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To the Colossians

Chapter One

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by Godde's will, and Timothy our brother, ²to the holy ones and trustworthy sisters and brothers in Christ in Colossae: Grace to you and peace from Godde our Mother.

³We give thanks to Godde the Mother of our Lord Jesus Christ, always praying for you. ⁴We have heard of your trust in Christ Jesus and of your love for all the holy ones ⁵because of the hope stored away for you in heaven, which you heard before in the word of truth, the good news ⁶which has come to you. It is bearing fruit and growing in the whole world, just as it has among you since the day you heard and understood the grace of Godde in truth. ⁷You learned it from Epaphras, our beloved fellow bondservant, who is a trustworthy minister of Christ for your sake. ⁸He told us of your love in the Spirit.

⁹For this reason, since the day we heard it, we have not stopped praying and asking Godde to make known to you the knowledge of her will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding ¹⁰so that you may live lives worthy of the Lady, pleasing her in every respect, being productive in every good deed and increasing in the knowledge of Godde. ¹¹Being strengthened with all power, according to the strength of her glory in all perseverance and patience with joy, ¹²give thanks to the Mother who enabled us to share the inheritance of the holy ones in light. ¹³She rescued us from the power of darkness and brought us into the reign of the Son of her love, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of offenses.

¹⁵Jesus is the image of the invisible Godde, the firstborn of all creation.

¹⁶For in him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him.

¹⁷He is before all things, and in him all things are held together.

¹⁸He is the head of the body, the community.

He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead so that he is first in everything.

¹⁹For all the fullness of Godde delighted to live in him

²⁰and through him to reconcile all things to herself, having made peace with everything through the blood of his cross, whether things on the earth or things in heaven.

²¹You yourselves were once alienated and enemies in your mind through your evil deeds, ²²but now he has reconciled you in the body of his flesh through death to present you holy and without fault, beyond reproach before her, ²³if you continue in the faith, established and firm and not moving away from the hope of the good news which you heard, which is being proclaimed in all creation under heaven and of which I, Paul, am a minister.

²⁴Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and I complete in my flesh what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, which is the community ²⁵of which I was made a minister, according to the stewardship of Godde, given to me for you to fulfill the word of Godde, ²⁶the mystery that has been hidden for ages and generations. Now it has been revealed to her holy ones ²⁷to whom Godde was pleased to make known the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: Christ in you, the hope of glory; ²⁸whom we proclaim, instructing everyone and teaching everyone in all wisdom so that

we may present each person mature in Christ. ²⁹This is why I work hard, struggling according to his power working powerfully in me.

Chapter Two

I want you to know how much I have been struggling for you and for those in Laodicea, and for all who have not met me personally, ²so that their hearts may be comforted and united in love, and that having all the riches of the full assurance of understanding, they may have the knowledge of the mystery of Godde: Christ, ³in whom all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden. ⁴I say this so that no one may deceive you with a persuasive argument. ⁵Because if I am absent in the body, I am with you in the spirit, and I rejoice in seeing your discipline and the firmness of your trust in Christ.

⁶Since you have received Christ Jesus, the Lord, live in him, ⁷rooted and built up in him, established in the faith, just as you were taught, overflowing with thanksgiving. ⁸Watch out so that no one takes you captive through philosophy and the empty deceit of human tradition, according to the elemental powers of the world and not according to Christ. ⁹Because all the fullness of Godde lives in bodily form in him, ¹⁰and you were made complete in him, the head of all rulers and authorities. ¹¹You were circumcised in him with a circumcision not made by human hands -- in the putting off of the body of the flesh -- but the circumcision of Christ; ¹²you were buried with him in baptism, and you were raised with him through trust in the working of Godde, who raised Christ from the dead. ¹³When you were dead in your wrongdoings and the uncircumcision of your flesh, she made you alive together with him, forgiving us all our wrongdoings ¹⁴by destroying the record that stood against us. She swept it away, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵She stripped the rulers and authorities and made a public display of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

¹⁶So let no one judge you because of what you eat, what you drink, or with respect to a holy day or a new moon or a Sabbath, ¹⁷which are a shadow of the things to come; but Christ is the reality. ¹⁸Do not let anyone cheat you out of your prize by self-abasement and the worship of angels. They see visions and are unreasonably proud because of their human way of thinking. ¹⁹They do not hold firmly to the head, from whom the whole body grows through joints and ligaments nourished and held together through Godde's growth.

²⁰Since you died with Christ to the elemental powers of the world, why do you still live as if you are subject to the world's regulations: ²¹"Don't handle! Don't taste! Don't touch!"? ²²These things all perish with use; they are human precepts and teachings. ²³These teachings appear to be wisdom by self-imposed worship, false humility, and in the severe treatment of the body, but aren't of any value against self-indulgence.

Chapter Three

So if you were raised with Christ, look for the things that are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of Godde. ²Focus on the things that are above, not the things that are on earth. ³Because you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in Godde. ⁴When Christ, our life, is revealed, then you too will be revealed with him in glory. ⁵So put to death the earthly parts of your body: promiscuity, corruption, lust, evil desire, and greed, which is idolatry; ⁶because of these things, Godde will punish those who are disobedient. ⁷That's the path you followed when you lived that way. ⁸But now get rid of all these things: fury, rage, hateful feelings, slander, and abusive language. ⁹Don't lie to each other, because you stripped off the old self who did those things ¹⁰and have put on the new self, who is being renewed in knowledge

according to the image of your Creator, ¹¹where there is no Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, bondservant, or free; but Christ is all, and in all.

¹²So as Godde's chosen ones, holy and beloved, put on love, compassion, mercy, humility, gentleness and patience; ¹³be patient with each other, forgiving each other if anyone has a complaint against any; just as the Lady forgave you, forgive each other.

¹⁴Above all, put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which you were called in one body; and be thankful. ¹⁶Let the word of Christ live in you richly; in all wisdom teach and instruct each other, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to Godde with grace in your hearts.

¹⁷Whatever you do, in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to Godde the Mother through him.

¹⁸Spouses, defer to each other, as is fitting in the Lady. ¹⁹Love each other and don't be harsh to each other.

²⁰Children, obey your parents in all things, for this pleases the Lady.

²¹Parents, don't make your children resentful, so that they won't be discouraged.

²²Bondservants, in all things heed your earthly masters and mistresses, not just when they are looking, as people-pleasers, but in singleness of heart, respecting the Lady. ²³Whatever you do, work from your heart, as you would for the Lady and not for women or men, ²⁴knowing you will receive an inheritance from the Lady because you serve the Lord Christ. ²⁵But the one who does wrong will receive the wrong they have done, and there is no favoritism.

Chapter Four

Masters and mistresses, grant your bondservants justice and equality, knowing that you too have a Mistress in heaven.

²Persevere in prayer, watch with thanksgiving. ³And pray together for us that Godde may open a door for us to speak the message: the mystery of Christ, for which I am in prison. ⁴Pray that I may reveal it clearly, as I should. ⁵Conduct yourselves wisely towards outsiders, making good use of your time. ⁶May your conversations always be filled with grace, seasoned with salt, so you may know how to answer everyone.

⁷Tychicus will tell you everything about me. He is a beloved brother, faithful minister, and fellow bondservant in the Lady. ⁸I am sending him to you for this very reason, so that he may tell you about us and comfort your hearts. ⁹He will be with Onesimus, the faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you. They will tell you everything that is happening here. ¹⁰Aristarchus, a prisoner with me, greets you, as does Barnabas' cousin Mark (concerning whom you received the instructions: "If he comes to you, welcome him"). ¹¹Jesus who is called Justus also greets you. These are my only co-workers for Godde's reign who are of the circumcision, men who have been a comfort to me.

¹²Epaphras, one of you and a bondservant of Christ, greets you. He is always wrestling in his prayers for you that you may stand mature and complete in the whole will of Godde. ¹³I assure you that he has worked hard for you and for those in Laodicea and Hierapolis. ¹⁴Luke, the beloved physician, and Demas greet you.

¹⁵Greet the sisters and brothers who are in Laodicea and the community that meets in Nympha's house. ¹⁶After this letter has been read among you, make sure the community in Laodicea reads it too, and read the letter from Laodicea as well. ¹⁷Tell Archippus: "Pay attention to the ministry you received in the Lady and fulfill it."

¹⁸I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. Remember my imprisonment. Grace be with you.