

# COLOSSIANS 1 vs 12

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Paul just said we are strengthened... with all power to endurance and longsuffering... with joyfulness. I just can't picture heaven as a happy place... for grumpy people! Can you? And being so equipped, he says...

<sup>12</sup> **Giving thanks** / again, the word is: **eucharisteo**; now the 2<sup>nd</sup> of 6 times Paul uses the **Eucharist** word in this letter; but he doesn't use it like the hocus pocus church. He just says...God's people ought to be **thankful** to God. Thanking Him shouldn't be foreign to us.



**Giving thanks to God the Father, who made you able to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light** / the holy ones... those set-apart in the light of His Word; in the light of His Presence

Here, Paul tells us... **it is the eternal Father...**

<sup>13</sup> **who has delivered us from the power of darkness** / in Greek: **exousia**; He has rescued us from the great evil powers who turned against God in the heavens. They are powerful, creepy, evil beings **of darkness**; real beings. Paul writes about them in Ephesians, chapter 6. They are monstrously evil; the inspiration for every caesar... for every inquisitor... every Hitler... Stalin... Ceausescu... Pol Pot... and every Hussein -- small and great: even in our countries; the power of darkness is still feverishly at work in this generation.

God the Father... **has delivered us** / He has rescued us.

**and has transferred us into the kingdom of His dear Son:**

<sup>14</sup> **In whom we have redemption** / fully purchased, fully reclaimed, **through His blood,**

**even the forgiveness of sins** / even being released from our sins...

all thanks to His dear Son:

<sup>15</sup> **who is the image** / in Greek: **eikon**; and in the next several verses... Paul tells us why God said, **You will have NO other gods before Me; you will make NO images of things in heaven or on earth to bow down, to worship.** HE already had an IMAGE in view that has NO equal;

**who is the image of the invisible God** / as has been said: like Father, like Son; He is God with a Face; who established all the ends of the earth: what is His name or His son's name? Surely you know – **Proverbs 28**. Paul says... God's dear Son is also...

**the Firstborn of every creature:**

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**16 For by Him were all things created,**

**in the heavens, and on earth,**

**visible and invisible,**

**whether thrones, or dominions, or arches** / rulers, like monarchies,

**or powers** / on earth... and in the heavens; administrative terrestrial and spiritual powers:

**all** / no exception,

**all were created by Him, and for Him:**

**17 and He is... before all,**

**and by Him ... all things consist** / the Greek word is: *sunhistemi*. In other words, all created systems in whatever part of the universe -- wherever... they are held together and function because of Him. Dr. Dallas Willard once asked, do we really believe that? Are the stars in the heavens because God's Son put them there? Does our nose not fall off our face and bounce on the floor... because He created us?

**18 And He is the head of the body** / and what is the **HEAD?** eyes, ears, nose, mouth... and brains, right? His eyes, He sees what is going on, He is not myopic; His ears, He hears everyone who calls on His name, He is not deaf; His nose, He knows what is sweet smelling, and what stinks; His mouth, **God in times past spoke in little bits and pieces through the prophets, but in the last days spoke to us through His Son**. Jesus said, My sheep know My voice, and a stranger they will not follow; and His brains, His will be done... after all He knows the way home, right? **And everyone else, is the body**, from shoulders and hands, to carry and help and welcome; to feet and toes... to keep walking step by step, and keep things in balance,

He is...the **Head of the church** / we take our marching orders from Him:

**who is the Beginning ...**

He is... **the Firstborn from the dead;**

**that in all** / in everything; nothing left out.

**that He has the preeminence** / this dear Son is: Mr. Numero Uno! Wow! Great IMAGE, isn't He? definitely nobody is like Him... God wants us to keep HIM in view.

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## Verse <sup>19</sup>

Notice the words in italics; italicized words are added... to help the language. Let's read...

For it pleased ***the Father*** / and I'm sure that's true... but it could also say;

For it pleased ***Them... The Father... The Son... The Holy Spirit*** / the Deity, all the Godhead, and anyone else at the committee meeting... when THEY said, Let US make man in OUR image.

For it pleased Them all... that in Him / **who is the Firstborn from the dead,**

in Him should all fullness dwell / in other words: **the fullness of the invisible God resides in Him;**

<sup>20</sup> and, having made peace through the blood of His cross, / between God and all mankind,

by Him / by this Firstborn from the dead,

to reconcile all to Himself; by Him / to bring all together again; by the Firstborn from the dead,

whether on earth, or in heaven.

<sup>21</sup> And you, who were previously alienated and enemies in your mind... by evil works, yet now He has reconciled / we all were strangers; yet He has reassembled, and brought together again;

<sup>22</sup> in the body of His flesh through His death / it was a real death; not a philosophic metaphor, not like: **Marge, I'm dying to see you.** His was a real death He died -- blood, guts, the whole thing. And why these extreme measures? Why did He do that? Paul says...

to present you holy / to set-apart; not that we were holy or whole, or set-apart... because we weren't. But that He would judicially Substitute His life for us... that we could substitute our twisted, ruined lives... for His.

to present you unblameable and unproveable in His sight/ someday we will not need to be tested; Wow! In His eyes; He has no astigmatism; He has no incapacity to observe; He knows what is going on; He knows who we are. He needs no bifocals; He needs nobody's help.

When we were strangers... **when we were enemies...** **Christ died for us;** He did it all... to present us... unblameable... in His sight. Yet, paradoxically Paul adds...

<sup>23</sup> If you continue in the faith, grounded and settled and not move away from the hope of the gospel / continue walking worthily in faith, in hope and love; stabilized, in His word; advancing His direction; holding His promises; hoping in Him and not letting go: **our hope is in heaven where Christ sat down** -- Hebrews 6.

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Hold onto the gospel...

**which you heard, and which was proclaimed to every creature which is under heaven;**

**for which I Paul am made a minister;**

**<sup>24</sup> I now rejoice in my sufferings for His body's sake – for you who are the church**

**and in my flesh, I fill up what is lacking of the afflictions of Christ / the Messiah.**

**And don't overthink this verse.** Paul just said: in Christ... we have redemption and forgiveness of sins through His blood. Done; finished on the cross, something only our Savior could do.

Paul is talking about representing Christ to the world, serving in the church Jesus is building.

So, **what is missing in this equation?**

Paul says, we had the joy of sinning daily; and Jesus Christ had the joy of dying for our sins? We live in a broken world. So, what is missing? In the world we have tribulations, the poundings that toughen our faith. What is lacking? If we jump from an airplane, but forget to check the parachute, being so excited, we can fly! Well, no we can't. Or the teenager who said, **My car, My rules...** and all her friends hopped in the car. 5 minutes later, all her friends were dead -- she was drunk. We still are responsible for failures; a lot might be lacking, starting with common sense and how easy we blame God.

**I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, who are the church... and in my flesh / while I am still alive, I fill up what is lacking, of the afflictions of Christ / the Messiah** ...this is the 7<sup>th</sup> time Paul speaks of Christ; the Messiah. Paul is willing to give his life for Him who died for us, who is Head over all;

**<sup>25</sup> where I am made a minister, according to the stewardship** / in Greek: **oikonomia**; it's where we get the word: **economy**. Man's economy and house rules are run by thieves and robbers. That is not God's style; here Paul says God runs the house He is building; He will tell us where to stand. Paul says that he was assigned to be a servant in God's house for our benefit.

**which is given to me for you, to fully proclaim the word of God** ...Wow! How different Paul was from those who claim to be God's servants today;

**to fully proclaim the word of God,**

**<sup>26</sup> including the mystery / of Christ, the Messiah**

**which had been hid from ages and from generations,**

**but now is made manifest to His saints / so it is no longer a mystery** to those He sets apart:

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<sup>27</sup> **to whom God made known what is the riches of this glorious mystery among the Gentiles /** the treasure, the value, even the costliness of Jesus Christ... the Good Pastor... who came searching for His sheep... and another they will not follow. He is this priceless, glory of God. Paul tells us, God planned to make known... even among the Gentiles -- all the nations... this rich... and costly mystery.

And the glorious Centerpiece? **His dear Son**: The Firstborn of every creature; Who holds all things together; Who was in the beginning; Who is the Firstborn from the dead... that He is preeminent. If anyone is going to boast; this One can. He can; and God loves Him... He so loves Him; He's not going to object.

**this glorious mystery, Christ in us, is our hope of glory / He is our only Hope:**

Paul says,

<sup>28</sup> **this is whom we preach, warning everyone /** man, woman and child; young and old; rich and poor... in every nation; every tribe and language group,

**and teaching everyone in all wisdom; that we may present everyone perfect in Christ Jesus /** complete, mature **in the Messiah**... who first came in humility, but will come again in great glory:

<sup>29</sup> **to this I also labor, striving according to His working /** to this he fatigued and got tired... agonizing; being energized through His Spirit...

**who works within me mightily.**

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