

The book of Colossians - a personal study

Bill Rademaker spring 2021

The text of Colossians in BLACK FONT is from the New American Standard Bible revised 1973 © The Lockman Foundation

Text in BLUE FONT are the introduction, word definitions and explanatory elements of the subject verse

Text in ORANGE FONT is a other Scripture passages supporting the subject verse

Text in RED FONT are application comments - how the concepts of the book should be applied to a Christian's daily walk

This study is not meant to be an exhaustive scholarly treatment of the book of Colossians. Rather, it is the simple practical result of a month or so of deeper examination of the text by a layperson with limited education. The primary sources are Dr. Grant Richison's expository Verse By Verse Study, the Interlinear Literal Translation of the Greek New Testament (Newberry and Robinson) and Strong's Dictionary of Greek Words from the knowing-jesus.com website. Having Dr. Richison as my pastor for 20 years taught me that word definitions and understanding original language are very important to the proper understanding of Scripture. It is my hope that my somewhat unique spreadsheet method is a help for the reader in some way.

Bill Rademaker, Spring 2021.

INTRODUCTION

Colosse was a small town in Asia Minor about 100 miles from Ephesus. According to Acts, Paul had never been there but it is likely the church was started during Paul's extended stay in Ephesus. According to Acts 19:10, Paul's teaching was so powerful and extensive that all "who lived in the province of Asia heard the word of the Lord." The church was started by Epaphras (not to be confused with Epaphroditus of Philippians) who may have been converted by Paul in Ephesus and then returned home to tell the people in Colosse the good news. So while these believers had never met Paul (2:11) they were his spiritual grandchildren.

It is clear that Paul was imprisoned when he wrote this (4:3, 10, 18) and it is assumed, along with the other Prison Epistles, that he wrote Colossians from Rome. It is likely that Ephesians, Colossians and Philemon were written about the same time and were delivered by a man named Tychicus (Eph 6:21, Col 4:7). You will notice many similarities between Ephesians and Colossians. In Colossians Paul mentions the church in Laodicea (2:1, 4:16), which was the town closest to Colosse. Paul also wrote a letter to the Laodicians and wanted the two groups to swap letters. Some believe that the letter to the Laodicians is what we call Ephesians. I assume that it is just another of Paul's letters that we don't have today.

The main purpose of Colossians is that Epaphras had told Paul about some teachers that had come to Colosse preaching some false ideas. Paul never states exactly what these false teachers were propagating but we can make some guesses based on what he says about them. Paul says that it was a hollow philosophy (2:8) that emphasized rituals like circumcision, diet and holy days. It seemed to be a syncretistic movement, that is, they combined ideas from different religions including paganism, Judaism and Christianity. The most critical and damaging ideas that these false teachers propagated was to make Jesus Christ a lesser being and reduce him to a minor role. As one writer said, "It did not deny Christ but it did dethrone him" (Curtis Vaughn, "Colossians," Expositors Bible Commentary, vol 11, p. 168, emphasis his).

In a way it is good that we don't know the details of the Colossian heresy. If we did we might make the mistake of thinking that what Paul wrote only applies to those ideas. But Paul, through the Holy Spirit, has given us something better. He has given us the answer to every group that would take away from Christ. Instead of showing what is wrong with the counterfeit, Paul tells us the glories of the real deal. He presents Jesus Christ as the supreme creator of all things who is fully God in every way. Jesus has made peace with God and restored a right relationship with the Father through his blood shed on the cross. Cultic groups always want to take away from the nature of Jesus and add some essential work to salvation. Paul will have none of it.

		Once Paul clearly establishes the supremacy of Christ and what he has done for us then we are encouraged to live in him (2:6-7). Transformation comes not from external obedience or observance of the right practices and procedures. We are changed from the inside out. Because Christ has made us alive, we can live a new way as we think a new way. Our focus is not on
		earthly things but heavenward, where Christ is enthroned (3:1-2). So we put to death the old ways and live a life of love and submission to one another. It is so easy if we just don't get distracted by counterfeits and keep our eyes on the genuine article.
CHAPTER 1+2		<i>Discusses the outer circle = the POSITIONAL status of one who makes a decision to rely on Christ's death and resurrection as the only penalty God requires for sin. He immediately becomes "in Christ" - a forever-sealed child in God's family. God is then able to relate directly to them.</i>
CHAPTER 3+4		<i>Discusses the inner circle = the EXPERIENTIAL place of fellowship within the outer circle where there is no unconfessed sin. God then acts by blessing the believer by the application of truth to experience, thereby attaining spiritual maturity</i>
COLOSSIANS	1	1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,
		Paul = Παῦλος Paulos = Serguis Paulus ("little") = a Roman proconsul
		apostle = ἀπόστολος apostolos = apo (off, away from) + stolos (to deprive) = one who is granted miraculous powers to avoid depriving others of the message he has been commissioned with
2 CORINTHIANS	12	11 I have become foolish; you yourselves compelled me. Actually I should have been commended by you, for in no respect was I inferior to the most eminent apostles, even though I am a nobody.
2 CORINTHIANS		12 The signs of a true apostle were performed among you with all perseverance, by signs and wonders and miracles.
HEBREWS	2	3 how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? After it was at the first spoken through the Lord, it was confirmed to us by those who heard,
HEBREWS		4 God also testifying with them, both by signs and wonders and by various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit according to His own will.
2 PETER	1	20 But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation,
2 PETER		21 for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.
		will = θέλω thelō = to determine as an active option with a special decreed purpose
		<i>God's sovereign choice is the basis for Paul's apostleship but also for everything else that happens in the world</i>
		Timothy = Τιμόθεος Timotheos = time (honour) + theos (God) = dear and honouring to God
PHILIPPIANS		19 But I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you shortly, so that I also may be encouraged when I learn of your condition.
PHILIPPIANS	2	20 For I have no one else of kindred spirit who will genuinely be concerned for your welfare.
PHILIPPIANS		22 But you know of his proven worth, that he served with me in the furtherance of the gospel like a child serving his father.
		brother = ἀδελφός adelphos (womb) = a close associate
		Paul and Timothy were very poles apart in age and upbringing but their differences were minimized by Jesus Christ for effectiveness
COLOSSIANS	1	2 To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ who are at Colossae: Grace to you and peace from God our Father.
		saints = ἅγιος hagios = full of awe, holy
		faithful = πιστός pistos = convincingly trustworthy
		brethren = ἀδελφός adelphos (womb) = a close associate (same as v. 1)
		spiritual realm = in Christ
		physical realm = Colossae (where Paul never visited personally)
		<i>As then, we now also exist in two realms...our physical location and our spiritual status</i>

		grace = χάρις charis = cheerful bountiful favour freely granted by God
ROMANS	12	3 For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.
1 PETER	5	10 After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you.
2 CORINTHIANS	12	9 And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.
		peace = εἰρήνη eirēnē = to join = we have a harmony with God because we are joined to Him
COLOSSIANS	1	3 We give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you,
		thanks = εὐχαριστέω eucharisteō = to express gratitude for a favor granted in kindness
ROMANS	1	8 First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, because your faith is being proclaimed throughout the whole world.
		<i>Thanks should always be directed at God the Father</i>
		praying = προσεύχομαι proseuchomai = pertaining to a wish
		always = πάντοτε pantote - at all times whenever
		<i>Prayer needs to be continuous to be productive</i>
1 THESSALONIANS	1	2 We give thanks to God always for all of you, making mention of you in our prayers;
1 THESSALONIANS	2	13 For this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe.
1 THESSALONIANS	5	17 pray without ceasing;
COLOSSIANS	1	4 since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and the love which you have for all the saints;
		faith = πίστις pístis = to assuredly have abstract confidence in a moral conviction
		in = by the instrumentality of
		<i>it is the object of faith (Jesus Christ) which saves, not the act of faith in and of itself</i>
GALATIANS	2	16 nevertheless knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the Law but through faith in Christ Jesus, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the Law; since by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified.
GALATIANS	3	22 But the Scripture has shut up everyone under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.
GALATIANS		26 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.
		love = ἀγάπη agapē = to have affection for in a benevolent fashion, not subject to or affected by recipient reaction
JOHN		34 "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.
JOHN	13	35 "By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."
1 CORINTHIANS		13 But now faith, hope, love, abide these three; but the greatest of these is love.
COLOSSIANS	1	5 because of the hope laid up for you in heaven, of which you previously heard in the word of truth, the gospel
		hope = ἐλπίς elpís = to anticipate with pleasure, expectation and confidence, independent of the one who hopes
		laid up = ἀπόκειμαι apokeimai = permanently put in place, reserved and appointed, awaiting a recipient
TITUS	2	13 looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus,
		heaven = οὐρανός ouranos = the elevated seat of perfect order where God, Jesus Christ and other beings dwell

HEBREWS	7	25 Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.
		heard = προακούω proakouō = to have become cognizant of and anticipating an event before it actually occurs
		word = λόγος logos = to lay forth thought and word with intent for the recipient to use mental faculty to reason the subject of the discourse
JOHN	1	1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
JOHN		2 He was in the beginning with God.
JOHN		14 And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.
1 JOHN	1	1 What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the Word of Life—
		gospel = εὐαγγέλιον euaggelion = good+angel = a good message brought by a messenger
ROMANS	1	8 First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, because your faith is being proclaimed throughout the whole world.
COLOSSIANS	1	6 which has come to you, just as in all the world also it is constantly bearing fruit and increasing, even as it has been doing in you also since the day you heard of it and understood the grace of God in truth;
		bearing fruit = καρποφορέω karpophoreō = plucked fruit which is received, brought forth and carried on in a productive manner
		Receiving the gospel necessitates using its inherent power to pass it on and allow its message take over to win them
1 THESSALONIANS	2	13 For this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe.
ROMANS	1	16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.
		understood = ἐπιγινώσκω epiginōskō = to be firmly planted and thoroughly resolved upon the knowledge of something
		This is the root of the word "Gnosticism" - a materialistic belief system in which knowledge, illusion, experience and enlightenment are superior to God's grace for salvation. Usually linked to ancient thinking, but clearly pervasive today, manifested in movements such as New Age, Universalism, Missional Evangelism, Emergent Church, COEXIST, TM, British Israelism, Zoroastrianism, seances, Buddhism, Hindu, yoga, New World Order, Military Industrial Complex, social liberalism, the Mennonite Templer Movement, etc.
		grace = χάρις charis = cheerful bountiful favour freely granted by God
		truth = ἀλήθεια alētheia = things proven in verity
COLOSSIANS	1	7 just as you learned it from Epaphras, our beloved fellow bond-servant, who is a faithful servant of Christ on our behalf,
		fellow bond-servant = σύνδουλος sundoulos = an accompanying partner who is a devoted person in servile condition who is subject to the will of another ("e.g. doula")
COLOSSIANS	3	22 Slaves, in all things obey those who are your masters on earth, not with external service, as those who merely please men, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord.
COLOSSIANS	4	7 As to all my affairs, Tychicus, our beloved brother and faithful servant and fellow bond-servant in the Lord, will bring you information.
		a slave relinquishes their rights to Jesus Christ, satisfied to do His bidding
COLOSSIANS	1	8 and he also informed us of your love in the Spirit.
		love that enables us to love those we would not otherwise love, imparted by the Holy Spirit

ROMANS	15	30	Now I urge you, brethren, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in your prayers to God for me,
COLOSSIANS	1	9	For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,
			this verse begins the body of the epistle
			have not ceased = παύω παύω = to be incessantly regular (in prayer for others)
			pray = προσεύχομαι proseuchomai = to intently wish something (from God)
EPHESIANS	1	16	do not cease giving thanks for you, while making mention of you in my prayers;
1 THESSALONIANS	1	2	We give thanks to God always for all of you, making mention of you in our prayers;
1 THESSALONIANS	5	17	pray without ceasing;
			Prayer should be a regular attitude of mind, permeating our spirit throughout our daily lives
			may be filled = πληρώω plērōō = to cram repletely and unreservedly, controlled to the tiniest detail
			knowledge = ἐπίγνωσις epignōsis = to be firmly planted and thoroughly resolved upon the understanding of something (v.6)
			Spiritual discernment is critical to avoid unsound teaching
			His will = θέλημα thelēma = God's determined purpose, decree or desire
EPHESIANS	5	17	So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.
ROMANS	12	1	Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.
ROMANS		2	And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.
MATTHEW	7	21	"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter.
MATTHEW	12	50	"For whoever does the will of My Father who is in heaven, he is My brother and sister and mother."
ACTS	21	14	And since he would not be persuaded, we fell silent, remarking, "The will of the Lord be done!"
HEBREWS	10	36	For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised.
HEBREWS	13	21	equip you in every good thing to do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.
1 PETER	3	17	For it is better, if God should will it so, that you suffer for doing what is right rather than for doing what is wrong.
1 PETER	2	15	For such is the will of God that by doing right you may silence the ignorance of foolish men.
1 PETER	4	2	so as to live the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for the lusts of men, but for the will of God.
1 JOHN	2	17	The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.
			spiritual = πνευματικός pneumatikos = like the very breath of man, the disposition or influence which fills and governs the soul
			wisdom = σοφία sophia = the maximum practise of the knowledge of godly requisites for upright living
			these two things should always be combined
COLOSSIANS	1	10	so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;
			walk = περιπατέω peripateō = around+path = to use a path to traverse a course of life
			My daily walk should never be divorced from my position in Christ
			worthy = ἀξίως axiōs = in a suitable appropriate manner

			<i>My walk should mirror Christ</i>
2 CORINTHIANS	1	12	For our proud confidence is this: the testimony of our conscience, that in holiness and godly sincerity, not in fleshly wisdom but in the grace of God, we have conducted ourselves in the world, and especially toward you.
			pleasing = ἀρεσκία areσκia = to seek to be agreeable in anticipation of meeting the desires of God
2 CORINTHIANS	5	9	Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him.
FOUR RESULTS OF PLEASING GOD FOLLOW...			
			Result #1 - Bearing fruit in every good work (καρποφορέω karpophoreō)
			plucked fruit which is received, brought forth and carried on in a productive manner
JOHN	15	1	"I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser.
JOHN		2	"Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit.
JOHN		3	"You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.
JOHN		4	"Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me.
JOHN		5	"I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.
EPHESIANS	2	10	For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.
			Result #2 - Increasing in the knowledge of God (lit. "into") = αὐξάνω auxanō + ἐπίγνωσις epignōsis
			<i>The Christian life should be a progressively growing journey, knowing it will never arrive at a complete understanding of God, but thereby giving impetus to continue with expanding maturity</i>
1 PETER	2	2	like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation,
JUDE		20	But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit,
COLOSSIANS	1	11	strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously
			Result #3 - Strengthened with all power
			strengthened = δυναμῶω dunamōō
			power = δύναμις dunamis
			might = κράτος kratos
			<i>The combination of these three words means that God provides a dynamic mighty force which acts with mighty strength</i>
JOSHUA	1	9	"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."
1 KINGS	2	2	"I am going the way of all the earth. Be strong, therefore, and show yourself a man.
ISAIAH	40	29	He gives strength to the weary,
ISAIAH			And to him who lacks might He increases power.
ISAIAH		31	Yet those who wait for the LORD
ISAIAH			Will gain new strength;
ISAIAH			They will mount up with wings like eagles,
ISAIAH			They will run and not get tired,

ISAIAH		They will walk and not become weary.
ROMANS	4	20 yet, with respect to the promise of God, he (Jesus) did not waver in unbelief but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God,
2 CORINTHIANS	12	9 And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.
2 TIMOTHY	4	17 But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me, so that through me the proclamation might be fully accomplished, and that all the Gentiles might hear; and I was rescued out of the lion's mouth.
2 TIMOTHY		18 The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed, and will abring me safely to His heavenly kingdom; to Him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.
1 PETER	5	10 After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you.
steadfastness = endurance = ὑπομονή hupomonē = with fortitude and perseverance in circumstances, holding fast to one's faith in Christ (to hang in there)		
JAMES	1	2 Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials,
JAMES		3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.
HEBREWS	12	1 Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,
patience = longsuffering = μακροθυμία makrothumia = far from + wrathful indignation = lenient towards others		
GALATIANS	5	22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,
GALATIANS		23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.
COLOSSIANS	3	12 So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience;
COLOSSIANS		13 bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.
joyously = χαρά chara = calm delight = a positive inner animation of soul regardless of circumstance		
COLOSSIANS	1	12 giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light.
thanks = εὐχαριστέω eucharisteō = to express gratitude for a favor granted in kindness (see 1:3)		
the root of the word "thanks" is "grace" (χάρις charis = cheerful bountiful favour freely granted by God)		
<i>I should be oriented to giving God the recognition, appreciation and glory for something he has freely bestowed on me</i>		
qualified = ἱκανόω hikanoō = to be rendered fit and made sufficient to perform the duties of a new position in Christ		
2 CORINTHIANS	2	16 to the one an aroma from death to death, to the other an aroma from life to life. And who is adequate for these things?
2 CORINTHIANS	3	6 (God,) who also made us adequate as servants of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.
2 CORINTHIANS	5	21 He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.
EPHESIANS	1	6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.
<i>I may be made fit for heavenly glory, but am I fit for earthly service?</i>		
2 TIMOTHY	2	21 Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from these things, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified, useful to the Master, prepared for every good work.
share = μερίς meris = to be allotted a portion (merited)		
ROMANS		16 The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God,

ROMANS	8	17	and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.
EPHESIANS	1	11	also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will,
light = φῶς phōs = (photons) = to shine and make manifest by rays of luminousness			
1 TIMOTHY	6	16	who alone possesses immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see. To Him be honor and eternal dominion! Amen.
<i>I have been transformed from the dark authority of Satan to the luminous sphere of Christ forever</i>			
COLOSSIANS	1	13	For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son,
rescued = ρύομαι rhuomai = to irreversibly rescue by drawing towards oneself at one eventful point in the past with eternal result			
domain = ἐξουσία exousia = delegated sphere of influence			
transferred = μεθίστημι methistēmi = hereafter establish			
1 CORINTHIANS	15	24	then comes the end, when He hands over the kingdom to the God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power.
1 CORINTHIANS		25	For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet.
1 CORINTHIANS		26	The last enemy that will be abolished is death.
1 CORINTHIANS		27	For HE HAS PUT ALL THINGS IN SUBJECTION UNDER HIS FEET. But when He says, "All things are put in subjection," it is evident that He is excepted who put all things in subjection to Him.
1 CORINTHIANS		28	When all things are subjected to Him, then the Son Himself also will be subjected to the One who subjected all things to Him, so that God may be all in all.
EPHESIANS	5	8	for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light
1 PETER	2	9	But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God's OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;
COLOSSIANS	1	14	in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.
redemption = ἀπολυτρόω apolutroō = apo (reverse) + lutroo (loosen) = to reverse direction by ransoming from a bond			
when a slave was purchased and redeemed he could no longer be returned to captivity			
EPHESIANS	1	7	In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace
EPHESIANS		14	who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory.
ROMANS	8	24	being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus;
HEBREWS	9	15	For this reason He is the mediator of a new covenant, so that, since a death has taken place for the redemption of the transgressions that were committed under the first covenant, those who have been called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.
forgiveness = ἀφεσις aphasis = to let go from imprisonment and grant redemption/remission as though the bondage had never happened			
EPHESIANS	1	7	In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace
MARK	10	45	"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."
ACTS	20	28	"Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.
1 CORINTHIANS	6	20	For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.

THE NEXT SIX VERSES SHOW THE PURE THEOLOGY OF THE GLORY OF CHRIST IN SEVEN DISTINCT WAYS:		
	1	He is the Image of God
	2	He has priority over all creation
	3	He is the Creator
	4	He came before everything
	5	He holds the universe together
	6	He is the Lord of the Church
	7	He is the Originator of that Church by resurrection
COLOSSIANS	1	15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.
Glory # 1 - image (eikōn) = icon, likeness, copy of a prototype, pattern, representative		
MARK	12	16 They brought one. And He *said to them, "Whose likeness and inscription is this?" And they said to Him, "Caesar's."
LUKE	20	24 "Show Me a denarius. Whose likeness and inscription does it have?" They said, "Caesar's."
JOHN	10	30 "I and the Father are one."
COLOSSIANS	2	9 For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form,
Glory # 2 = firstborn (prōtotos) = the first and foremost to be given priority over any other		
PSALMS	89	27 "I also shall make him My firstborn,
PSALMS		The highest of the kings of the earth.
REVELATION	1	5 and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us and released us from our sins by His blood—
COLOSSIANS	1	16 For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him.
Glory # 3 - created (ktizō) = to form originally as a proprietor-manufacturer, Christ being the cause and instrument of everything in existence		
JOHN	1	3 All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.
HEBREWS	1	3 And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,
REVELATION	3	14b The Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God, says this:
COLOSSIANS	1	17 He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.
Glory # 4 - before all things (pro pas) = Jesus came before anything that He created		
MICAH	5	2b From you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel.
MICAH		His goings forth are from long ago,
MICAH		From the days of eternity."
JOHN	8	58 Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am."
EPHESIANS	1	4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love
Glory # 5 - holds together = (sunistēmi) = established at one point in the past resulting in the present situation		
HEBREWS	3	4 For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God.
COLOSSIANS	1	18 He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything.
Glory # 6 - head of the body, the church (sōma, ekklēsia) = an assembly which stands and casts a shadow		

1 CORINTHIANS	12	13	For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.
ACTS	2	47	praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.
EPHESIANS	1	22	And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church,
EPHESIANS		23	which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.
Glory # 7a - the Originator of the Church as Beginning (archē = overarching) = the one who originates and commences a timeframe			
REVELATION	22	13	"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."
1 JOHN	4	19	We love, because He first loved us.
Glory # 7b - the Originator of the Church as Firstborn (prōtotokos) - see Glory #2 above			
1 CORINTHIANS	15	20	But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep.
HEBREWS	2	14	Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil,
1 JOHN	3	8	the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil.
The bottom line of the "Seven Glories" is that Christ will have first place in everything			
first place (prōteuō) = an emphatic form of the word "fore" = superior, best, chief in rank, preminent			
PHILIPPIANS	2	9	For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name,
3 JOHN		9	I wrote something to the church; but Diotrophes, who loves to be first among them, does not accept what we say.
1 PETER	3	15	but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;
COLOSSIANS	1	19	For it was the Father's good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him,
pleased (eu-dokeō) = good-pleasing			
fullness (plērōma) = filled with the complete substance of God's eternal plan			
dwell (kato-ikeō) = after the manner of residing in a home			
God approves that Christ has all the attributes necessary to handle any circumstance which arises			
COLOSSIANS	1	20	and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven.
reconcile (apo-katallassō) = to change away from and back to a former state of being			
Christ's death has restored the pre-Adamic state of harmony between God and man			
2 CORINTHIANS	5	18	Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation,
2 CORINTHIANS		19	namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation.
2 CORINTHIANS		20	Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.
having made peace (eirēno-poieō) = to bring forth a harmonious situation			
HEBREWS	9	26	Otherwise, He would have needed to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now once at the consummation of the ages He has been manifested to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.
THE BOOK MOVES INTO THE AREA OF APPLIED THEOLOGY...			

COLOSSIANS	1	21	And although you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, engaged in evil deeds,
			alienated (apo-allotrioō) = separated by being foreign/not from one's own family
			hostile (echthros) = to hate
EPHESIANS	2	12	remember that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.
			evil deeds (ergon + ponēros = works + wicked) = toilsome behaviour
ROMANS	1	28	And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper,
ROMANS	8	7	because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so,
ROMANS		8	and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.
COLOSSIANS	1	22	yet He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach—
			reconcile (apo-katallassō) = to change away from and back to a former state of being
			body (sōma) = a safe sound whole of things closely knit
			this refers to the actual physical body of Christ
HEBREWS	9	22	And according to the Law, one may almost say, all things are cleansed with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.
			present (pari-stēmi) = causing one to stand before those in authority
			holy (hagios) = something awe-ful
			blameless (amomos) = without blemish
			beyond reproach (an-egkletos) = not able to accuse or lay a charge
EPHESIANS	1	4	just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love
EPHESIANS	5	27	that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless.
PHILIPPIANS	2	15	so that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world,
JUDE		24	Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy,
COLOSSIANS	1	23	if indeed you continue in the faith firmly established and steadfast, and not moved away from the hope of the gospel that you have heard, which was proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, was made a minister.
			if (eige) = since doubtlessly
			continue (epi-meno) = to persevere in endurance
			moved away (meta-kineo) = to accompany a stirring away from
EPHESIANS	4	14	As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming;
			hope (elpis) = expectant anticipation
			gospel = εὐαγγέλιον euaggelion = good+angel = a good message brought by a messenger
COLOSSIANS	1	24	Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I do my share on behalf of His body, which is the church, in filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions.

		rejoice (chairō) = calm delight = a positive inner animation of soul regardless of circumstance
		sufferings (pathema) = "pathos" = undergone with deep affect
2 CORINTHIANS	12	9 And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.
2 CORINTHIANS		10 Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.
		<i>It is now the Christian's turn to endure suffering like Christ did on earth</i>
2 TIMOTHY	3	11 persecutions, and sufferings, such as happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium and at Lystra; what persecutions I endured, and out of them all the Lord rescued me!
2 TIMOTHY		12 Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.
1 PETER	1	6 In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials,
1 PETER		7 so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ;
1 PETER		8 and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory,
		afflictions (thlipsis) = pressing together in distress
COLOSSIANS	1	25 Of this church I was made a minister according to the stewardship from God bestowed on me for your benefit, so that I might fully carry out the preaching of the word of God,
		minister (diakonos) = a servant who runs for and attends unto others
		stewardship (oiko-nomia) = to manage from an administrative base
1 THESSALONIANS	2	4 but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who examines our hearts.
1 CORINTHIANS	9	16 For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for I am under compulsion; for woe is me if I do not preach the gospel.
1 CORINTHIANS		17 For if I do this voluntarily, I have a reward; but if against my will, I have a stewardship entrusted to me.
		fully carry out (plēroō) = cram, finish, complete
COLOSSIANS	1	26 that is, the mystery which has been hidden from the past ages and generations, but has now been manifested to His saints,
		mystery (musterion) = shut the mouth = a sacred secret formerly concealed but later revealed
EPHESIANS	3	8 To me, the very least of all saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ,
EPHESIANS		9 and to bring to light what is the administration of the mystery which for ages has been hidden in God who created all things;
		the Church was not known before Christ, but has since been established
COLOSSIANS	1	27 to whom God willed 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.
		riches (ploutos) = wealth-filled
		hope (elpis) = expectant anticipation
		glory (doxa) = dignity, honor, praise, worship
2 CORINTHIANS	13	5 Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you—unless indeed you fail the test?
ROMANS	8	10 If Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness.

COLOSSIANS	1	28 We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ.
3-fold ministry:		
preach		proclaim (kat-aggello) = (angel) = one who promulgates and declares
warn		admonish (nou-theteo) = to place into the intellect (i.e. to bring to mind negative activities)
teach		teaching (didasko) = to cause to learn (i.e. to impart positive teaching)
MATTHEW	28	19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,
MATTHEW		20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."
		complete (teleios) = made perfect
COLOSSIANS	1	29 For this purpose also I labor, striving according to His power, which mightily works within me.
		striving (agonizomai) = agony = laboring earnestly and exhaustedly
1 CORINTHIANS	9	24 Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win.
1 CORINTHIANS		25 Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable.
1 CORINTHIANS		26 Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air;
1 CORINTHIANS		27 but I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified.
COLOSSIANS	2	1 For I want you to know how great a struggle I have on your behalf and for those who are at Laodicea, and for all those who have not personally seen my face, we often don't know the thing we should know false doctrine should cause Christians personal anguish Xns should demonstrate great love for each other and pray for those they have never even met in other places the church needs both obstetricians (who PREACH and facilitate birth) and pediatricians (who TEACH and aid growth)
COLOSSIANS	2	2 that their hearts may be encouraged, having been knit together in love, and attaining to all the wealth that comes from the full assurance of understanding, resulting in a true knowledge of God's mystery, that is, Christ Himself, DEFENSE #1 AGAINST THE ASSAULT ON CHRISTIANITY = MATURITY WITH TRUTH (the maximum application of truth to experience) the church should focus on Xn birth, growth and maturity, NOT on health, wealth, success or prosperity when faith is under attack, focus and orient to God's Word for how to cope "encouraged hearts" does NOT mean "romantic or sentimental emotional support". It means the strengthening of the complete person (mind, emotion, will, spirit, memories and attitudes) by being called alongside God to orient to His way of thinking in the situation by the inculcation of divine truth apart from human capabilities. Spiritual problems are not solved by human emotions but by the building of an edification construct based solely on the Word of God. Inevitable problems are meant to prove us for maturity. "encouraged" is potential, not a given - it must be overtly practised with a conscious choice The Bible attacks discouragement with the PRINCIPLE OF DISPLACEMENT - the replacement of negative thinking with God's thoughts, alleviating the vacuum of the mind by consciously banishing bad thinking by substituting good thinking.
HEBREWS	4	12 For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. DEFENSE #2 AGAINST THE ASSAULT ON CHRISTIANITY = INTIMATE FELLOWSHIP WITH OTHER CHRISTIANS (enhancing the strength of our soul)

		GR = the "knitting together" in love (what's best for others, not personal feeling) should come before encouragement in (corresponding to) truth
		DEFENSE #3 AGAINST THE ASSAULT ON CHRISTIANITY = ATTAINING TO THE RICHES OF FULL UNDERSTANDING (sound judgment about the truths of Christianity)
		certainty of truth (new ideas NOT being able to chase away convictions) is as a result of grace
		DEFENSE #4 AGAINST THE ASSAULT ON CHRISTIANITY = KNOWLEDGE OF THE MYSTERY OF GOD (all truth Jesus provided for the church)
		a Biblical mystery is something that had not or has not yet been revealed (e.g. the NT church to OT people)
		God has made all the provisions necessary for the Christian life in Christ
COLOSSIANS	2	3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. "treasures" = "thesaurus" - a collection of words stored up to compare to each other <i>Truth must first be grasped before it can be applied</i>
COLOSSIANS	2	4 I say this so that no one will delude you with persuasive argument. "delude" = "to reason aside or led astray" (cf Jacob to Laban re Rachel)
GENESIS	29	25 So it came about in the morning that, behold, it was Leah! And he said to Laban, "What is this you have done to me? Was it not for Rachel that I served with you? Why then have you deceived me?" "persuasive arguments" = to talk someone into something
		<i>An EDIFICATION CONSTRUCT based on the Word of God will provide stability to avoid aberrant religious systems</i> <i>(please see Dr. Richison's separate document on this subject)</i>
COLOSSIANS	2	5 For even though I am absent in body, nevertheless I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good discipline and the stability of your faith in Christ. "good discipline and stability" = a military term for being ready for battle ("phalanx")
COLOSSIANS	2	6 Therefore as you have received the Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, here begins an ANTITOXIN for dealing with seducers of truth... "received" - to welcome what is brought by others <i>Christians are slaves to the Lord</i>
2 CORINTHIANS	4	5 For we do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your bond-servants for Jesus' sake. it is the object of our volition that makes the difference - the Word of God which reveals Christ the same faith which saves us also assimilates into our life to sustain us...
2 CORINTHIANS	5	7 for we walk by faith, not by sight—
COLOSSIANS	2	7 having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude. 3 ways God strengthens the believer - root, build up and establish... "root" = 'to cause to give and forever sustain being rooted" - it is God who roots us, not we ourselves. This must be recognized in order to stabilize our faith "build up" = to erect a construct with emphasis on the ongoing process with Christ as the binding force
JUDE		20 But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit,
ACTS	20	32 "And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

ACTS	9	31	So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria enjoyed peace, being built up; and going on in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it continued to increase.
			Maturity is reached when the process of becoming strong in Christ becomes stable
			"established" = "to cause something to be known as certain, confirmed, verifiable" - to increase in firmness of character or attitude
MARK	16	20	And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them, and confirmed the word by the signs that followed.]
ROMANS	15	8	For I say that Christ has become a servant to the circumcision on behalf of the truth of God to confirm the promises given to the fathers,
1 CORINTHIANS	1	6	even as the testimony concerning Christ was confirmed in you,
HEBREWS	2	3	how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? After it was at the first spoken through the Lord, it was confirmed to us by those who heard,
HEBREWS	13	9	Do not be carried away by varied and strange teachings; for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace, not by foods, through which those who were so occupied were not benefited.
			Gratefulness comes from experiencing God's rooting, building up and establishing one's life
COLOSSIANS	2	8	See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ.
			Paul now turns to a polemic against the enemy threatening the church - ways the devil propounds his philosophies
			Satan's mission is to carry believers off and con them into predicaments where their testimony is neutralized and they quit fighting
			"philosophy" - not general philosophy (all of which is limited to the human mind), but to a system of religion
			this word is a hapax legomenon (ἄπαξ λεγόμενον = "something being said only once") - the singular occurrence in the NT
			this is noteworthy here because philosophy was very prevalent in Greek culture at the time
			two Gnostic philosophies challenged the church at Colossae - stoicism (indifference) and epicureanism (capriciousness)
			Christianity operates on a belief system (presupposition). That premise is God has spoken to us in a revelation (the Bible). Since it is impossible to understand all reality because of the finite human mind, we can only find truth by infinite means—the Word of God.
			"deception" = to beguile, cheat by appearance, statement or influence, resulting in unfulfillment (e.g. Solomon)
MATTHEW	13	22	"And the one on whom seed was sown among the thorns, this is the man who hears the word, and the worry of the world and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.
HEBREWS	3	13	But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called "Today," so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.
EPHESIANS	4	22	that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit,
2 THESSALONIANS	2	10	and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved.
			"tradition" = something believed simply because it was handed down, resulting in scruples about everything
			a healthy Christian skepticism seeks to establish if a concept or belief system can be substantiated by the Bible
			"elementary principles" = a world system which functions on a restrictive scale of speculative understanding
			any system which seeks to understand God by a human system of understanding is wrong.
COLOSSIANS	2	9	For (because) in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form,
			this is now a positive reason not to follow false philosophy - the totality of God's attributes permanently existing in Christ
			THE SUPERIORITY OF JESUS CHRIST IS THE CENTRAL TRUTH OF THE UNIVERSE

			we should not examine the world to find Christ, we should study Christ to view the world
			"bodily form" - (another hapax legomenon) - being real instead of symbolic, whether in fleshly form, heavenly position or universal existence
ROMANS	11	36	For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen.
COLOSSIANS	2	10	and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority;
			this verse emphasizes the abiding results of our position in Christ
			"made complete" = same word as "fulness" in v.9 - we need no supplementary wisdom other than Christ to be complete
JOHN	1	16	For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace.
			refers to the 33 things that are instantly accomplished at the moment of salvation..
COLOSSIANS	1	18	He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything.
			it is as if we have been grafted on to Christ with all our characteristics, yet living as part of all of His
COLOSSIANS	2	11	and in Him you were also circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in the removal of the body of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ;
			"circumsize" = "to cut around" - a sign of being spiritually incorporated into a covenant of judgment of our sin nature by removing its symbol
			"removing the body of the flesh" - God cuts away the eternal judgment caused by our sin capacity and instantly replaces it with a new position
			He does not eradicate it, since we continue to sin, but He replaces its condemning result with a position of fellowship with Him
COLOSSIANS	2	12	having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.
			this is the positional change in our status before God - the burying of the old nature and the birth of the new
ROMANS	6	4	Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.
			"raised" = co-resurrection - participating in the resurrection of Christ
COLOSSIANS	2	13	When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions,
			<i>We are all equal in God's program - there is no clergy and layman - we are all in full-time service to God</i>
			<i>God cannot give grace until his righteousness has been satisfied by a sinner accepting the atoning work accomplished by the death of Christ</i>
ROMANS	6	13	and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.
2 CORINTHIANS	5	14	For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died;
2 CORINTHIANS	5	15	and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.
JOHN	5	24	"Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.
JOHN	5	25	"Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live.
EPHESIANS	2	5	even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),
COLOSSIANS	2	14	having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.
			<i>Once faith in Christ's work is exercised, not only is sin forgiven, but its record is erased and obliterated forever (a full pardon)</i>

ACTS	3	19	"Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord;
REVELATION	3	5	'He who overcomes will thus be clothed in white garments; and I will not erase his name from the book of life, and I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.
REVELATION	7	17	for the Lamb in the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and will guide them to springs of the bwater of life; and God will wipe every tear from their eyes."
"decrees against us" - God always defines righteousness in terms of His own perfection			
ROMANS	4	15	for the Law brings about wrath, but where there is no law, there also is no violation.
ROMANS	5	20	The Law came in so that the transgression would increase; but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more,
1 CORINTHIANS	15	56	The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law;
GALATIANS	3	23	But before faith came, we were kept in custody under the law, being shut up to the faith which was later to be revealed.
"has taken and nailed" = "permanently removed by public display" - everyone need to see that the OT Law was rendered ineffective for remission of sin, by Jesus' death on the cross. This invoked the Law of Double Jeopardy, being wrong to pay for a sin twice.			
COLOSSIANS	2	15	When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him.
"disarmed" = the stripping of weaponry when power is removed			
"rulers" = "principalities" = spritual/celestial entities who exercise power			
EPHESIANS	3	10	so that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly places.
ROMANS	8	38	For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers,
ROMANS		39	nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.
JUDE		6	And angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode, He has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day,
"authorities" = "powers" = those with the right and might to do anything = fallen angels			
GOD EXPECTS US TO USE SPIRITUAL WEAPONS TO DEFEAT NEGATIVE POWERS IN OUR LIFE			
"public display" = to cause to suffer disgrace so all can see			
HEBREWS	6	6	and then have fallen away, it is impossible to renew them again to repentance, since they again crucify to themselves the Son of God and put Him to open shame.
this verse uses the same word "put Him to open shame" when referring to a Christian implies that Jesus' finished acts at the cross were incomplete, resulting in disgrace to Him			
demons cannot affect a Christian's salvation nor derail their life because Christ has defeated them for eternity.			
1 JOHN	3	8	the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil.
"triumphed" = to show successful conquest by leading the defeated in a victory celebration			
Jeses satisfied the prerequisites for the honor of leading such a celebration - commander, complete victory, fallen enemies and secure future			
JESUS DELIVERED US FROM THE POWERS THAT DRIVE LEGALISM			
1 CORINTHIANS	15	57	but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

COLOSSIANS	2	16	Therefore no one is to act as your judge in regard to food or drink or in respect to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day—
			verses 16-19 are warnings against LEGALISM
ROMANS	4	4	Now to the one who works, his wage is not credited as a favor, but as what is due.
ROMANS		5	But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness,
			Christians will be criticized, but the vibrancy of their faith will be destroyed if passing judgment in return
ROMANS	14	1	Now accept the one who is weak in faith, but not for the purpose of passing judgment on his opinions.
ROMANS		2	One person has faith that he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats vegetables only.
ROMANS		3	The one who eats is not to regard with contempt the one who does not eat, and the one who does not eat is not to judge the one who eats, for God has accepted him.
ROMANS		4	Who are you to judge the servant of another? To his own master he stands or falls; and he will stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand.
			"Sabbath" = "to completely cease or desist" = to allocate non-rigid specific time for physical and spiritual rest and renewal
			"keep the Sabbath holy" is the only Ten Commandment not repeated in the NT because traditions changed. With the cross, the OT requirement for specifically keeping Saturday separate for methods of remission of sins was removed.
COLOSSIANS	2	17	things which are a mere shadow of what is to come; but the substance belongs to Christ.
			"shadow" = a foretelling of an archetype to come
HEBREWS	8	5	who serve a copy and shadow of the heavenly things, just as Moses was warned by God when he was about to erect the tabernacle; for, "SEE," He says, "THAT YOU MAKE all things ACCORDING TO THE PATTERN WHICH WAS SHOWN YOU ON THE MOUNTAIN."
ROMANS	8	3	For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh,
ROMANS		4	so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.
COLOSSIANS	2	18	Let no one keep defrauding you of your prize by delighting in self-abasement and the worship of the angels, taking his stand on visions he has seen, inflated without cause by his fleshly mind,
			"defrauding" = "cheat" = to umpire against
			"prize" = reward
1 CORINTHIANS	9	24	Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win.
PHILIPPIANS	3	14	I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.
2 JOHN		8	Watch yourselves, that you do not lose what we have accomplished, but that you may receive a full reward.
REVELATION	3	11	I am coming quickly; hold fast what you have, so that no one will take your crown.
			we can be defrauded of our eternal reward by succumbing to false dactrines
			"self-abasement" = false humility or subjection to the worship of angels, thinking we are not worthy to approach God directly because we do not perform enough works to gain access, resulting in trepidation or unsuredness as to whether our salvation is guaranteed, but...
1 JOHN	5	11	And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.
1 JOHN		12	He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.
1 JOHN		13	These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.
			"worship" = external worship done for the ceremonial purpose of religion
ACTS	26	5	since they have known about me for a long time, if they are willing to testify, that I lived as a Pharisee according to the strictest sect of our religion.

JAMES		26	If anyone thinks himself to be religious, and yet does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this man's religion is worthless.
JAMES	1	27	Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.
			Paul is railing against the GNOSTICISM of the day, which compares to the present New Age Movement or other "Oneness" universalist philosophies - "we are all part of the universe", the escape from self, human potential movements, spirit beings, astrology, ouija boards, tarot, holy men, psychics, swamis, yogis, gurus, Buddhism (we have all we need to be independent from any god), which are all designed to enhance the potential of the human mind in order to achieve ultimate reality (see comment on 1:6)
			"taking his stand" = intruding, invading or stepping into the mysteries of an ecstatic experience which has no basis in biblical revelation
			"visions" - were generally used by God before the completion of the canon in order to communicate supernaturally with man. Of course, now we have the written, inspired Word which renders visions counterfeit, spurious, hallucination, spiritual drivel and apocryphal today.
ROMANS	3	4	May it never be! Rather, let God be found true, though every man be found a liar, as it is written,
			"inflated" = to blow up with a bellows = inflated with pride
1 CORINTHIANS	4	6	Now these things, brethren, I have figuratively applied to myself and Apollos for your sakes, so that in us you may learn not to exceed what is written, so that no one of you will become arrogant in behalf of one against the other.
1 CORINTHIANS		18	Now some have become arrogant, as though I were not coming to you.
1 CORINTHIANS		19	But I will come to you soon, if the Lord wills, and I shall find out, not the words of those who are arrogant but their power.
1 CORINTHIANS	5	2	You have become arrogant and have not mourned instead, so that the one who had done this deed would be removed from your midst.
1 CORINTHIANS	8	1	Now concerning things sacrificed to idols, we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge makes arrogant, but love edifies.
1 CORINTHIANS	13	4	Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant,
			<i>IT IS AN ERROR OF ARROGANT PRIDE TO SPOUT MY KNOWLEDGE IN ORDER TO HAVE AN EDGE ON OTHERS !!</i>
COLOSSIANS	2	19	and not holding fast to the head, from whom the entire body, being supplied and held together by the joints and ligaments, grows with a growth which is from God.
			"holding fast" = to cause to continue with authority - here, to apprehend Jesus Christ and have a healthy relationship with Him
1 TIMOTHY	2	5	For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,
1 TIMOTHY		6	who gave Himself as a ransom for all, the testimony given at the proper time.
JOHN	15	4	"Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me.
JOHN		5	"I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.
			"body" = the universal church = any believer anywhere on earth
			"supplied" = "chorus" - to supply the complete needs for subsistence. In ancient Greece, the entire royal chorus troupe was provided for a benefactor.
			"held together" = to coalesce in order to conclude = "teach/instruct"
			"joints and ligaments" = gifted leaders who carefully edify by skilfully communicating the truth of the Word
EPHESIANS		15	but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ,

EPHESIANS	4	16 from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.
		"grows with a growth" - the growth of the church, to spread, to extend
EPHESIANS	2	21 in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord,
COLOSSIANS	2	20 If you have died with Christ to the elementary principles of the world, why, as if you were living in the world, do you submit yourself to decrees, such as,
		"if" = 1cc = "since" - a reality, not just potential
		"died" = separation from human rules
GALATIANS	2	20 "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.
		THE FINISHED WORK OF CHRIST IS THE ONLY THING THAT IMPRESSES THE HOLY GOD
		"elementary principles" = a world system which functions on a restrictive scale of speculative understanding SEE V.8 ABOVE
GALATIANS	4	9 But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how is it that you turn back again to the weak and worthless elemental things, to which you desire to be enslaved all over again?
HEBREWS	5	12 For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food.
		"decrees" = man-made rules, not from God.
		a big thing back then was ASCETICISM = public self-torture in order to please God, a concept not in the Bible
		THE BIBLE DOES NOT GIVE ME THE RIGHT TO SUPERIMPOSE MY STANDARDS ON SOMEONE ELSE
ROMANS	14	15 For if because of food your brother is hurt, you are no longer walking according to love. Do not destroy with your food him for whom Christ died.
1 CORINTHIANS	8	10 For if someone sees you, who have knowledge, dining in an idol's temple, will not his conscience, if he is weak, be strengthened to eat things sacrificed to idols?
COLOSSIANS	2	21 "Do not handle, do not taste, do not touch!"
		"handle" = to cling to, not superficially
		"taste" - no food is biblically wrong
		"handle" = to superficially take care of religious ornaments
COLOSSIANS	2	22 (which all refer to things destined to perish with use)—in accordance with the commandments and teachings of men?
MATTHEW	23	27 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which on the outside appear beautiful, but inside they are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness.
MATTHEW		28 "So you, too, outwardly appear righteous to men, but inwardly you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.
COLOSSIANS	2	23 These are matters which have, to be sure, the appearance of wisdom in self-made religion and self-abasement and severe treatment of the body, but are of no value against fleshly indulgence.
		taboos - futile regulations of human standards, tangential and transient, having no purpose other than the satisfying of the injunctions of human holiness by self-effort are not the genuine actions of a true follower of Christ, getting him away from grace by moving away from the Word
		"self-abasement" - false humility - Christians should get their operating assets from God and not from pseudo-humility directed at vulnerable humans
		"severe treatment of the body" - asceticism - self-torture of the body is wrong because Jesus did all the suffering we need to satisfy God
		it treats the body as an enemy when it is really an instrument of godliness and actually feeds the sin capacity

COLOSSIANS	3	1 Therefore since you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.
		THE BOOK SHIFTS TO THE POSITIVE
		raised up = to cause to live again together with faith secures our salvation; emotions should celebrate it
		Practical command #1 - seek things above with concentration
COLOSSIANS	3	2 Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.
		Practical command #2 - think on things above - employ with thoughtful planning
2 CORINTHIANS	4	18 while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.
PHILIPPIANS	2	5 Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus,
ROMANS	1	21 For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened.
		Practical command #3 - focus on the eternal, not the trivial (which Satan seeks to defeat with)
		all of us are susceptible to materialism and becoming so earthly-minded that we're no heavenly good at the same time don't be so heavenly-minded that we're no earthly good... God did place us in a physical, material world after all..
PHILIPPIANS	3	18 For many walk, of whom I often told you, and now tell you even weeping, that they are enemies of the cross of Christ,
PHILIPPIANS		19 whose end is destruction, whose god is their appetite, and whose glory is in their shame, who set their minds on earthly things.
PHILIPPIANS		20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ;
PHILIPPIANS		21 who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.
COLOSSIANS	3	3 For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.
		The Christian died with Christ around 29AD because we are now identified with His work on the cross
GALATIANS	2	20 "I have been co-crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me. We do not need dead reckoning (floundering under cloud cover) to guide our lives since we have the Word of God
ROMANS	6	6 knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin;
ROMANS		7 for he who has died is freed from sin.
ROMANS		8 Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him,
ROMANS		9 knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, is never to die again; death no longer is master over Him.
ROMANS		10 For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God.
ROMANS		11 Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.
		hidden (gr perfect 1pt)- not from us but for us, eternally secured by the cross
1 PETER	1	4 to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,
1 PETER		5 who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.
		with Christ in God = double shield - in the bank + in the vault
ROMANS		38 For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers,

ROMANS	8	39 nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.
COLOSSIANS	3	4 When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.
		revealed = to cause to be fully known by demonstrating the true essence of an event
JOHN	3	21 "But he who practices the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God."
1 CORINTHIANS	4	5 Therefore do not go on passing judgment before the time, but wait until the Lord comes who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of men's hearts; and then each man's praise will come to him from God.
2 CORINTHIANS	5	10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.
2 CORINTHIANS	5	11 Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade men, but we are made manifest to God; and I hope that we are made manifest also in your consciences.
EPHESIANS	5	13 But all things become visible when they are exposed by the light, for everything that becomes visible is light.
		then = we are linked to Christ's coming
1 JOHN	3	2 Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is.
1 CORINTHIANS	13	12 For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I will know fully just as I also have been fully known.
COLOSSIANS	1	27 to whom God willed 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.
COLOSSIANS	3	5 Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry.
		THE BOOK SHIFTS TO THE PRACTICAL
		The usual construct of Paul's books... a SUBSTRUCTURE of positional truth followed by a SUPERSTRUCTURE of practical imperative importance. The commands for the desired conditions are predicated by truth of the doctrinal positions.
		"put to death" - five sinful areas where we need to urgently neutralize a sinful tendency by taking extreme measures to cease completely . .
		#1 - IMMORALITY
		#2 - IMPURITY
		#3 - PASSION
		#4 - EVIL DESIRE
		#5 - GREED
		Colossae had sex gods like Ishtar (Easter), Aphrodite and Demeter - all created for religious "pornea" and treated indifferently by the church
2 CORINTHIANS	5	17 Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.
MATTHEW	16	24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me.
TITUS	2	11 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men,
TITUS	2	12 instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age,
2 TIMOTHY	2	19 Nevertheless, the firm foundation of God stands, having this seal, "The Lord knows those who are His," and, "Everyone who names the name of the Lord is to abstain from wickedness."
GALATIANS	5	19 Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality,
EPHESIANS	5	3 But immorality or any impurity or greed must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints;

1 THESSALONIANS	4	3	For this is the will of God, your sanctification; that is, that you abstain from sexual immorality;
MATTHEW	23	27	“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which on the outside appear beautiful, but inside they are full of dead men’s bones and all uncleanness.
ROMANS	1	24	Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them.
2 CORINTHIANS	12	21	I am afraid that when I come again my God may humiliate me before you, and I may mourn over many of those who have sinned in the past and not repented of the impurity, immorality and sensuality which they have practiced.
EPHESIANS	4	19	and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness.
1 THESSALONIANS	4	7	For God has not called us for the purpose of impurity, but in sanctification.
ROMANS	6	12	Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts,
ROMANS	13	14	But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts.
GALATIANS	5	16	But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.
GALATIANS		24	Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.
EPHESIANS	2	3	Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.
2 PETER	2	18	For speaking out arrogant words of vanity they entice by fleshly desires, by sensuality, those who barely escape from the ones who live in error,
1 JOHN	2	16	For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.
<i>A Christian has a higher demand on his conduct because the Holy Spirit does not like an unclean place in which to dwell</i>			
<i>Knowing God gives him a platform from which to know Him better in order to displace the need for these things</i>			
PHILIPPIANS	4	10	But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at last you have revived your concern for me; indeed, you were concerned before, but you lacked opportunity.
PHILIPPIANS		11	Not that I speak from want, for I have learned to be acontent in whatever circumstances I am.
PHILIPPIANS		12	I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need.
COLOSSIANS	3	6	For it is because of these things that the wrath of God will come upon the sons of disobedience, will come = already begun to come
JOHN	3	36	“He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him..”
2 THESSALONIANS	1	7	and to give relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire,
2 THESSALONIANS		8	dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.
disobedience = unpersuadable obstinacy			
COLOSSIANS	3	7	and in them you also once walked, when you were living in them. it is difficult to walk across the riverbanks of sin and not get its sticky clinging gumbo on the boots of our heart
1 PETER	4	3	For the time already past is sufficient for you to have carried out the desire of the Gentiles, bhaving pursued a course of sensuality, lusts, drunkenness, carousing, drinking parties and abominable idolatries. a new dominating power must rule... falling down is different than falling overboard

		we should be like sheep who get out of the mud of sin as fast as possible and not like swine who wallow in it
ROMANS	6	14 For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law but under grace.
COLOSSIANS	3	8 But now you also, put them all aside: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive speech from your mouth.
		there are two types of sin here - disposition and mouth
2 CORINTHIANS	7	1 Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.
EPHESIANS	2	3 Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.
		put them all aside = disrobe, divest, throw in the laundry hamper
ACTS	7	58 When they had driven him out of the city, they began stoning him; and the witnesses laid aside their robes at the feet of a young man named Saul.
EPHESIANS		22 that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit,
EPHESIANS		23 and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind,
EPHESIANS		24 and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.
EPHESIANS		25 Therefore, laying aside falsehood, SPEAK TRUTH EACH ONE of you WITH HIS NEIGHBOR, for we are members of one another.
EPHESIANS		26 BE ANGRY, AND yet DO NOT SIN; do not let the sun go down on your anger,
EPHESIANS	4	27 and do not give the devil an opportunity.
EPHESIANS		28 He who steals must steal no longer; but rather he must labor, performing with his own hands what is good, so that he will have something to share with one who has need.
EPHESIANS		29 Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear.
EPHESIANS		30 Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.
EPHESIANS		31 Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice.
		anger = a chronic revengeful, resentful and surly INWARD disposition resulting in a settled state of chain sinning
PROVERBS	16	32 He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty,
PROVERBS	16	And he who rules his spirit, than he who captures a city.
		wrath = acute explosions of anger, a turbulent OUTWARD commotion of rage
2 CORINTHIANS	12	20 For I am afraid that perhaps when I come I may find you to be not what I wish and may be found by you to be not what you wish; that perhaps there will be strife, jealousy, angry tempers, disputes, slanders, gossip, arrogance, disturbances;
2 CORINTHIANS	12	21 I am afraid that when I come again my God may humiliate me before you, and I may mourn over many of those who have sinned in the past and not repented of the impurity, immorality and sensuality which they have practiced.
GALATIANS	5	20 idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions,
		malice = the desire to direct hurt and evil at others
ROMANS	1	29 being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; they are gossips,
1 CORINTHIANS	5	8 Therefore let us celebrate the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.
		anger becomes wrath and wrath becomes malice
		slander = blasphemy = βλασφημίαν (blasphēmian) = to revile and defame with scurrilous and abusive speech (gossip)

			<i>Gossip is the uninformed, second-hand, unauthorized, unproved and invalidated information about people</i>
TITUS	3	2	to malign no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing every consideration for all men.
ROMANS	3	8	And why not say (as we are slanderously reported and as some claim that we say), "Let us do evil that good may come"? Their condemnation is just.
ROMANS	2	24	For "THE NAME OF GOD IS BLASPHEMED AMONG THE GENTILES BECAUSE OF YOU," just as it is written.
MATTHEW	27	39	And those passing by were hurling abuse at Him, wagging their heads
MATTHEW	15	19	"For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, slanders.
PSALMS	141	3	Set a guard, O LORD, over my mouth;
PSALMS			Keep watch over the door of my lips.
			<i>Slanderous words go out like a broken feather pillow and can never be retrieved, so be careful, because...</i>
MATTHEW	12	36	"But I tell you that every careless word that people speak, they shall give an accounting for it in the day of judgment.
			abusive speech = αἰσχρολογία (aischrologian) = "aischros" (shameful) + "lego" (speech in progress) = filthy language, vile conversation
			<i>God has the right to expect that the permanent dwelling of the Holy Spirit should exhibit clean speech</i>
			from your mouth = revealing what is in my heart by what I say
LUKE	6	45	"The good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth what is good; and the evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth what is evil; for his mouth speaks from that which fills his heart.
JAMES	3	10	from the same mouth come both blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be this way.
JAMES		11	Does a fountain send out from the same opening both fresh and bitter water?
PSALMS	19	14	Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
PSALMS			Be acceptable in Your sight,
PSALMS			O LORD, my rock and my Redeemer.
EPHESIANS	4	29	Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear.
COLOSSIANS	4	6	Let your speech always be with grace, as though seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person.
COLOSSIANS	3	9	Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices,
ROMANS	9	1	I am telling the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience testifies with me in the Holy Spirit,
			laid aside = stripping off a robe from oneself, referring to the effects of the cross superceding the old obsolete model for a new one
COLOSSIANS	3	10	and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him—
			put on = arming oneself with the replacing fellowship in Christ and all that that produces
2 CORINTHIANS	5	17	Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.
			<i>It is a refreshing of renewal by the confessing of known sin, judging (repenting of) the old and making the new operative</i>
EPHESIANS	5	26	so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,
JOHN	7	37	Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink.
JOHN		38	"He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.' "
			renewed = to constantly repeat the causing to become different by moving towards a superior non-retrograding preferred state
HEBREWS		4	For in the case of those who have once been enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift and have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit,

HEBREWS	6	5	and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come,
HEBREWS		6	and then have fallen away, it is impossible to renew them again to repentance, since they again crucify to themselves the Son of God and put Him to open shame.
2 CORINTHIANS	4	16	Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day.
ROMANS	12	2	And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.
EPHESIANS	4	23	and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind,
			image = renewing the representation of God which was tarnished by Adam's sin
EPHESIANS	4	24	and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.
GALATIANS	4	19	My children, with whom I am again in labor until Christ is formed in you—
COLOSSIANS	3	11	a renewal in which there is no distinction between Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and freeman, but Christ is all, and in all.
			no distinction = true equality of people born unequal (brought on by the cross)
			Satan promotes distinction; Jesus eliminates it
JOHN	1	16	For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace.
COLOSSIANS	3	12	So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience;
			Three titles which God gives to believers in order that they live out their lives based on their prerogatives in Christ
			Title 1 - CHOSEN = the elect, which are Christians who are in the plan of God by His gift of divine positioning, even though they can lose the benefits of being in that plan by experiential sinning
1 PETER	1	2	according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood: May grace and peace be yours in the fullest measure.
			Title 2 HOLINESS = Christians are saints who are sanctified, set apart and separated unto God
HEBREWS	3	1	Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the Apostle and High Priest of our confession;
1 PETER	1	15	but alike the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior;
1 PETER	1	16	because it is written, "YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY."
HEBREWS	12	14	Pursue peace with all men, and the sanctification without which no one will see the Lord.
			Title 3 BELOVED = God's permanent love that cannot change
ROMANS	5	8	But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.
1 JOHN		9	By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him.
1 JOHN	4	10	In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.
1 JOHN		11	Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.
1 JOHN		19	We love, because He first loved us.
			when we enter into the union with Christ by faith, God accepts us in the Beloved One ("object of His love")
EPHESIANS	1	6	to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.
JEREMIAH		3	The LORD appeared to him from afar, saying,
JEREMIAH	31		"I have loved you with an everlasting love;
JEREMIAH			Therefore I have drawn you with lovingkindness.

ROMANS	1	7	to all who are beloved of God in Rome, called as saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
ROMANS	5	5	and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.
ROMANS		8	But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.
put on = attiring oneself with the new fellowship in Christ and all that that produces, developing our daily disposition a/c to our eternal position			
God wants us to put on the following eight "garments" with which to show our character...			
ISAIAH	64	6	For all of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment
Garment 1 = COMPASSION = "bowels of sympathy/mercy (grace in action)" - deep feelings from the gut that I am putting myself in their place			
LUKE	6	36	"Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.
PHILIPPIANS	2	1	Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion,
1 PETER	3	8	To sum up, all of you be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit;
EPHESIANS	4	32	Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.
Garment 2 - KINDNESS = a relaxed courteous mental attitude, imitating God...			
TITUS	3	4	But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared,
ROMANS	12	10	Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor;
Garment 3 - HUMILITY = a lowliness of mind which orients to the unearned grace of God			
ACTS	20	19	serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials which came upon me through the plots of the Jews;
PHILIPPIANS	2	3	Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves;
1 PETER	5	5	You younger men, likewise, be subject to your elders; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE.
not prioritizing or touting our own self-image			
PHILIPPIANS	2	21	For they all seek after their own interests, not those of Christ Jesus.
Garment 4 - GENTLENESS = inwrought grace which strongly demonstrates an understanding of dependence on God			
GALATIANS	6	1	Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted.
1 CORINTHIANS	4	21	What do you desire? Shall I come to you with a rod, or with love and a spirit of gentleness?
2 TIMOTHY	2	25	with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth,
JAMES	1	21	Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls.
JAMES	3	13	Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show by his good behavior his deeds in the gentleness of wisdom.
1 PETER		15	but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;
Garment 5 - PATIENCE = protracted self-restraint in the face of dissonance and in response to the same by God to us			
COLOSSIANS	1	11	strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously
ROMANS	2	4	Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?

ROMANS	9	22	What if God, although willing to demonstrate His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction?
JAMES	5	7	Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious produce of the soil, being patient about it, until it gets the early and late rains.
JAMES		8	You too be patient; strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near.
JAMES		9	Do not complain, brethren, against one another, so that you yourselves may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing right at the door.
JAMES		10	As an example, brethren, of suffering and patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.
JAMES		11	We count those blessed who endured. You have heard of the endurance of Job and have seen the outcome of the Lord's dealings, that the Lord is full of compassion and is merciful.
COLOSSIANS	3	13	bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.
Garment 6 - BEARING WITH OTHERS = lovingly tolerating with self-restraint, giving latitude against the temptation to let fly against opposition			
1 CORINTHIANS	4	12	and we toil, working with our own hands; when we are reviled, we bless; when we are persecuted, we endure;
2 CORINTHIANS	11	1	I wish that you would bear with me in a little foolishness; but indeed you are bearing with me.
2 CORINTHIANS		4	For if one comes and preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted, you bear this beautifully.
2 CORINTHIANS		19	For you, being so wise, tolerate the foolish gladly.
2 CORINTHIANS		20	For you tolerate it if anyone enslaves you, anyone devours you, anyone takes advantage of you, anyone exalts himself, anyone hits you in the face.
HEBREWS	13	22	But I urge you, brethren, bear with this word of exhortation, for I have written to you briefly.
Garment 7 - FORGIVENESS = to unconditionally and with a balanced attitude freely bestow more favor than is deserved and then forget			
LUKE	7	42	"When they were unable to repay, he graciously forgave them both. So which of them will love him more?"
LUKE		43	Simon answered and said, "I suppose the one whom he forgave more." And He said to him, "You have judged correctly."
2 CORINTHIANS	2	7	so that on the contrary you should rather forgive and comfort him, otherwise such a one might be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow.
2 CORINTHIANS		10	But one whom you forgive anything, I forgive also; for indeed what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, I did it for your sakes in the presence of Christ,
EPHESIANS	4	32	Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.
<i>God positionally forgave us at salvation at one point in the past but we are also being experientially forgiven ongoing. We should therefore grant forbearance to others</i>			
complaint = an allegation requiring legal review			
even as Christ = adopt the character of Christ and don't live according to my own emotions			
ditch the whining, complaining, cry-babying, tantrums, panic, hatred, bitterness, rehashing, antagonism, vindictiveness, implacability and jealousy			
COLOSSIANS	3	14	Beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity.
Garment 8 - LOVE = the ultimate grace of the Christian life and a mark of maturity			
1 CORINTHIANS	13	13	But now faith, hope, love, abide these three; but the greatest of these is love.
perfect = a state of fulfillment of maturity			

			bond = girdle = a foundational garment which holds everything together
HEBREWS	6	1	Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God,
HEBREWS	7	11	Now if perfection was through the Levitical priesthood (for on the basis of it the people received the Law), what further need was there for another priest to arise according to the order of Melchizedek, and not be designated according to the order of Aaron?
PROVERBS	11	3	The integrity of the upright will guide them,
COLOSSIANS	3	15	Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful.
			peace = εἰρήνη eirēnē = to join = we have a harmony with God because we are joined to Him
			rule = βραβεύω brabeuō = let preside = to act as an umpire, arbitrating all matters of the heart in my walk IOT minimize the sin of worry
ISAIAH	26	3	“The steadfast of mind You will keep in perfect peace, because he trusts in You
JOHN	20	21	So Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you; as the Father has sent Me, I also send you.”
ROMANS	14	17	for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.
ROMANS	15	13	Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.
PHILIPPIANS	4	6	Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.
PHILIPPIANS		7	And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
			called = καλέω kaleō = 1pt = coupled with election = God placing us into a status in Christ whereby we have everything needed to live the Xn life
EPHESIANS	1	4	just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love
EPHESIANS		5	He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will,
			thankful = εὐχάριστος eucharistos = ongoing = become something we were not before = understanding God's blessings more and more
PSALMS	92	1	It is good to give thanks to the LORD
PSALMS	106	1	... Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good;
1 THESSALONIANS	5	18	in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.
COLOSSIANS	3	16	Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.
			word of Christ = hapax legomenon (occurs only once in Scripture)
			let...dwell = ἐνοικέω enoikeō = one word = to allow Christ to inhabit my heart and keep house
DEUTERONOMY	6	6	“These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart.
DEUTERONOMY	11	18	“You shall therefore impress these words of mine on your heart and on your soul; and you shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontals on your forehead.
JOSHUA	1	8	“This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success.
JOB	22	22	“Please receive instruction from His mouth
JOB			And establish His words in your heart.
JOB	23	12	“I have not departed from the command of His lips;
JOB			I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my necessary food.
PSALMS	1	2	But his delight is in the law of the LORD,
PSALMS	1		And in His law he meditates day and night.
PSALMS		9	How can a young man keep his way pure?

PSALMS		By keeping it according to Your word.
PSALMS	119	10 With all my heart I have sought You;
PSALMS		Do not let me wander from Your commandments.
PSALMS		11 Your word I have treasured in my heart,
PSALMS		That I may not sin against You.
JEREMIAH	15	16 Your words were found and I ate them,
JEREMIAH	15	And Your words became for me a joy and the delight of my heart;
		richly =wealthily
		teaching = διδάσκω didaskō = didactically communicating truth
		admonishing =νουθετέω noutheteō = to warn or place in the mind personally by mutually applying truth to experience
ACTS	20	31 “Therefore be on the alert, remembering that night and day for a period of three years I did not cease to admonish each one with tears.
		songs = ᾠδή ᾠdē = an expression of personal experience coming from being filling with the spirit and the Word of God IOT battle the enemy
1 CORINTHIANS	14	26 What is the outcome then, brethren? When you assemble, each one has a psalm, has a teaching, has a revelation, has a tongue, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification.
EPHESIANS	5	18 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit,
EPHESIANS		19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord;
EPHESIANS		20 always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to bGod, even the Father;
		grace = χάρις charis= blessing(1), concession(1), credit(3), favor(11), gift(1), grace(122), gracious(2), gracious work(3), gratitude(1), thank(3), thankfulness(2), thanks(6).
		<i>I need the help of God's grace to truly sing out of the heart</i>
COLOSSIANS	3	17 Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.
		<i>Jesus is the norm by which we should measure our lives</i>
COLOSSIANS	3	18 Wives, be subject to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.
		wives = γυναῖκη gunē (gynecologist)
		be subject = ὑποτάσσω hupotassō = to arrange under by positive volition in voluntary subordination (OF ROLE, NOT POSITION) so as to maintain God's order
		<i>The biblical role for the wife is to voluntarily arrange her life in order to support her husband's role, similar to how an employee's role is to support the boss and how Christ's role is supportive of God's role</i>
GALATIANS	3	28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.
		all have equal position before God
GENESIS		18 Then the LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him.”
GENESIS		19 Out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the sky, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called a living creature, that was its name.
GENESIS		20 The man gave names to all the cattle, and to the birds of the sky, and to every beast of the field, but for Adam there was not found a helper suitable for him.
GENESIS	2	21 So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then He took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh at that place.

GENESIS		22	The LORD God fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and brought her to the man.
GENESIS		23	The man said,
GENESIS			“This is now bone of my bones,
GENESIS			And flesh of my flesh;
GENESIS			She shall be called Woman,
GENESIS			Because she was taken out of Man.”
<i>Submission has nothing to do with inferiority - we are all to submit to God's order in one way or another</i>			
COLOSSIANS	3	19	Husbands, love your wives and do not be embittered against them.
			husbands = ἀνὴρ anēr = a man
			love = ἀγαπάω agapaō = divine self-sacrificing love free to relate, spending itself for others
<i>The biblical role for the husband is to make his wife feel secure in his love, not to revel in superiority over her</i>			
			embittered = πικραίνω pikrainō = to cut, prick or provoke to the point of anger and resentment
COLOSSIANS	3	20	Children, be obedient to your parents in all things, for this is well-pleasing to the Lord.
			obey = ὑπακούω hupakouō = to hear under = to give attention in order to answer (implies respect)
<i>Disobedience is rebellion and violates divine institutions</i>			
<i>Obedience to proper authority is required for children of non-responsible age</i>			
<i>Fairness is required from parents</i>			
<i>Reciprocal respect for mutual roles is crucial</i>			
EXODUS	21	17	“He who curses his father or his mother shall surely be put to death.
LEVITICUS	20	9	‘If there is anyone who curses his father or his mother, he shall surely be put to death; he has cursed his father or his mother, his bloodguiltiness is upon him.
<i>The devolution of mankind due to sin is a principle cause of disrespect</i>			
ROMANS	1	30	slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents,
2 TIMOTHY		1	But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come.
2 TIMOTHY	3	2	For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy,
			well-pleasing = εὐάρεστος euarestos = to fit in a good manner
HEBREWS	13	21	equip you in every good thing to do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.
			this also follows the fifth Commandment
EXODUS	20	12	“Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be prolonged in the land which the LORD your God gives you.
EPHESIANS	6	2	HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER (which is the first commandment with a promise),
COLOSSIANS	3	21	Fathers, do not exasperate your children, so that they will not lose heart.
			fathers = πατήρ patēr = parent in authority (usually male but also used for God)
			exasperate = ἐρεθίζω erethizō = excite, stimulate, provoke = present (continuous) tense = keep on doing it
EPHESIANS	6	4	Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.
<i>Underdiscipline, overdiscipline and the withdrawal of discipline all cause exasperation</i>			
			lose heart = ἀθυμέω athumeō = spiritless
<i>Children have incredible ears which hear all things positive and negative</i>			

COLOSSIANS	3	22 Slaves, in all things obey those who are your masters on earth, not with external service, as those who merely please men, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord.
		slaves = bondservant = δούλος doulos = a devoted person in servile condition who is subject to the will of another ("e.g. doula")
		God wants those serving another to be the best they can in that condition, with the eye of the boss being irrelevant to the quality of the labor
		obey = υπακούω hupakouō = to hear under = to give attention in order to answer (implies respect)
		external service = ὀφθαλμοδουλία ophthalmoudoulia = "eye-doula" = sluggish behaviour needing the overseer's eyes to control
		sincerity of heart = ἀπλότης haplotēs + καρδία kardia = free from pretence and hypocrisy, generously and honestly opening one's heart with bountifulness and liberality
EPHESIANS	6	5 Slaves, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in the sincerity of your heart, as to Christ;
		fearing the Lord = φοβέω phobeō + θεός theos = "phobia-God" = to be seized with amazement and in reverent awe of the supreme Divinity
COLOSSIANS	3	23 Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men,
		heartily = ψυχή psuchē = "psychology" = with enthusiastic vitality out of the source of one's very soul
		Lord = κύριος kurios = a title of respect and reverence for He who is supreme in authority
COLOSSIANS	3	24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve.
		reward = ἀνταπόδοσις antapodosis = to give away = to recompense and render what is due
EPHESIANS	1	14 who is agiven as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory.
ACTS	20	32 "And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.
EPHESIANS	5	5 For this you know with certainty, that no immoral or impure person or covetous man, who is an idolater, has an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.
HEBREWS	9	15 For this reason He is the mediator of a new covenant, so that, since a death has taken place for the redemption of the transgressions that were committed under the first covenant, those who have been called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.
1 PETER	1	4 to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,
		serve = δουλεύω douleuō = same word as v. 22 = a devoted person in servile condition who is subject to the will of another ("e.g. doula")
COLOSSIANS	3	25 For he who does wrong will receive the consequences of the wrong which he has done, and that without partiality.
		does wrong = ἀδικέω adikeō = to offend by violating justice
		receive = κομίζω komizō = to tend, take care of
		God respects the worth of a person, not his condition. Therefore sin will get the consequences it deserves.
		without partiality = προσωποληψία prosōpolēmpsia = visage + to receive = (not an) acceptor of the face = one who does not show favoritism
EPHESIANS	6	9 And masters, do the same things to them, and give up threatening, knowing that both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him.
ROMANS	2	11 For there is no partiality with God.
COLOSSIANS	4	1 Masters, grant to your slaves justice and fairness, knowing that you too have a Master in heaven.
		this verse actually belongs in Chapter 3 as focus on the roles in the Christian life

COLOSSIANS	4	2 Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving;
		devote (pro-skartereo) - to have great vigor towards
ROMANS	13	6 For because of this you also pay taxes, for rulers are servants of God, devoting themselves to this very thing.
ROMANS	12	12 rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer,
ACTS	1	14 These all with one mind were continually devoting themselves to prayer, along with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.
		prayer (pro-seuche) = directing towards a wish or willing something
		References throughout the Bible which emphasize the importance of a disciplined regular prayer regimen:
1 SAMUEL	1	23 “Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD by ceasing to pray for you; but I will instruct you in the good and right way.
PSALMS	55	17 Evening and morning and at noon, I will complain and murmur,
PSALMS		And He will hear my voice.
PSALMS	86	3 Be gracious to me, O Lord,
PSALMS		For to You I cry all day long.
PSALMS	116	1 I love the LORD, because He hears
PSALMS		My voice and my supplications.
PSALMS		2 Because He has inclined His ear to me,
PSALMS	119	164 Therefore I shall call upon Him as long as I live.
JEREMIAH	33	3 ‘Call to Me and I will answer you, and I will tell you great and mighty things, which you do not know.’
ISAIAH	1	24 “It will also come to pass that before they call, I will answer; and while they are still speaking, I will hear.
MATTHEW	7	7 “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.
MATTHEW		8 “For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.
MATTHEW	21	22 “And all things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive.”
MARK	11	24 “Therefore I say to you, all things for which you pray and ask, believe that you have received them, and they will be granted you.
LUKE	9	23 And He was saying to them all, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me.
LUKE	18	1 Now He was telling them a parable to show that at all times they ought to pray and not to lose heart,
JOHN	14	13 “Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.
ACTS	17	11 Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so.
ACTS	6	4 “But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.”
1 THESSALONIANS	5	17 pray without ceasing;
HEBREWS	4	16 Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.
		keeping alert (gregoreo) - to have one's faculties arise and be vigilant in taking heed (present tense = continuous action)
NEHEMIAH	4	9 But we prayed to our God, and because of them we set up a guard against them day and night.
ACTS	20	31 “Therefore be on the alert, remembering that night and day for a period of three years I did not cease to admonish each one with tears.

1 CORINTHIANS	16	13	Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong.
COLOSSIANS	4	2	Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving;
1 THESSALONIANS	5	6	so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober.
1 PETER	5	8	Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.
REVELATION	3	2	'Wake up, and strengthen the things that remain, which were about to die; for I have not found your deeds completed in the sight of My God.
REVELATION		3	'So remember what you have received and heard; and keep it, and repent. Therefore if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come to you.
REVELATION	16	15	("Behold, I am coming like a thief. Blessed is the one who stays awake and keeps his clothes, so that he will not walk about naked and men will not see his shame.")
			<i>Prayer ought to hold a central place in our lives. "Vigilance" in prayer stresses the danger we face in spiritual attacks. Satan would like nothing more than to put us asleep spiritually.</i>
			thanks (eu-charistia) = good-cheer = to express gratitude for a favor granted in kindness
1 THESSALONIANS	5	18	in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.
EPHESIANS	5	20	always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to bGod, even the Father;
COLOSSIANS	4	3	praying at the same time for us as well, that God will open up to us a door for the word, so that we may speak forth the mystery of Christ, for which I have also been imprisoned;
			praying = προσεύχομαι proseuchomai = pertaining to a wish
			<i>It is dishonest to say you will pray for someone and then forget about it and don't</i>
			open (anoigo) = to repeatedly and intensely open up
1 CORINTHIANS	16	9	for a wide door for effective service has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.
2 CORINTHIANS	2	12	Now when I came to Troas for the gospel of Christ and when a door was opened for me in the Lord,
REVELATION	3	7 b	... He who is holy, who is true, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, and who shuts and no one opens, says this:
REVELATION		8	'I know your deeds. Behold, I have put before you an open door which no one can shut, because you have a little power, and have kept My word, and have not denied My name.
			mystery (musterion) = shut the mouth = a sacred secret formerly concealed but later revealed
COLOSSIANS	1	26	that is, the mystery which has been hidden from the past ages and generations, but has now been manifested to His saints,
			common everyday usage of "mystery" suggests no revelation but the biblical idea is that it has been or will in the future be revealed in some way
COLOSSIANS	4	4	that I may make it clear in the way I ought to speak.
			make it clear (phaneroo) = clearly apparent and manifest
			ought (dei) = necessary, behooved
			<i>Witnessing is a divine imperative</i>
EPHESIANS	3	8	To me, the very least of all saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ,
EPHESIANS		9	and to bring to light what is the administration of the mystery which for ages has been hidden in God who created all things;
1 CORINTHIANS	9	16	For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for I am under compulsion; for woe is me if I do not preach the gospel.
1 CORINTHIANS		17	For if I do this voluntarily, I have a reward; but if against my will, I have a stewardship entrusted to me.
COLOSSIANS	4	5	Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity.

		conduct (peri-pateo) = to tread around as a course of life
		<i>I should not talk FOR God if I am not walking WITH God</i>
ROMANS	6	4 Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.
ROMANS	13	13 Let us behave properly as in the day, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual promiscuity and sensuality, not in strife and jealousy.
EPHESIANS	5	8 for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light
		wisdom = σοφία sophia = the maximum practise of the knowledge of godly requisites for upright living
PROVERBS	9	10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom,
PROVERBS		And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.
MATTHEW	10	16 "Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves; so be shrewd as serpents and innocent as doves.
JAMES	1	5 But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.
		making the most (exagerazo)("exaggerate") = to buy up and ransom in order to rescue from loss
EPHESIANS	2	12 remember that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.
EPHESIANS		13 But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near dby the blood of Christ.
1 THESSALONIANS	4	12 so that you will behave properly toward outsiders and not be in any need.
1 TIMOTHY	3	7 And he must have a good reputation with those outside the church, so that he will not fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.
COLOSSIANS	4	6 Let your speech always be with grace, as though seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person.
		grace = χάρις charis = cheerful bountiful favour freely granted by God
		<i>My speech towards others should be pleasant but firm, not charming and witty speech, but careful words used in order to give the listener an appetite for more</i>
		seasoned (artuo) = to make ready
PROVERBS	26	4 Do not answer a fool according to his folly,
PROVERBS		Or you will also be like him.
PROVERBS		5 Answer a fool as his folly deserves,
PROVERBS		That he not be wise in his own eyes.
ISAIAH	1	4 The Lord GOD has given Me the tongue of disciples,
ISAIAH		That I may know how to sustain the weary one with a word.
ISAIAH		He awakens Me morning by morning,
LUKE	4	22 And all were speaking well of Him, and wondering at the gracious words which were falling from His lips; and they were saying, "Is this not Joseph's son?"
EPHESIANS	4	29 Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear.
1 PETER	3	15 but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and dreverence;

COLOSSIANS	4	7 As to all my affairs, Tychicus, our beloved brother and faithful servant and fellow bond-servant in the Lord, will bring you information.
		Tychicus travelled widely with Paul. He was a man who Paul could trust.
		brother = ἀδελφός adelphos (womb) = a close associate
		faithful = πιστός pistos = convincingly trustworthy
		servant - diakonos = a minister who runs for and attends unto others
		bondservant = sun-doulos = a companion who is a devoted person in servile condition who is subject to the will of another ("e.g. doula")
		it was very tough being a Christian minister in Paul's society and situation
1 CORINTHIANS	4	1 Let a man regard us in this manner, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.
1 CORINTHIANS	4	2 In this case, moreover, it is required of stewards that one be found trustworthy.
COLOSSIANS	4	8 For I have sent him to you for this very purpose, that you may know about our circumstances and that he may encourage your hearts;
		encourage = para-kaleo = to call beside
		"Parakalo" is a common greeting and term of gratitude in Greece today...it can mean "thank you" or "you're welcome" amongst other things.
ROMANS	15	4 For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.
ACTS	9	31 So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria enjoyed peace, being built up; and going on in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it continued to increase.
COLOSSIANS	4	9 and with him Onesimus, our faithful and beloved brother, who is one of your number. They will inform you about the whole situation here.
		Onesimus was a drifter who sinned against the church but repented and became special to Paul
PHILEMON		10 I appeal to you for my child Onesimus, whom I have begotten in my imprisonment,
PHILEMON		11 who formerly was useless to you, but now is useful both to you and to me.
COLOSSIANS	4	10 Aristarchus, my fellow prisoner, sends you his greetings; and also Barnabas's cousin Mark (about whom you received instructions; if he comes to you, welcome him);
		Aristarchus (aristos-archos) (best leader) was a companion on Paul's third journey and considered a cell-mate of his
		Mark was a member of Paul's road crew who went off track but came back. He had already written the Gospel of Mark
COLOSSIANS	4	11 and also Jesus who is called Justus; these are the only fellow workers for the kingdom of God who are from the circumcision, and they have proved to be an encouragement to me.
		Jesus Justus = Iesus Ioustos = Joshua the Just, of whom not much is known
		encouragement (pare-goria) (hapaxlegomenon) = an address alongside, a relief of pain and suffering
COLOSSIANS	4	12 Epaphras, who is one of your number, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, sends you his greetings, always laboring earnestly for you in his prayers, that you may stand perfect and fully assured in all the will of God.
		Epaphras (ep-aphrodite = from Aphrodite) was a Bible teacher in Colossae, perhaps their pastor
COLOSSIANS	1	7 just as you learned it from Epaphras, our beloved fellow bond-servant, who is a faithful servant of Christ on our behalf,
		bondservant = δοῦλος doulos = a devoted person in servile condition who is subject to the will of another ("e.g. doula")
		laboring (agonizomai) = agony = striving earnestly and exhaustedly
JAMES	5	16b The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.

			stand perfect (histemi telios = established complete) = having received the power to stand with full measure, convinced in the truth of God's will
COLOSSIANS	4	13	For I testify for him that he has a deep concern for you and for those who are in Laodicea and Hierapolis.
			concern (zeloo = boil with zeal) = to labor with a strong feeling
			Laodicea + Hierapolis = cities in modern Turkey now lying in ruins
COLOSSIANS	4	14	Luke, the beloved physician, sends you his greetings, and also Demas.
			Luke was a doctor who had already written the Gospel of Luke and Acts
			Demas was a companion but deserted Paul
2 TIMOTHY	4	10	for Demas, having loved this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica; Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia.
COLOSSIANS	4	15	Greet the brethren who are in Laodicea and also Nympha and the church that is in her house.
			Nympha was a woman who served the church
COLOSSIANS	4	16	When this letter is read among you, have it also read in the church of the Laodiceans; and you, for your part read my letter that is coming from Laodicea.
			read (ana-ginosko) = to impart knowledge with great depth and detail
COLOSSIANS	4	17	Say to Archippus, "Take heed to the ministry which you have received in the Lord, that you may fulfill it."
			take heed (blepo) = look and beware
			we must stay vigilant and concentrate on the place of ministry God has placed us in
			received (para-lambano) = to have been in close enough proximity to have received something transmitted
			fulfill (pleroo) = to cram and fill in order to accomplish
PHILIPPIANS	3	12	Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus.
COLOSSIANS	4	18	I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. Remember my imprisonment. Grace be with you.
			<i>We should be thankful for Paul who endured much to bring us the Gospel</i>