Colossians – The Lordship of Christ:-

Origin and Date:- Like Philemon, the Letter to the Colossians was written from prison and was delivered by Tychicus and Onesimus - see chapter 4, verse 3, verses 7 – 9 and Philemon verse 12. Tradition suggests that it was written from Rome during the imprisonment of Acts chapter 28. This would date it to A.D. 61 – 63. However there are other suggestions that it could have been written during the imprisonment of Paul at Ephesus about A.D. 55 – 56.

Just as the Letter to the Galatians was written to counteract *"another gospel"* (Galatians chapter 1, verses 6 – 9), so this Letter to the Colossians was written to counteract *"philosophy and empty deceit according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the universe and not according to Christ"* Colossians chapter 2, verse 8.

The primacy of Christ is emphasised over and over again. *"As therefore you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so live in him . . . ."* chapter 2, verse 6.

Chapter 1, verses 1 – 2:-
As in a number of other letters (2 Corinthians, Philippians, 1 and 2 Thessalonians and Philemon), Paul includes Timothy in his greeting to the Colossians. Note that all Christians are 'saints' and holy by virtue of their relation to God in Christ. The use of the word 'Saint' for a particularly devout person is a later development.

Verses 3 – 8 ; Thanksgiving for the Colossians Faith in Christ:-
Paul gives thanks for the three graces present among the Colossians. Their *"**faith** in Christ Jesus"* (verse 4); the *"**love** which you have for all the saints"* (verse 4) and the *"**hope** laid up for you in heaven"* (verse 5). These are the fruit of the gospel which they heard and understood from the teaching of Epaphras who shared the ministry with Paul. Epaphras *"one of yourselves"* (chapter 4, verses 12 - 13) had been exercising a preaching / teaching ministry in the churches of the Lychus valley which included Laodicea and Hierapolis.

Verses 9 – 14; Prayer for their growth in Christ:-
Along with Ephesians chapter 1,verses 16 – 23, these verses in Colossians give us a pattern to follow when praying for our brethren.
"Knowledge of His will" – verse 9: *"to lead a life worthy of the Lord"* – verse 10. As Paul closes his prayer with *"giving thanks . . . ."*, his thoughts move on to salvation which is the heritage of Christian believers through our Lord Jesus Christ.

1. At the name of Jesus
Ev'ry knee shall bow,
Ev'ry tongue confess him
King of glory now;
'Tis the Father's pleasure
We should call him Lord,
Who from the beginning
Was the mighty Word.

2. Humbled for a season
To receive a name
From the lips of sinners,
Amongst whom he came.
Faithfully he bore it,
Spotless to the last,
Brought it back victorious
When from death he passed.

3. In your hearts enthrone him!
There let him subdue
All that is not holy,
All that is not true.
Crown him as your Captain,
In temptation's hour;
Let his will enfold you
In its light and pow'r

4. Brothers, this Lord Jesus
Shall return again
With his Father's glory,
With his angel train,
For all wreaths of empire
Meet upon his brow,
And our hearts confess him
King of glory now.

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