

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

*The Apostle's Salutation.*

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

*The Fulness in Christ.*

3 Let the God and Father of our  
 Lord Jesus Christ be blessed, Who  
 has blest us with every spiritual blessing  
 which is in the heavens with  
 4 Christ; since He had chosen us for  
 Himself before founding a system, to  
 be holy and blameless in love before  
 5 Him: having prepared us for adoption  
 to Himself through Jesus Christ  
 6 according to His settled purpose, in  
 accordance with His glorious gift  
 which He presented to us from love;  
 7 by which we have the redemption  
 through His blood, the release from  
 8 sins, coming with the rich gift which  
 He poured into us with all wisdom and  
 9 intelligence; making known to us the  
 mystery of His intention, with His  
 decision which He had determined  
 10 with Himself to administer at the  
 completion of the periods, when every-  
 thing was to be centred again in the  
 Messiah, both upon the heavens and  
 11 upon the earth: in Him, by Whom  
 we have also inherited according to  
 His purpose Who foresees and energizes  
 all things, which have been  
 prepared to accomplish the intention  
 12 of His will;—so that we who formerly  
 awaited the Messiah might be an evi-  
 13 dence of His honour. From Whom you  
 have also heard the true message—the  
 good news of your salvation—and believing  
 in Whom you were sealed with  
 14 the promise by the Holy Spirit, which  
 is the pledge of our inheritance, to be  
 redeemed by the possession of it, as  
 15 proof of His honour. Because of  
 which I also, having heard of your  
 fidelity in the Lord Jesus, and love  
 16 towards all the holy, cease not to give  
 thanks for you, making mention of you

in my prayers; so that the God of our 17  
 Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory,  
 may give you a spirit of wisdom, and  
 comprehension of what is contained in  
 a full knowledge of Him who enlight- 18  
 ens the eyes of your hearts: to show  
 you what is the hope of His calling;  
 what is the glorious wealth of His  
 inheritance for the holy; and what the 19  
 exceeding greatness of His power in us  
 believers, through His mighty energy,  
 which energized in Christ, raising 20  
 Him from the dead, and seating Him  
 at His right in the heavens, above 21  
 all government, authority, and power,  
 and dominion; and every name  
 named, not only in this present age  
 but also in that to come; and has 22  
**SUBJECTED EVERYTHING UNDER HIS**  
**FEET**; <sup>1</sup> and has given Him to be head  
 over all the church, which is His body, 23  
 the accomplishment of the whole in  
 absolute perfection.

*The Believer's Position in Christ.*

And you were dead in your trans- 2  
 gressions and sins, in which you then 2  
 walked, following this age of the world,  
 under the authority of the prince of  
 darkness, of the spirit of him now  
 working in the sons of carelessness;  
 with whom also we all then associated, 3  
 in the lusts of our sensuality, prac-  
 tising the desires of the flesh and of  
 the mind; for we were naturally 4  
 children of passion, like the rest. But  
 God, being rich in mercy, through His  
 great love with which He loved us,  
 even when we were dead through 5  
 transgressions, restored us to life with  
 Christ—you are saved by a gift—and 6  
 raised us together, and seated us to-  
 gether in the heavens with Christ  
 Jesus; so that He might show to the 7  
 coming ages the surpassing richness  
 of His gift, with which He had bene-  
 fitted us in Christ Jesus. For you are 8  
 saved by a gift through a faith, and  
 this is not from yourselves; the gift

<sup>1</sup> Psalm viii. 6.

9 is from God; not from rituals, so  
10 that none can boast. For we are His  
creation, created in Christ Jesus for  
good works, in which God has decid-  
ed that we should live.

11 Therefore remember, that then you  
were, personally, the heathen—who  
are called Uncircumcision by those  
called Circumcision in flesh made  
12 by hand—you were at that time with-  
out Christ, excluded from the constitu-  
tion of Israel, and foreigners to the  
covenant of the promise, not having  
a hope, and without a God in the  
13 universe. But now in Christ Jesus,  
you, who then were far away, have  
become near by the blood of Christ.  
14 For He is our peace, Who made the  
15 two one, and removed the dividing  
veil of enmity, by His own body;  
making void the law of commands by  
true thoughts, so that from these two  
He might create in Himself one single  
16 new man, making peace, and recon-  
ciling the two in one body to God  
through His Cross; having destroyed  
17 the enmity by means of Himself; and  
coming, HE ANNOUNCED THE GOOD  
NEWS OF PEACE TO YOU AFAR OFF,  
18 AND PEACE TO THOSE NEAR;<sup>1</sup> be-  
cause through Him we both have  
access in one Spirit to the Father.

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

### The Eternal Secret of God Revealed in the Church.

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

and preachers in Spirit—that the 6  
heathen are heirs, and participators,  
and shareholders, of the promise in  
Christ Jesus through the gospel; of 7  
which I became a minister by the free  
gift of God, entrusted to me with His  
powerful energy To me, the very 8  
least of all the holy, this gift was en-  
trusted—to be proclaiming to the  
heathen the good news of the im-  
measurable wealth of Christ; and to 9  
throw light upon what is the adminis-  
tration of the mystery which was hid-  
den for ages, with God the Creator of  
all things: so that it might now be 10  
made known to the chiefs and authori-  
ties in the heavens by means of the  
church, what is the perfectly working  
wisdom of God, following the in- 11  
tention which He had provided in  
Christ Jesus our Lord from the eterni-  
ties; by Whom we have free and 12  
confident access through His faith.  
Therefore, I pray, be not depressed 13  
by my afflictions for you, since they  
are your glory.

For this I bend my knees in the 14  
presence of the Father, from Whom 15  
every family in heaven and upon  
earth is named: so that He may 16  
endow you with His glorious wealth,  
strengthening you with power, through  
His Spirit in the inner man; that  
Christ may dwell in your hearts, 17  
through the faith in love; you being  
rooted and grounded, so that you may 18  
be strengthened to comprehend with  
all the holy, what is the width and ex-  
tent, and height and depth, and to 19  
gain an idea how far the love of Christ  
exceeds our research: so that you may  
be perfected with all the perfection of  
God. But to the Power able to do all, 20  
far beyond what we can ask or think,  
by means of His power energizing in  
us—to Him be the praise in the church,  
and in Christ Jesus, during all the  
generations of the ages of the eterni-  
ties. Amen.

### Exhortations to Godliness.

Therefore I entreat you—I, the 4  
prisoner of the Lord—to conduct your-  
selves worthy of the calling with which  
you are called, with all quietness, and 2  
gentleness, and forbearance, support-  
ing one another in love; endeavouring 3  
to preserve the spirit of unity by the  
link of peace. One body and one 4  
spirit, as you were called to a single  
hope of your calling; having one Lord, 5  
one faith, one baptism; one God and 6

<sup>1</sup> Isa. lvii. 19

7 Father of all, Who is over all, and  
 through all, and in all; and Who gave  
 to each one of us the gift propor-  
 tionate to the measure of the free gift  
 8 of Christ. For this, He says,  
 HAVING ASCENDED ON HIGH,  
 HE CAPTURED CAPTIVITY,  
 AND GAVE GIFTS TO MEN.<sup>1</sup>  
 9 But Who ascended? Who is He,  
 if not the same Who descended first  
 10 into the lowest part of the earth? He  
 Who descended is the very same as  
 He Who ascended above all the  
 heavens, so that He might fill all.  
 11 And He gave some, apostles; some,  
 preachers; some, missionaries; and  
 12 some, pastors and teachers: for the  
 training of the holy in useful work,  
 13 to construct the body of Christ; until  
 we all attain to the unity of the faith,  
 and of the comprehension of the Son  
 of God; to a perfect manhood, to the  
 standard height of the perfection of  
 14 Christ: so that we may be no longer  
 raw recruits, wavering and reeling at  
 every breath of the training, by human  
 cunning with villainy, perverting it  
 15 into an instrument for error; but, fol-  
 lowing the truth in love, until we attain  
 the whole in Him, Who is the Head—  
 16 Christ; from Whom all the body, har-  
 moniously constructed and balanced  
 through every joint of the combina-  
 tion, with proportionate energy in  
 each of its limbs, the body may grow  
 up an edifice in love with itself.  
 17 I say this, then, and give evidence  
 in the Lord, so that you may no longer  
 walk as the heathen walk, in the folly  
 18 of their mind, with the reason  
 beclouded, being alienated from the  
 Divine life by the want of perception  
 which exists in them, through the  
 19 hardening of their hearts. Which,  
 having alienated, they recklessly  
 abandoned themselves to excess in  
 20 practising depravity. But you have not  
 so learned Christ. If, indeed, you have  
 21 heard Him, and learnt in Him what  
 the truth in Jesus is, you will strip your-  
 selves from the former conduct—of  
 the corrupt old man, with his deceptive  
 23 lusts—and you will be renewed in  
 the spirit of your mind, and you will  
 24 be putting on the New Man, the one  
 created God-like in righteousness and  
 holiness for the truth.  
 25 Therefore, rejecting falsehood,  
 SPEAK TRUTH EVERY ONE WITH HIS  
 NEIGHBOUR,<sup>2</sup> for we are parts of one

<sup>1</sup> Psa. lxxviii. 18.<sup>2</sup> Zech. viii. 16.

another. **BE ANGRY, AND SIN NOT;**<sup>1</sup> 26  
 let not the sun set upon your fury;  
 neither give opportunity to the Devil. 27  
 The thief—let him steal no longer, but 28  
 rather be industrious; working use-  
 fully with his hands, so that he may  
 have something to spare for the  
 necessitous. Let there not come from 29  
 your mouth any worthless word; but  
 something good, demanded by the  
 occasion, such as may give benefit to  
 the hearers. And grieve not the Holy 30  
 Spirit of God, by Whom you are  
 marked for a day of redemption. Let 31  
 all bitterness, and lust, and passion,  
 and quarrel, and abuse, be expelled  
 from you, with every baseness; and 32  
 become useful to one another, good-  
 hearted, gracious, as God also was  
 gracious to you in Christ. Be, then, 5  
 imitators of God, as dear children;  
 and walk in love, as Christ also loved 2  
 you, and delivered Himself for your  
 sakes as a sweet perfume, an offering  
 and sacrifice to God. 3

But prostitution, and all profligacy,  
 or excess, let it never be named among 4  
 you, as befits the holy; nor obscenity,  
 nor frivolity, nor ribaldry, which are 5  
 not becoming: but thanksgiving in-  
 stead. For you know the certainty of 5  
 this, that no fornicator, nor debauchee,  
 nor extortioner (who is an idolater),  
 has an inheritance in the Kingdom of 6  
 Christ and God. Never let yourselves 6  
 be deceived with empty arguments;  
 for through these sins, the anger of 7  
 God comes upon the sons of careless-  
 ness: be not therefore associates with 7  
 them. For you were once darkness, 8  
 but now light in the Lord. Walk 8  
 as children of light; for the fruit of 9  
 the light is in all purity and righteous-  
 ness and truth. Search what is most 10  
 pleasing to the Lord; and do not 11  
 associate yourselves with the fruitless  
 works of darkness, but much rather  
 reprove them: for it is a shame to 12  
 relate their hidden practices. But 13  
 everything reprehensible is revealed  
 under the light; for light is the uni-  
 versal revealer. Therefore He says: 14

ROUSE, SLEEPER,

AND ARISE FROM THE DEAD,

AND CHRIST WILL SHINE UPON  
 YOU.<sup>2</sup>

See, then, how carefully you should 15  
 walk!—not like fools, but, on the con-  
 trary, as intelligent; buying up the 16  
 opportunity, for the times are wicked.

<sup>1</sup> Psa. lv. 4.<sup>2</sup> Isa. lx. 1, 2; lli. 1, 2.

17 Therefore be not thoughtless, but consider what is the will of the Lord.  
 18 And BE NOT DRUNK WITH WINE,<sup>1</sup> in which there is folly; but instead,  
 19 be full of the Spirit: speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and dancing in your hearts to the Lord; giving thanks at all times for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to the God and Father; supporting one another in a reverence of Christ.

### Domestic Admonitions.

22 Let the women be obedient to their  
 23 own husbands, as to the Lord; because a husband is head of the wife—as Christ is head of the church—and himself the guardian of her body.  
 24 Then even as the church is subjected to Christ, thus also the wives should be to their husbands in everything.  
 25 The husbands should love their wives, as Christ loved the church, and delivered Himself up for her sake, so that she might be made holy, purified in the bath with the water of His message; so that He might Himself present to Himself the rectified church, having neither spot nor wrinkle, nor anything like them; but that she might be holy and faultless.  
 28 Thus the husbands should love their own wives as their own bodies. The lover of his own wife loves himself.  
 29 For no one ever hates his own body: on the contrary, he feeds and warms it—just as Christ does the church, because we are parts of His body.  
 31 THEREFORE A MAN SHALL LEAVE MOTHER AND FATHER, AND BE UNITED WITH HIS WIFE; AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE BODY.<sup>2</sup>  
 32 This is the great mystery; but I speak in regard to Christ and the church.  
 33 And especially you, every individual, let him love his own wife as himself; and let the wife reverence her husband in the same way.

6 Children, be obedient to your parents; for that is right. HONOUR YOUR FATHER AND YOUR MOTHER—that is the first command with a promise—SO THAT GOOD MAY COME TO YOU, AND YOU MAY HAVE LONG  
 4 CONTINUANCE ON THE EARTH.<sup>3</sup> And, fathers, do not irritate your children;

but educate them in discipline and knowledge of the Lord.

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

### The Call to Prepare for the Spiritual Conflict.

From henceforward strengthen 10 yourselves in the Lord, and with the power of His might. Put on the complete armour of God, so that you may be able to stand against the tactics of the Devil. Because our fight is not 12 against blood and flesh; but against the sovereignties, against the powers, against the commanders of the darkness of this world, against the spirits of wickedness in the heavens.

Therefore, take up the complete 13 armour of God, so that you may be able to resist in the day of danger, and having done all your duty, to stand. Stand then, your waist belted 14 with truth, and covered with the breastplate of righteousness; and 15 your feet shod in readiness for the good news of peace; lifting up over 16 all the big shield of the faith, upon which you will be able to quench all the blazing artillery of the Devil. And take the helmet of salvation, and 17 the sword of the Spirit, which is the message of God; but through all, with 18 prayer and supplication, praying at every moment in spirit, and keeping watch in it with steady tenacity; and praying for the holy, and for me, so 19 that eloquence may be given to me when my mouth is opened, to proclaim with bold freedom the secret of the good news, for which I am an 20 ambassador in captivity; so that I may speak like a free man therein, as I ought to speak.

But so that you may know my 21 affairs, how I do, the dear brother and faithful minister in the Lord, Tychicus,

<sup>1</sup> Prov. xxiii. 20.

<sup>2</sup> Gen. ii. 24.

<sup>3</sup> Exod. xx. 12; Deut. v. 16.

22 whom I have sent to you for this very purpose, will inform you; so that you may know about us, and may console  
23 your hearts. Peace to the brethren and faithful love from a Father God, and a Lord Jesus Christ. Grace be

with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity.

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

## EPISTLE OF PAUL THE APOSTLE TO THE PHILIPPIANS.

### Introduction.

1 **P**AUL and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, to all the holy in Christ Jesus living in Philippi, with overlookers and ministers:  
2 Blessing and peace to you, from our Father, God, and Lord Jesus Christ.  
3 I thank my God, whenever I remember you, continually in all my  
4 prayers with gladness making supplication for you all, since you were associated in the gospel, from the first  
5 day until now. Confident of this, that the originator of a good work in you will perfect it until the day of  
6 Christ Jesus. And it is right for me to think this of you all; for I had you in my heart in my imprisonment, and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel, all of you being my companions in the Divine commission.  
7 For my God is a witness, how I long for you all, with the affections of  
8 Jesus Christ. And I pray for this, so that your love may extend more and more in knowledge and all perception,  
9 to distinguish the differences, so that you may be clear and certain in the  
10 day of Christ, full of the fruit of righteousness through Jesus Christ for the honour and praise of God.

### The Apostle triumphant in Persecution.

12 But, friends, I wish you to know that my affair has turned out well, greatly to the promotion of the gospel;  
13 so that my imprisonment for Christ has been seen in the whole palace,  
14 and to all the others. And most of the brethren in the Lord, made confident by my chains, dare very boldly

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

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

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