

I. **Ephesians**= The body of Christ, **Colossians** = the Christ of the body

- Chapter 1: Truth about the Christ
- **Chapter 2**: Truth about the cults,
- Chapters 3&4: Truth about the Christian

^{1:29} For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.

Chapter 2

¹ For I want you to know how great a struggle I have for you and for those at Laodicea and for all who have not seen me face to face,

- Struggle – ἀγών; agón; ag-one'
 - Philippians 1:30 – engaged in the same **conflict** that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.
 - 1 Thessalonians 2:2 – But though we had already suffered and been shamefully treated at Philippi, as you know we had boldness in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in the midst of much **conflict**.
 - 1 Timothy 6:12 – Fight the good **fight** of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.
 - 2 Timothy 4:7 – I have fought the good **fight** I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.
 - Hebrews 12:1 –Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the **race** that is set before us,
- those at Laodicea – “You and...”



○ [Map]

- Revelation 3:14-22 – ¹⁴ “And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: ‘The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God’s creation.’ ¹⁵ “I know your works: you are neither cold nor

hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! ¹⁶ So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth. ¹⁷ For you say, "I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing," not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. ¹⁸ I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see. ¹⁹ Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent. ²⁰ Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me. ²¹ The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne. ²² He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. '"

- Empty religion, the hardest people to reach are people who think they are good and have a form of godliness.
 - Here in the south, it seems to be "Churched folk"
- This letter to the Colossians was to be read to both churches, as was the letter to the Laodiceans (Lost).
- Colossians 4:16 – And when this letter has been read among you, have it also read in the church of the **Laodiceans**; and see that you also read the letter from Laodicea.
- not seen me face to face – "My face in the flesh" is the exact translation
 - σάρξ; sárx – Flesh
 - Paul did not found this church (or visit this church as far as we know)

² that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, to reach all the **riches** of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ, ³ in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

- being knit together in love,
- knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ
 - 1:27 – ²⁷ To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the **riches** of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

⁴ I say this in order that no one may delude you with plausible arguments. ⁵ For though I am absent in body, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the firmness of your faith in Christ.

- plausible arguments
- I am with you in spirit,

Alive in Christ

⁶ Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so **walk in him**,

- Just like in Ephesians, walk in him.

⁷ rooted and built up **in him** and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

⁸ See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.

- Philosophy, human tradition – nothing good here.
 - Jesus railed against human tradition.
 - Tradition is what religion becomes without the Holy Spirit's guidance.
 - Matthew 15:6 – ⁶he need not honor his father.' So for the sake of your tradition you have made void the word of God.

⁹ For in him the whole **fullness** of deity dwells **bodily**,

- Again, with the Exact image (Icon) of the invisible God!
- How we see God is through Christ! John 1:18 – ¹⁸*No one has ever seen God; God the only Son, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.*
- **Fullness** – πλήρωμα; plērōma; play'-ro-mah
- The gnostic would say this is heresy because they believed a good God couldn't become physical.

¹⁰ and you have been **filled in him**, who is the head of all rule and authority.

- **Filled** – πληρώω; plērōō; play-ro'-o

¹¹ In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ,

- The circumcision of the heart by the Spirit is what he means – Romans 2:29

¹² having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead.

- buried with him in baptism – We believe baptism does not save you. We perform baptism in obedience to Christ, or better put, “Not for salvation but from it.”

¹³ And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, **God made alive together with him**, having **forgiven us all our trespasses**,

- **God made alive together with him** – Born again!
- Forgiven all – Past, present, and future!
 - [Hebrews 10:14](#) – ¹⁴ For by a single offering he has **perfected** for all time those who are being sanctified.
 - Col 1:28 [KJV](#) -Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus:
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¹⁴ by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set this aside, nailing it to the cross.



- [tetelestai](#) – Paid in full! Complete, finished! <
 - [Psalm 49:8](#) [NIV](#) –*the ransom for a life is costly, no payment is ever enough—*
 - [Psalm 49:8](#) – [HCSB](#) – *since the price of redeeming him is too costly, one should forever stop trying—*

The Lord bless you and keep you;

the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;

the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

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