heavens, so that He might fill all.

And He gave some, apostles; some, preachers; some, missionaries; and some, pastors and teachers; for the training of the holy in useful work, 13 to construct the body of Christ; until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the comprehension of the Son of God; to a perfect manhood, to the standard height of the perfection of Christ: so that we may no longer raw recruits, wavering and reeling at every breath of the training, by human cunning with villainy, perverting it into an instrument for error; but, following the truth in love, until we attain the whole in Him, Who is the Head—Christ; from Whom all the body, harmoniously constructed and balanced through every joint of the combination, with proportionate energy in each of its limbs, the body may grow up an edifice in love with itself.

I say this, then, and give evidence in the Lord, so that you may no longer walk as the heathen walk, in the folly of their mind, with the reason beclouded, being alienated from the Divine life by the want of perception which exists in them, through the hardening of their hearts. Which, having alienated, they recklessly abandoned themselves to excess in practising depravity. But you have not so learned Christ. If, indeed, you have heard Him, and learnt in Him what the truth in Jesus is, you will strip yourselves from the former conduct—of the corrupt old man, with his deceptive lusts—and you will be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and you will be putting on the New Man, the one created God-like in righteousness and holiness for the truth,

Therefore, rejecting falsehood, SPEAK TRUTH EVERY ONE WITH HIS NEIGHBOUR,y for we are parts of one another. BE ANGRY, AND SIN NOT;1 26 let not the sun set upon your fury; neither give opportunity to the Devil. 27 The thief—let him steal no longer, but rather be industrious; working usefully with his hands, so that he may have something to spare for the necessitous. Let there not come from your mouth any worthless word; but something good, demanded by the occasion, such as may give benefit to the hearers. And grieve not the Holy 30 Spirit of God, by Whom you are marked for a day of redemption. Let all bitterness, and lust, and passion, and quarrel, and abuse, be expelled from you, with every baseness; and become useful to one another, good-hearted, gracious, as God also was gracious to you in Christ. Be, then, 32 imitators of God, as dear children; and walk in love, as Christ also loved you, and delivered Himself for your sakes as a sweet perfume, an offering and sacrifice to God.

But prostitution, and all profanery, or excess, let it never be named among you, as befits the holy; nor obscenity, nor frivolity, nor ribaldry, which are not becoming; but thanksgiving instead. For you know the certainty of this, that no fornicator, nor debauchee, nor extortioner (who is an idolater), has an inheritance in the Kingdom of Christ and God. Never let yourselves be deceived with empty arguments; for through these sins, the anger of God comes upon the sons of carelessness: be not therefore associates with them. For you were once darkness, 8 but now light in the Lord. Walk as children of light; for the fruit of the light is in all purity and righteousness and truth. Search what is most pleasing to the Lord; and do not associate yourselves with the fruitless works of darkness, but much rather reprove them: for it is a shame to relate their hidden practices. But everything reprehensible is revealed under the light; for light is the universal revealer. Therefore He says: 14 Rouse, SLEEPER, AND ARISE FROM THE DEAD, AND CHRIST WILL SHINE UPON YOU.2 See, then, how carefully you should walk!—not like fools, but, on the contrary, as intelligent; buying up the opportunity, for the times are wicked.

1 Psa. lxvii. 18. 2 Zech. viii. 16. 3 Isa. lx. 1, 4; lxx. 1, 2.
17 Therefore be not thoughtless, but consider what is the will of the Lord.
18 And be not drunk with wine, in which there is folly; but instead,
19 be full of the Spirit: speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and
spiritual songs, singing and dancing
20 in your hearts to the Lord; giving thanks at all times for everything, in
the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to the God and Father; supporting one another in a reverence of Christ.

Domestic Admonitions.
22 Let the women be obedient to their
23 own husbands, as to the Lord; because a husband is head of the wife—
as Christ is head of the church—and himself the guardian of her body.
24 Then even as the church is subjected to Christ, thus also the wives should be to their husbands in everything.
25 The husbands should love their wives, as Christ loved the church, and
26 delivered Himself up for her sake, so that she might be made holy, purified in the bath with the water of His
message: so that He might Himself present to Himself the rectified church, having neither spot nor
wrinkle, nor anything like them; but that she might be holy and faultless.
28 Thus the husbands should love their own wives as their own bodies. The lover of his own wife loves himself.
29 For no one ever hates his own body: on the contrary, he feeds and warms it—just as Christ does the church, because we are parts of His body.
30 Therefore a man shall leave mother and father, and be
united with his wife; and the two shall become one body.4
32 This is the great mystery; but I speak in regard to Christ and the church.
33 And especially you, every individual, let him love his own wife as himself; and let the wife reverence her husband in the same way.

6 Children, be obedient to your
2 parents; for that is right. Honour your father and your mother—
that is the first commandment and a promise—so that good may come to you, and you may have long
continuance on the earth.5 And, fathers, do not irritate your children;

but educate them in discipline and knowledge of the Lord.
Slaves, obey your earthly masters 5 with fear and trembling, in frank-heartedness, as to Christ: not with 6 eye service, as if flattering men; but like slaves of Christ, doing God's will, working willingly from your soul as for 7 the Lord, and not for men—because 8 you know that if any one does anything well, he gives pleasure to the Lord, whether he is a slave or a free man. And, masters, do the same to 9 them, abandoning abuse; for you know that both your Master and theirs is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him.

The Call to Prepare for the Spiritual Conflict.

From henceforward strengthen yourselves in the Lord, and with the power of His might. Put on the complete armour of God, so that you may be able to stand against the tactics of the Devil. Because our fight is not against blood and flesh; but against the sovereignties, against the powers, against the commanders of the darkness of this world, against the spirits of wickedness in the heavens.

Therefore, take up the complete armour of God, so that you may be able to resist in the day of danger, and having done all your duty, to stand. Stand then, your waist belted 14 with truth, and covered with the breastplate of righteousness; and 15 your feet shod in readiness for the good news of peace; lifting up over all the big shield of the faith, upon which you will be able to quench all the blazing artillery of the Devil. And take the helmet of salvation, and 17 the sword of the Spirit, which is the message of God; but through all, with prayer and supplication, praying at every moment in spirit, and keeping watch in it with steady tenacity; and praying for the holy, and for me, so 19 that eloquence may be given to me when my mouth is opened, to proclaim with bold freedom the secret of the good news, for which I am an ambassador in captivity; so that I may speak like a free man therein, as I ought to speak.

But so that you may know my 21 affairs, how I do, the dear brother and faithful minister in the Lord, Tychicus,
with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity.

(Written from Rome, about 61 A.D., and conveyed to the Ephesian and other Assemblies by Tychicus.)

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EPISTLE OF PAUL THE APOSTLE TO THE PHILIPPIANS.

Introduction.

1 Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, to all the holy in Christ Jesus living in Philippi, with overlookers and ministers:

2 Blessing and peace to you, from our Father, God, and Lord Jesus Christ.

3 I thank my God, whenever I remember you, continually in all my prayers with gladness making supplication for you all, since you were associated in the gospel, from the first day until now. Confident of this, that the originator of a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus. And it is right for me to think of this of you all; for I had you in my heart in my imprisonment, and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel, all of you being my companions in the Divine commission.

4 For my God is a witness, how I long for you all, with the affections of Jesus Christ. And I pray for this, so that your love may extend more and more in knowledge and all perception,

5 to distinguish the differences, so that you may be clear and certain in the day of Christ, full of the fruit of righteousness through Jesus Christ for the honour and praise of God.

The Apostle triumphant in Persecution.

6 But, friends, I wish you to know that my affair has turned out well, greatly to the promotion of the gospel;

7 so that my imprisonment for Christ has been seen in the whole palace,

8 and to all the others. And most of the brethren in the Lord, made confident by my chains, dare very boldly and fearlessly to publish the message of God. Some, however, through envy and strife, but some from conviction, preach Christ; these indeed from love, seeing that I suffer in defence of the gospel; while the others from intrigue, not honestly, proclaim Christ, thinking to add sorrow to my imprisonment. What then? except that in every way, whether by pretence or whether sincerely, Christ is proclaimed; and in that I delight, and shall continue to be glad. Because I know that this will result through your prayers in safety to me; and an additional supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ: according to my strong conviction and hope that I shall never be disgraced; but, on the contrary, with perfectly free speech now, as then, Christ will be grandly displayed in my person, whether through life or through death. For to me, life is Christ—death a gain!

9 But if to live in the body—that produces labour for me—then I do not know what to ask. Now I am possessed by the two, having the desire to be freed and to be with Christ, by far the better; but to remain in the body is most essential for you. And relying upon this, I know that I shall remain and stay with you all for your improvement and benefit by the faith; so that your exultation in Christ Jesus by me may increase, through my presence again among you.

10 Only conduct yourselves in a way worthy of the gospel of Christ; so that whether coming and seeing you, or whether hearing about you in absence, you may stand in one spirit, one mind, contending for the Good News of the Faith; and never terrified by the 28