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<b>Colossians</b>	
Col 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timotheus [our] brother,	Paul, an apostle (special messenger) of Christ Jesus (the Messiah), by the will of God, and Timothy [our] brother, (AMP)  Paul and Timothy wrote this.
Col 1:2 To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ which are at Colosse: Grace [be] unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.	To the saints (the consecrated people of God) and believing and faithful brethren in Christ who are at Colossae: Grace (spiritual favor and blessing) to you and [heart] peace from God our Father. (AMP)
Col 1:3 We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you,	We continually give thanks to God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah), as we are praying for you, (AMP)
Col 1:4 Since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus, and of the love [which ye have] to all the saints,	For we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus [the leaning of your entire human personality on Him in absolute trust and confidence in His power, wisdom, and goodness] and of the love which you [have and show] for all the saints (God's consecrated ones), (AMP)  We are always praying for you, and we know your faith.
Col 1:5 For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel;	Because of the hope [of experiencing what is] laid up (reserved and waiting) for you in heaven. Of this [hope] you heard in the past in the message of the truth of the Gospel, (AMP)  They have both faith and hope.
Col 1:6 Which is come unto you, as [it is] in all the world; and bringeth forth fruit, as [it doth] also in you, since the day ye heard [of it], and knew the grace of God in truth:	Which has come to you. Indeed, in the whole world [that Gospel] is bearing fruit and still is growing [by its own inherent power], even as it has done among yourselves ever since the day you first heard and came to know and understand the grace of God in truth. [You came to know the grace or undeserved favor of God in reality, deeply and clearly and thoroughly, becoming accurately and intimately acquainted with it.] (AMP)  Through faith and hope you have come to experience the grace of God.

Col 1:7 As ye also learned of Epaphras our dear fellowservant, who is for you a faithful minister of Christ;	You so learned it from Epaphras, our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ in our stead and as our representative and yours. (AMP)
Col 1:8 Who also declared unto us your love in the Spirit.	Also he has informed us of your love in the [Holy] Spirit. (AMP)
Col 1:9 For this cause we also, since the day we heard [it], do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;	For this reason we also, from the day we heard of it, have not ceased to pray and make [special] request for you, [asking] that you may be filled with the full (deep and clear) knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom [in comprehensive insight into the ways and purposes of God] and in understanding and discernment of spiritual things- - (AMP)  We pray that you will continue to grow in your spiritual wisdom.
Col 1:10 That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;	That you may walk (live and conduct yourselves) in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to Him and desiring to please Him in all things, bearing fruit in every good work and steadily growing and increasing in and by the knowledge of God [with fuller, deeper, and clearer insight, acquaintance, and recognition]. (AMP)  Begin with faith and hope, which brings wisdom and righteous conduct. But, notice it begins with faith, not with works.
Col 1:11 Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness;	[We pray] that you may be invigorated and strengthened with all power according to the might of His glory, [to exercise] every kind of endurance and patience (perseverance and forbearance) with joy, (AMP)  Add to all of this, endurance.
Col 1:12 Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:	Giving thanks to the Father, Who has qualified and made us fit to share the portion which is the inheritance of the saints (God's holy people) in the Light. (AMP)  Remember gratitude.
Col 1:13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated [us] into the kingdom of his dear Son:	[The Father] has delivered and drawn us to Himself out of the control and the dominion of darkness and has transferred us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, (AMP)

	Remember that you were delivered from the power of Satan and adopted as sons and daughters of Christ.
Col 1:14 In whom we have redemption through his blood, [even] the forgiveness of sins:	In Whom we have our redemption through His blood, [which means] the forgiveness of our sins. (AMP)
Col 1:15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:	[Now] He is the exact likeness of the unseen God [the visible representation of the invisible]; He is the Firstborn of all creation. (AMP)  Christ is in the exact likeness and image of the Father, and is the Firstborn of all creation.
Col 1:16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether [they be] thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:	For it was in Him that all things were created, in heaven and on earth, things seen and things unseen, whether thrones, dominions, rulers, or authorities; all things were created and exist through Him [by His service, intervention] and in and for Him. (AMP)
Col 1:17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.	And He Himself existed before all things, and in Him all things consist (cohere, are held together). (AMP)  By His hand, the Father made everything that was made, and all things exist in Him.
Col 1:18 And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all [things] he might have the preeminence.	He also is the Head of [His] body, the church; seeing He is the Beginning, the Firstborn from among the dead, so that He alone in everything and in every respect might occupy the chief place [stand first and be preeminent]. (AMP)  Christ is also the first fruits of the resurrection and the head of the church.
Col 1:19 For it pleased [the Father] that in him should all fulness dwell;	For it has pleased [the Father] that all the divine fullness (the sum total of the divine perfection, powers, and attributes) should dwell in Him permanently. (AMP)  The Father gave to the Son the fullness of His glory.
Col 1:20 And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, [I say], whether [they be] things in earth, or things in heaven.	And God purposed that through (by the service, the intervention of) Him [the Son] all things should be completely reconciled back to Himself, whether on earth or in heaven, as through Him, [the Father] made peace by means of the blood of His cross. (AMP)
From Hugh Nibley:	

The word for atonement today is translated in the Revised Standard Version as reconciliation... reconciliation means the same thing, you see. Cilio is a seating or seating together. Concilio is a seating together in a council. Our word council comes from that. Reconciliation is to be called back to the council and sit down again. You are called to sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob-to return. Every term, every translation, every equivalent of atonement has the idea of coming back. Redemption means you will be bought back again. You must have been with him before if he buys you back again, after the Fall. (Teachings of the Book of Mormon--Semester 1: Transcripts of Lectures Presented to an Honors Book of Mormon Class at Brigham Young University, 1988-1990, p. 390.)

Reconciliation means "to return and sit down beside somebody again."...you sit down again because you've been there before. It's reconciliation. It's redemption. It's the redeeming. This means buying back something that he had before. We weren't just created out of nothing, you see. We are returning to his presence. We've been there before, and the whole thing is a sense of returning to his presence. That's what reconciliation is, which is the equivalent of atonement, and you can see where that comes from. You know this, of course. This is at-one. It is not a Latin word. It's not a Greek or Hebrew word. Atonement a good old English word, a theological word. At-one-ment, being at-one with the family, to go out no more, as he says, "with all our holy fathers, to go no more out."

There's your solid security. You're home at last. You're back where you started from, and we hope that you're back with some added credentials. (Teachings of the Book of Mormon--Semester 1: Transcripts of Lectures Presented to an Honors Book of Mormon Class at Brigham Young University, 1988-1990, p. 214.)

Col 1:21 And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in [your] mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled

And although you at one time were estranged and alienated from Him and were of hostile attitude of mind in your wicked activities, (AMP)

The natural man is an enemy to (estranged from) God, but now you have been reconciled to him.

Col 1:22 In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight:

Yet now has [Christ, the Messiah] reconciled [you to God] in the body of His flesh through death, in order to present you holy and faultless and irreproachable in His [the Father's] presence. (AMP)

Through the atonement, you are justified and once again sanctified so that you may re-enter the Presence of God.

Col 1:23 If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and [be] not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, [and] which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;

[And this He will do] provided that you continue to stay with and in the faith [in Christ], well-grounded and settled and steadfast, not shifting or moving away from the hope [which rests on and is inspired by] **the glad tidings (the Gospel), which you heard and which has been preached [as being designed for and offered without restrictions] to every person under heaven,** and of which [Gospel] I, Paul, became a minister. (AMP)

	<p>But this is not a one-time deal, as many Christians seem to profess, but you have to continue, endure in the Gospel, which has been freely offered to every person in the world.</p>
<p>Col 1:24 Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the church:</p>	<p>[Even] now I rejoice in the midst of my sufferings on your behalf. And in my own person I am making up whatever is still lacking and remains to be completed [on our part] of Christ's afflictions, for the sake of His body, which is the church. (AMP)</p> <p>Paul rejoices in his sufferings on behalf of the church.</p>
<p>Col 1:25 Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God;</p>	<p>In it I became a minister in accordance with the divine stewardship which was entrusted to me for you [as its object and for your benefit], to make the Word of God fully known [among you]—(AMP)</p> <p>Paul is a minister of the Gospel and a servant of the Lord.</p>
<p>Col 1:26 [Even] the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints:</p>	<p>The mystery of which was hidden for ages and generations [from angels and men], but is now revealed to His holy people (the saints), (AMP)</p> <p>The Gospel has been a hidden mystery, but is now revealed to the saints.</p>
<p>Col 1:27 To whom God would make known what [is] the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:</p>	<p>To whom God was pleased to make known how great for the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ within and among you, the Hope of [realizing the] glory. (AMP)</p> <p><b>The mystery is “Christ in you”, which gives you the hope of realizing His glory.</b></p>
<p>Col 1:28 Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man <b>perfect</b> in Christ Jesus:</p>	<p>Him we preach and proclaim, warning and admonishing everyone and instructing everyone in all wisdom (comprehensive insight into the ways and purposes of God), that we may present every person <b>mature (full-grown, fully initiated, complete, and perfect)</b> in Christ (the Anointed One). (AMP)</p> <p>We preach, proclaim, warn, admonish, and instruct that you may be perfected in Christ Jesus. Note the true definition of perfection.</p>

Col 1:29 Whereunto I also labour, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily.	For this I labor [unto weariness], striving with all the superhuman energy which He so mightily enkindles and works within me. (AMP)
Col 2:1 For I would that ye knew what great conflict I have for you, and [for] them at Laodicea, and [for] as many as have not seen my face in the flesh;	For I want you to know how great is my solicitude for you [how severe an inward struggle I am engaged in for you] and for those [believers] at Laodicea, and for all who [like yourselves] have never seen my face and known me personally. (AMP)  The members at Colossae had never met Paul in person.
Col 2:2 That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgment of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ;	[For my concern is] that their hearts may be braced (comforted, cheered, and encouraged) as they are knit together in love, that they may come to have all the abounding wealth and blessings of assured conviction of understanding, and that they may become progressively more intimately acquainted with and may know more definitely and accurately and thoroughly that mystic secret of God, [which is] Christ (the Anointed One). (AMP)
Col 2:3 In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.	In Him all the treasures of [divine] wisdom (comprehensive insight into the ways and purposes of God) and [all the riches of spiritual] knowledge and enlightenment are stored up and lie hidden. (AMP)  Christ is the embodiment of all truth.
Col 2:4 And this I say, lest any man should beguile you with enticing words.	I say this in order that no one may mislead and delude you by plausible and persuasive and attractive arguments and beguiling speech. (AMP)  Don't be led away by false teachers.
Col 2:5 For though I be absent in the flesh, yet am I with you in the spirit, joying and beholding your order, and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ.	For though I am away from you in body, yet I am with you in spirit, delighted at the sight of your [standing shoulder to shoulder in such] orderly array and the firmness and the solid front and steadfastness of your faith in Christ [that leaning of the entire human personality on Him in absolute trust and confidence in His power, wisdom, and goodness]. (AMP)
Even though I have never visited you, I am with you in spirit.  Have you noticed how personally involved Paul seems to be in the lives of each of these churches?	

Col 2:6 As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, [so] walk ye in him:	As you have therefore received Christ, [even] Jesus the Lord, [so] walk (regulate your lives and conduct yourselves) in union with and conformity to Him. (AMP)  Live out your faith.
Col 2:7 Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.	Have the roots [of your being] firmly and deeply planted [in Him, fixed and founded in Him], being continually built up in Him, becoming increasingly more confirmed and established in the faith, just as you were taught, and abounding and overflowing in it with thanksgiving. (AMP)  Grow in faith.
Col 2:8 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.	See to it that no one carries you off as spoil or makes you yourselves captive by his so-called philosophy and intellectualism and vain deceit (idle fancies and plain nonsense), following human tradition (men's ideas of the material rather than the spiritual world), just crude notions following the rudimentary and elemental teachings of the universe and disregarding [the teachings of] Christ (the Messiah). (AMP)  Do not fall prey to those philosophical traditions of men, those who are learned and suppose themselves to be wise.
Col 2:9 <b>For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.</b>	For in Him the whole fullness of Deity (the Godhead) continues to dwell in bodily form [giving complete expression of the divine nature]. (AMP)  There is no need to speculate concerning God. In Christ is the full expression of the divine nature. Eternal life is to know Him, not know about Him.
Col 2:10 <b>And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:</b>	And you are in Him, made full and having come to fullness of life [in Christ you too are filled with the Godhead--Father, Son and Holy Spirit--and reach full spiritual stature]. And He is the Head of all rule and authority [of every angelic principality and power]. (AMP)  When you partake of His spirit, you are one with Him.
Col 2:11 In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting	In Him also you were circumcised with a circumcision not made with hands, but in a [spiritual] circumcision [performed by] Christ by

off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ:	stripping off the body of the flesh (the whole corrupt, carnal nature with its passions and lusts). (AMP)  Circumcise your heart, not your body.
Col 2:12 Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with [him] through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.	[Thus you were circumcised when] you were buried with Him in [your] baptism, in which you were also raised with Him [to a new life] through [your] faith in the working of God [as displayed] when He raised Him up from the dead. (AMP)
Through the ordinance of baptism, you are made joint-partakers with him in his salvation. It is symbolic of you burying your old life and rising again to a new life. Baptism by immersion is important because it preserves the symbolism and its power to teach.	
Col 2:13 And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;	And you who were dead in trespasses and in the uncircumcision of your flesh (your sensuality, your sinful carnal nature), [God] brought to life together with [Christ], having [freely] forgiven us all our transgressions, (AMP)
Col 2:14 Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;	Having cancelled and blotted out and wiped away the handwriting of the note (bond) with its legal decrees and demands which was in force and stood against us (hostile to us). This [note with its regulations, decrees, and demands] He set aside and cleared completely out of our way by nailing it to [His] cross. (AMP)  You were washed clean.
Col 2:15 [And] having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it.	[God] disarmed the principalities and powers that were ranged against us and made a bold display and public example of them, in triumphing over them in Him and in it [the cross]. (AMP)
Col 2:16 Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath [days]:	Therefore let no one sit in judgment on you in matters of food and drink, or with regard to a feast day or a New Moon or a Sabbath. (AMP)  Do not allow anyone to judge you on matters of the law.
Col 2:17 Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body [is] of Christ.	Such [things] are only the shadow of things that are to come, and they have only a symbolic value. But the reality (the substance, the solid fact of what is foreshadowed, the body of it) belongs to Christ. (AMP)  The carnal commandments are only the shadow of things to come. Look, instead, to the substance. We can apply this principle to the temple ordinances, which have nothing to do



	with salvation, but symbolize the true way to salvation and entering into the Presence of the Lord.
Col 2:18 Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind,	<p>Let no one defraud you by acting as an umpire and declaring you unworthy and disqualifying you for the prize, insisting on self-abasement and worship of angels, taking his stand on visions [he claims] he has seen, vainly puffed up by his sensuous notions and inflated by his unspiritual thoughts and fleshly conceit, (AMP)</p> <p>Do not be deceived by false teachers – even those who have claimed to have seen angels – who would judge you by your works according to the law. Christ is the keeper of the gate, and he employs no servant there. When you experience your second comforter, let no person compare your experience to theirs. Each experience is unique to each person.</p>
Col 2:19 And not holding the Head, from which all the body by joints and bands having nourishment ministered, and knit together, increaseth with the increase of God.	<p>And not holding fast to the Head, from Whom the entire body, supplied and knit together by means of its joints and ligaments, grows with a growth that is from God. (AMP)</p> <p>Hold fast to the body of Christ. This is a recurring theme with Paul.</p>
Col 2:20 Wherefore if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances,	<p>If then you have died with Christ to material ways of looking at things and have escaped from the world's crude and elemental notions and teachings of externalism, why do you live as if you still belong to the world? [Why do you submit to rules and regulations?--such as] (AMP)</p> <p>If you have died with Christ and are born again with Christ why, then, do you live like the world? Why are you subject to ordinances? The ordinances of men, that is. Paul gives some examples in the following.</p>
Col 2:21 (Touch not; taste not; handle not;	Do not handle [this], Do not taste [that], Do not even touch [them], (AMP)
Col 2:22 Which all are to perish with the using;) after the commandments and doctrines of men?	Referring to things all of which perish with being used. To do this is to follow human precepts and doctrines. (AMP)

	Paul provides examples of man-made ordinances which we should not be following. "Do do this." "Don't do that."
Col 2:23 Which things have indeed a show of wisdom in will worship, and humility, and neglecting of the body; not in any honour to the satisfying of the flesh.	Such [practices] have indeed the outward appearance [that popularly passes] for wisdom, in promoting self-imposed rigor of devotion and delight in self-humiliation and severity of discipline of the body, but they are of no value in checking the indulgence of the flesh (the lower nature). [Instead, they do not honor God but serve only to indulge the flesh.] (AMP)
<p>These are hypocritical performances, designed to put on a show for the world. They are ineffective tools at mastering the flesh, and they dishonor God by ignoring the power of the atonement.</p> <p>This is an obscure passage in the King James, but extremely powerful in the Amplified Version.</p> <p>Trust in the Lord. Purify your desires. Put off the natural man. Be born again and become a saint, and you will have no desires to do evil, but to do good continually. Deal with the source of the problem, not its symptoms.</p>	
Col 3:1 If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.	<p>If then you have been raised with Christ [to a new life, thus sharing His resurrection from the dead], aim at and seek the [rich, eternal treasures] that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. (AMP)</p> <p>Seek eternal values.</p>
Col 3:2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.	<p>And set your minds and keep them set on what is above (the higher things), not on the things that are on the earth. (AMP)</p> <p>We do have to take care of material things in this world. But where is our treasure? Where do we place our greatest value and our affection?</p>
Col 3:3 For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.	For [as far as this world is concerned] you have died, and your [new, real] life is hidden with Christ in God. (AMP)
<p>This is a delicate balance: to be in the world, but not of it. On their own, people try to figure out the balance, but the balance is not one extreme or the other, and the balance is not set one time, once and for all. It takes a constant contact with the Lord, day after day. This is what He is trying to teach us. Learn to recognize the Spirit, and follow it constantly. Make it second nature.</p> <p>...for nothing is a greater injury to the children of men than to be under the influence of a false spirit when they think they have the Spirit of God. Thousands have felt the influence of its terrible power and baneful effects. Long pilgrimages have been undertaken, penances endured, and pain, misery and ruin have followed in their train; nations have been convulsed, kingdoms overthrown, provinces laid waste, and blood, carnage and desolation are habiliments in which it has been clothed....without</p>	

a divine communication they must remain in ignorance. (Joseph Smith, History of the Church 4:571-581.)	
Col 3:4 When Christ, [who is] our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.	<p>When Christ, Who is our life, appears, then you also will appear with Him in [the splendor of His] glory. (AMP)</p> <p>I Jn 3:2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.</p> <p>Does it not give you exceeding great joy to read the above words?</p>
Col 3:5 Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence <b>[strong sexual desire]</b> , and covetousness, which is idolatry:	So kill (deaden, deprive of power) the evil desire lurking in your members [those animal impulses and all that is earthly in you that is employed in sin]: sexual vice, impurity, sensual appetites, unholy desires, and all greed and covetousness, for that is idolatry (the deifying of self and other created things instead of God). (AMP)
<p>Without discernment, it is very easy to misunderstand this. None of these things are evil in and of themselves. They become evil when we set them ahead of, or in place of, God, which is idolatry.</p> <p>We all have desires, appetites, and passions. They serve a purpose, but they are to be kept within the bounds the Lord has set. These are the best scriptures I have found on this subject:</p> <p>Alma 38:12 ... and also see that ye bridle all your passions, that ye may be filled with love; ...</p> <p>D&amp;C 59:20 And it pleaseth God that he hath given all these things unto man; for unto this end were they made to be used, with judgment, not to excess, neither by extortion.</p> <p>D&amp;C 59:21 And in nothing doth man offend God, or against none is his wrath kindled, save those who confess not his hand in all things, and obey not his commandments.</p>	
Col 3:6 For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience:	<p>It is on account of these [very sins] that the [holy] anger of God is ever coming upon the sons of disobedience (those who are obstinately opposed to the divine will), (AMP)</p> <p>The wrath of God is not necessarily just anger. The wrath of God is the workings of God to arrange things in your life to steer you toward repentance.</p>
Col 3:7 In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them.	<p>Among whom you also once walked, when you were living in and addicted to [such practices]. (AMP)</p> <p>The key is addiction.</p>

Col 3:8 But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth.	But now put away and rid yourselves [completely] of all these things: anger, rage, bad feeling toward others, curses and slander, and foulmouthed abuse and shameful utterances from your lips! (AMP)
Col 3:9 Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;	Do not lie to one another, for you have stripped off the old (unregenerate) self with its evil practices, (AMP)
Col 3:10 And have put on the new [man], which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:	<p>And have clothed yourselves with the new [spiritual self], <b>which is [ever in the process of being] renewed and remolded into [fuller and more perfect knowledge upon] knowledge after the image (the likeness) of Him Who created it.</b> (AMP)</p> <p>Good scripture to remind us to keep growing spiritually. As we have been taught many times: you are either progressing forward, or you are retrogressing backward. There is no standing still.</p>
Col 3:11 Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond [nor] free: but Christ [is] all, and in all.	<p>[In this new creation all distinctions vanish.] There is no room for and there can be neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, [nor difference between nations whether alien] barbarians or Scythians [who are the most savage of all], nor slave or free man; but Christ is all and in all [everything and everywhere, to all men, without distinction of person]. (AMP)</p> <p>There is no respect of persons. All are alike unto God.</p>
Col 3:12 Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;	Clothe yourselves therefore, as God's own chosen ones (His own picked representatives), [who are] purified and holy and well-beloved [by God Himself, by putting on behavior marked by] tenderhearted pity and mercy, kind feeling, a lowly opinion of yourselves, gentle ways, [and] patience [which is tireless and longsuffering, and has the power to endure whatever comes, with good temper]. (AMP)
<p>Elect of God: God's chosen ones, who have also chosen Him.</p> <p>Holy: Purified.</p> <p>Bowels of mercies: Balances justice.</p> <p>Humbleness of mind: Correct opinion of yourself.</p> <p>Meekness: Teachable.</p> <p>Longsuffering: Able to endure whatever comes, with good temper.</p>	

Col 3:13 Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also [do] ye.	Be gentle and forbearing with one another and, if one has a difference (a grievance or complaint) against another, readily pardoning each other; even as the Lord has [freely] forgiven you, so must you also [forgive]. (AMP)
Col 3:14 And above all these things [put on] charity, which is the bond of perfectness.	And above all these [put on] love and enfold yourselves with the bond of perfectness <b>[which binds everything together completely in ideal harmony]</b> . (AMP)
Col 3:15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.	And let the peace (soul harmony which comes) from Christ rule (act as umpire continually) in your hearts [deciding and settling with finality all questions that arise in your minds, in that peaceful state] to which as [members of Christ's] one body you were also called [to live]. And be thankful (appreciative), [giving praise to God always]. (AMP)
Col 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.	Let the word [spoken by] Christ (the Messiah) have its home [in your hearts and minds] and dwell in you in [all its] richness, as you teach and admonish and train one another in all insight and intelligence and wisdom [in spiritual things, and as you sing] psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, making melody to God with [His] grace in your hearts. (AMP)
The above verses can all be summarized by saying: submit yourselves to the Holy Spirit and give it free reign in your lives, and you will do these things as a matter of course. You won't have to remember a list of do's and don't's. You won't have to "learn how to love", or "strive" to keep the commandments.	
Col 3:17 And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, [do] all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.	<p>And whatever you do [no matter what it is] in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus and in [dependence upon] His Person, giving praise to God the Father through Him. (AMP)</p> <p>This is a way to begin living the Law of Consecration in your life, by dedicating your all to the Lord.</p> <p>2 Nephi 32:9 But behold, I say unto you that ye must pray always, and not faint; that ye must not perform any thing unto the Lord save in the first place ye shall pray unto the Father in the name of Christ, that he will consecrate thy performance unto thee, that thy performance may be for the welfare of thy soul.</p>

	See also verse 23.
Col 3:18 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord.	Wives, be subject to your husbands [subordinate and adapt yourselves to them], as is right and fitting and your proper duty in the Lord. (AMP)
Col 3:19 Husbands, love [your] wives, and be not bitter against them.	Husbands, love your wives [be affectionate and sympathetic with them] and do not be harsh or bitter or resentful toward them. (AMP)
Col 3:20 Children, obey [your] parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord.	Children, obey your parents in everything, for this is pleasing to the Lord. (AMP)
Col 3:21 Fathers, provoke not your children [to anger], lest they be discouraged.	Fathers, do not provoke or irritate or fret your children [do not be hard on them or harass them], lest they become discouraged and sullen and morose and feel inferior and frustrated. [Do not break their spirit.] (AMP)
Col 3:22 Servants, obey in all things [your] masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God:	Servants, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not only when their eyes are on you as pleasers of men, but in simplicity of purpose [with all your heart] because of your reverence for the Lord and as a sincere expression of your devotion to Him. (AMP)
These verses (18-22) seem like boilerplate inserted where they don't belong. I have explained them before. We ought to submit ourselves to one another. This should be voluntary and not demanded. Children, obey your parents. Employees, obey your boss. Parents: be just and fair with your children. But it seems to me, that if you are truly living by the Spirit, you wouldn't need these reminders: you would treat everyone as you would wish to be treated.	
Col 3:23 And whatsoever ye do, do [it] heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;	<p>Whatever may be your task, work at it heartily (from the soul), as [something done] for the Lord and not for men, (AMP)</p> <p>This goes back to verse 17. Even if you are only brushing your teeth, do it to the glory of God.</p>
Col 3:24 Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.	Knowing [with all certainty] that it is from the Lord [and not from men] that you will receive the inheritance which is your [real] reward. [The One Whom] you are actually serving [is] the Lord Christ (the Messiah). (AMP)
I have to disagree, here. You will be rewarded, but don't live any of this for the reward. Do it out of love for God and your fellow beings. Do it because this is the way of happiness, and because everybody deserves happiness.	
Col 3:25 But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons.	For he who deals wrongfully will [reap the fruit of his folly and] be punished for his wrongdoing. And [with God] there is no partiality [no matter what a person's position may be, whether he is the slave or the master]. (AMP)
Punished in the long run, yes. But do not expect it in the short run. Righteousness and wickedness both carry with them their own rewards and punishments, and sooner or later, the books will be	

balanced. But, don't live in expectation of seeing an evil person punished for his wrongdoing. This will only canker your soul. Leave vengeance with the Lord to take care of in His own time, and in His own way.	
Col 4:1 Masters, give unto [your] servants that which is just and equal; knowing that ye also have a Master in heaven.	Masters, [on your part] deal with your slaves justly and fairly, knowing that also you have a Master in heaven. (AMP)
Col 4:2 Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving;	Be earnest and unwearied and steadfast in your prayer [life], being [both] alert and intent in [your praying] with thanksgiving. (AMP)  Maintain an open dialog with the Lord at all times. Watch with Him (spend holy time with Him) daily.
Col 4:3 Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds:	And at the same time pray for us also, that God may open a door to us for the Word (the Gospel), to proclaim the mystery concerning Christ (the Messiah) on account of which I am in prison; (AMP)
Col 4:4 That I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak.	That I may proclaim it fully and make it clear [speak boldly and unfold that mystery], as is my duty. (AMP)
Col 4:5 Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time.	Behave yourselves wisely [living prudently and with discretion] in your relations with those of the outside world (the non-Christians), making the very most of the time and seizing (buying up) the opportunity. (AMP)  D&C 82:22 And now, verily I say unto you, and this is wisdom, make unto yourselves friends with the mammon of unrighteousness, and they will not destroy you.
Col 4:6 Let your speech [be] alway with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.	Let your speech at all times be gracious (pleasant and winsome), seasoned [as it were] with salt, [so that you may never be at a loss] to know how you ought to answer anyone [who puts a question to you]. (AMP)  I Pet 3:15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and [be] ready always to [give] an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:
Col 4:7 All my state shall Tychicus declare unto you, [who is] a beloved brother, and a faithful minister and fellowservant in the Lord:	Tychicus will give you full information about my affairs; [he is] a much-loved brother and faithful ministering assistant and fellow servant [with us] in the Lord. (AMP)

Col 4:8 Whom I have sent unto you for the same purpose, that he might know your estate, and comfort your hearts;	I have sent him to you for this very purpose, that you may know how we are faring and that he may comfort and cheer and encourage your hearts. (AMP)
Col 4:9 With Onesimus, a faithful and beloved brother, who is [one] of you. They shall make known unto you all things which [are done] here.	And with [him is] Onesimus, [our] faithful and beloved brother, who is [one] of yourselves. They will let you know everything that has taken place here [in Rome]. (AMP)
Col 4:10 Aristarchus my fellowprisoner saluteth you, and Marcus, sister's son to Barnabas, (touching whom ye received commandments: if he come unto you, receive him;)	Aristarchus my fellow prisoner wishes to be remembered to you, as does Mark the relative of Barnabas. You received instructions concerning him; if he comes to you give him a [heartly] welcome. (AMP)
Col 4:11 And Jesus, which is called Justus, who are of the circumcision. These only [are my] fellowworkers unto the kingdom of God, which have been a comfort unto me.	And [greetings also from] Jesus, who is called Justus. These [Hebrew Christians] alone of the circumcision are among my fellow workers for [the extension of] God's kingdom, and they have proved a relief and a comfort to me. (AMP)  So, Paul has mostly Gentiles as his co-workers, but there are a few "Hebrew Christians" (Jews) as well.
Col 4:12 Epaphras, who is [one] of you, a servant of Christ, saluteth you, always labouring fervently for you in prayers, that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.	Epaphras, who is one of yourselves, a servant of Christ Jesus, sends you greetings. [He is] always striving for you earnestly in his prayers, [pleading] that you may [as persons of ripe character and clear conviction] stand firm and mature [in spiritual growth], convinced and fully assured in everything willed by God. (AMP)
Col 4:13 For I bear him record, that he hath a great zeal for you, and them [that are] in Laodicea and them in Hierapolis.	For I bear him testimony that he has labored hard in your behalf and for [the believers] in Laodicea and those in Hierapolis. (AMP)
Col 4:14 Luke, the beloved physician, and Demas, greet you.	Luke the beloved physician and Demas salute you. (AMP)  Here is where we learn that Luke, the author of the Gospel of Luke, was a doctor.
Col 4:15 Salute the brethren which are in Laodicea, and Nymphas, and the church which is in his house.	Give my greetings to the brethren at Laodicea, and to Nympha and the assembly (the church) which meets in her house. (AMP)
Col 4:16 And when this epistle is read among you, cause that it be read also in the church of the Laodiceans; and that ye likewise read the [epistle] from Laodicea.	And when this epistle has been read before you, [see] that it is read also in the assembly (the church) of the Laodiceans, and also [see] that you yourselves in turn read the [letter that comes to you] from Laodicea. (AMP)



Col 4:17 And say to Archippus, Take heed to the ministry which thou hast received in the Lord, that thou fulfil it.	And say to Archippus, See that you discharge carefully [the duties of] the ministry and fulfill the stewardship which you have received in the Lord. (AMP)
Col 4:18 The salutation by the hand of me Paul. Remember my bonds. Grace [be] with you. Amen.	I, Paul, [add this final] greeting, writing with my own hand. Remember I am still in prison and in chains. May grace (God's unmerited favor and blessing) be with you! Amen (so be it). (AMP)  Paul wrote this letter from prison.