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for

Christ

August 2025



Glory Meeting of the Overcomers for Christ

April 2025



Colossians

By Michelle Anderson

Paul wrote the book of Colossians to the church of Colossae; Paul wrote this letter while he was in prison around 60-61 A.D. It is considered one of his prison epistles. Paul probably never visited Colossae, the church at Colossae was probably planted by Epaphras. During Paul's time, Colossae was a thriving multicultural city in the southwest quadrant of Asia Minor on the Lycus River in what is now Turkey. It was situated at the foot of Mount Cadmus in ancient Phrygia and once thrived as a notable city within the Roman province of Asia. At one point, Colossae's location made it an important trading route, the city was situated at the junction of the main north-south and east-west trade routes. The wool business was an important trade product. By Paul's day, however, the main road had been rerouted through nearby Laodicea, thus bypassing Colossae and leading to its decline and the rise of the neighboring cities of Laodicea and Hierapolis.

Colossae's population was mainly Gentile but also had a large Jewish settlement. Colossae's mixed population of Jews and Gentiles manifested itself both in the composition of the church and in the false teachings that plagued it, which contained elements of Jewish legalism, human traditions, and angel worship. From prison, Paul had heard that the Colossian Christians, who had at one time been strong in their faith, were now vulnerable to false teachings. This is the main reason that Paul wrote to the Colossians was to equip the church against false teachings. Paul wanted to share with the church at Colossae that ***"God wanted them to know that the riches and glory of Christ are for you Gentiles, too. And this is the secret: Christ lives in you. This gives you assurance of sharing His glory"*** (Colossians 1:27, NLT).

I will explain the Colossian heresy and Paul's response to it. Also, I will explain the mystery of Christ in the believer and explain why it is important that today's believers understand this mystery. Paul had love and concern for the believers in Colossae, and Paul was an apostle sent by God to enlighten the believers about false teachings and God's mystery.

The Colossian heresy refers to the false teachings and doctrinal errors that the Apostle Paul addresses in his Epistle to the Colossians. This heresy threatened the early Christian community in Colossae. Paul warns the Colossian believers that the rules of false teachings are tools of Satan and to bind them. Believers are free because they have died with Christ, when they became born again. The exact nature of the heresy is not explicitly detailed in the Scriptures, but it can be inferred from Paul's corrective teachings in the letter. The key elements of the heresy were legalism, ritualism, asceticism, worship of angels, human traditions, and denial of Christ's supremacy.

Paul warned against legalism and ritualism which included a return to Jewish ceremonial laws and traditions. These ceremonial laws and traditions were focused on what one should eat or drink, or what day to observe as holy. Paul warns against being judged by dietary laws, festivals, new moons, or Sabbaths (Colossians 2:16, NIV). In the Old Testament, these practices were legitimate ways of presenting the Word of God before Jesus came. These practices were shadows of things to come; however, the reality and substance belong to Christ (Colossians 2:17, NIV).

Asceticism is defined as the "practice of strict self-denial as a measure of personal and especially spiritual discipline: the condition, practice, or mode of life of an ascetic: rigorous abstention from self-indulgence". This heresy promoted by strict self-denial and harsh treatment of the body as a means of achieving spiritual purity. Paul criticizes these practices, stating, ***"Such regulations indeed have an appearance of wisdom in self-imposed worship, false humility, and harsh treatment of the body, but they lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence"*** (Colossians 2:23, NIV).

Paul condemned the act of worshipping angels. Worship of angels involved elevating visions or visits from angels above God's Word, which Paul explicitly condemns. He warns against those who delight in false humility and the worship of angels, going into detail about visions and being puffed up without reason by their unspiritual mind (Colossians 2:18, NIV). Often times, believers scrutinize a vision or word from an angel instead of taking that vision and seeing how it lines up with God's Word. God's Word must be used to confirm the dream, vision or appearance of an angel.

Human tradition is the heresy which incorporated elements of human philosophy, empty deceit, and the spiritual forces of the world, rather than Christ (Colossians 2:8, NIV). In Paul's time, human traditions were deeply intertwined with religious and cultural practices. Paul often addressed the importance of adhering to the teachings of Christ rather than being swayed by human traditions that contradicted the Gospel. Paul emphasizes that all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden in Christ (Colossians 2:3, NIV). Paul navigated the complex interplay between human traditions and the emerging Christian faith, urging believers to remain steadfast in their commitment to Christ's teachings.

The denial of Christ's supremacy was a diminished view of Christ's divine nature and His sufficiency for Salvation. The supremacy of Christ is knowing that Jesus is all sufficient and Jesus should be the center of the believer's life. Paul counters this by affirming the preeminence of Christ, stating, ***"For in Him all things were created, things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities. All things were created through Him and for Him"*** (Colossians 1:16, NIV). He further asserts in Colossians 2:9-10 (NIV) that Christ dwelled in bodily form and ***"In Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority."*** The believer needs to understand that through the blood of the Jesus they have dominion and authority over all things. As

believers, they are in Christ, it signifies a deep spiritual union with Him, encompassing various aspects such as identity, Salvation, authority, and life purpose.

The mystery of Christ for believers is a profound concept rooted deeply in Christian theology, it refers to the divine mystery revealed in Jesus Christ's life, death, and resurrection. God sent his Son, Jesus, in human form to minister to people and to build the foundation for God's redemptive plan for believers. In **John 3:13** (NKJV), it states, *"No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven."* Jesus was God's redemption plan for humanity, Jesus' sacrifice on the Cross was for humanity's sake. In **John 3:16-18** (NKJV), Jesus says, *"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."* Through Jesus' death and resurrection, mankind now has the promise of eternal life, *"that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life"* (**John 3:15**, NKJV).

Another element of this mystery is the inclusiveness of the Gospel. The early Christian church, through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, came to understand that Salvation through Christ was not limited to the Jewish people but extended to all nations and peoples. The divine mystery is that Jesus indwells in all believers, which in Paul's time included Gentiles. In **Colossians 1:26-27** (NKJV), it states, *"The mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints. To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory."* The meaning of "mystery" in the Scripture is a secret or hidden truth that can only be known by revelation. The Apostle Paul often spoke of the union between Christ and believers in his letters, emphasizing that believers are "in Christ" and that Christ dwells in their hearts through faith. This spiritual union transforms the lives of believers, enabling them to live in accordance with God's will and experience a deep, personal relationship with Him.

'Christ in you' also refers the indwelling presence of Christ, who is the Word. God's Word is full of mysteries for the believer. God wants believers to reflect and meditate on His Word so that these mysteries and revelations will be revealed to them. The richness of God's Word dwells in the hearts of believers. This was an important message for Paul, he also shared this with the Ephesians in **Ephesians 1:17-18** (NKJV), *"That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints"*

This Scripture is emphasizing that there is more than just a surface understanding of God's Word, His truth. Believers need to seek the fullness of the revelation that Jesus and the Holy Spirit take up permanent residence in them.

Paul wanted the people of Colossae to not be deceived by the heresies of their day. God's Word provided the believers with a guide in which to live their lives, and they did not need to follow religious or human traditions. Paul's response to the Colossian heresy was emphasizing the sufficiency and supremacy of Christ. He encouraged the believers to remain rooted and built up in Christ, strengthened in the faith as they were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. When believers trust God and follow His Word, then they deepen their relationship with Him, they deepen their understanding of God's ways and live in peace. In essence, the mystery of Christ is a multifaceted revelation of God's love, grace, and purpose for humanity, offering believers a profound sense of hope and meaning in their faith journey.

Did You Know?

August is the time to reap what you've sown, quite literally even, as most summer vegetables are ready to be harvested. It goes without saying that August then is a time to celebrate a good harvest and a good summer!

August has changed its number of days multiple times. In the ten-month Roman calendar, the months all had either 30 or 31 days, totaling 304 days in the year. Not only did Pompilius add January and February to the calendar, but he also reduced the number of days in August down to 29. It wasn't until Julius Caesar introduced the Julian calendar that it was left with 31 days, and it's stayed the same ever since!

Back in the days of the Anglo-Saxons, the month was called Weod Monath. Its translation of "weed month" is quite literal – in this month weeds and other plants grow the fastest in the northern hemisphere.

On August 6, 1762, the first-ever sandwich was created, at least with such a name. It was named after the Earl of Sandwich when he requested a dish involving meat between two pieces of bread. As the story goes, he requested it as he was in the middle of a gambling game and didn't want to interrupt it.

THIS IS THE CONFIDENCE WE HAVE IN APPROACHING GOD: THAT IF WE ASK ANYTHING ACCORDING TO HIS WILL, HE HEARS US. AND IF WE KNOW THAT HE HEARS US - WHATEVER WE ASK - WE KNOW THAT WE HAVE WHAT WE ASKED OF HIM. 1 JOHN 5:14-15 (NIV)

PRAYER REQUESTS

I want this to be a spiritual prayer and blessing. I pray that my lovely **OC4C** family continues to do wonderful, and that your beautiful church prospers. Thank you for all of the spirit filled writings. We all know that so much is happening right now not only in this great Country, but also around the world. As the body of Christ, we **ALL** should be standing strong in the fight against such an evil culture around us. Lord helps us all to stand with godly principles, not for a political party. Let's join together in prayer for uncommon yet spiritual wisdom for the leaders of this great nation, **UNDER GOD!** - **A.J.**

Senate Bill 1422 that was introduced February of 2024 to repeal felony murder. I had my boss check on it and at the end of the session it did not die but is being held in committee, which means it could be brought back up next session in January 2025. If this was to pass it would get me back into court so that I could fight for my freedom. Please pray for this to get passed. With all of the **OC4C** prayer warriors this could benefit a lot of people who never actually killed anyone but were charged with felony murder. Oh, sometime soon I go to town to see the cardiologist for a check-up. I'm feeling good so there's no worries there. Thank you **OC4C** for the prayers. Your fellow servant and brother in Christ ... Vaya Con Dios!

- Foot

PRAISE REPORTS

Hey Family, I have lots of praise reports, God is **GOOD!** Just got a text from my daughter. Last night my grandson, Matthew, age 14, gave his first sermon! This sent tears down this ol' biker's cheeks and his family's. Just maybe my life on earth hasn't been an utter waste of time. God is good!! It is of great comfort to us to know that Frank F., (Butch) overcame every trial most of us have faced. Just knowing that he passed in Christ and in peace and now stands with our Father in heaven makes me extremely joyful! Ole 'Butch' made it, he really made it! Another cat who survived the fires to now rest with Jesus Christ! I have another amazing praise report. My daughter, Nicole, is headed to Georgia in June to visit a couple of OG revival churches from the 1800's. While she's back that way she's also going to visit 'Noah's' The Ark Encounter in Kentucky. She also told me that she has accumulated over 380 books including 2 concordances and 32 Bibles. Yes, I said 32 Bibles! She's building her own library. Brother that girl of mine is so on fire for God, it is mind blowing. Every year she plants sunflowers in remembrance of her momma. She recently sent a picture of a sunflower plant that is sprouting out of a little bucket full of rocks. She told me, "It just showed up randomly." I told her to nurture 'that' plant because her momma sent that one. I had a huge thank you Jesus moment when I was notified that my son Richard just bought his first Harley **"THANK YOU JESUS"**... by the way my son is a chain breaker and has flipped his path in life to one of faith and sobriety years ago ... This ol' biker is truly blessed. To say the least I'm on cloud nine today!!! I just want to give praise to God for the work He's doing on this unit. Every other month The Christian fellowship here gathers under the ramada on the yard offering free haircuts, cocoa drink, and burritos to anyone who wishes to stop by. I was there today to show my support and also get what's left of my hair trimmed up. There were four barbers cutting hair, Christian music in the air some of the fella's had bibles going over scripture, laughter and great fellowship was in the air. The weather was beautiful; it's truly a blessing to see how God is moving in the lives of these men here. Thank You

Jesus! - Foot

I want to share this praise report ... It's not a fast journey. This intimate journey with my beloved Father began with me floundering to keep from sinking. In it all, Father is teaching me how to swim and 'get there' through all aspects of my daily struggles. Because of trusting in Him, and His written Word, I'm becoming a much better swimmer. Because of Jesus' obedience to the Father, I **NOW** have a brand-new Spirit, and my soul is being renewed daily by His Word as I live on in this earthly body. With the Father's Spirit now living in me, together 'we' are working on, as I said, me becoming a better swimmer. With His help, I literally desire to be more like Jesus every day, because we all know how Jesus handled swimming! I'm learning more and more how to use the gifts and the power that God has given me, even while I live visiting earth. - **J.S.**

David A. ...

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Overcomers for Christ

From the Inside

The Prince of Peace IS Coming Soon

By W.R.

It's been a couple of months now, but I saw on the news that Israel and Hamahs came to an agreement about releasing some of the hostages. I thank God for that, for that has been laying heavily on my heart ever since the October 7th massacre, which by the way happened on my birthday!

I've set in this cell and wept over Israel and all that they have gone through. My heart goes out to all of those innocent people in Gaza who, for the most part, have nothing to do with this war, especially the children and elderly. Even though I know that there will never be true peace for Israel until The Prince of Peace returns, I continually cry out in prayer for His return, everyday!

God's Word IS Immensely Powerful

By C.M.M.

Greetings from all of us here, on this side of the wire! I pray that you and the family, above all things, thou mayest prosper and be in health even as thy soul prospereth (3 John 2).

The May 2025 *Overcomers for Christ* arrived yesterday, and the men and I will go through it together. These magazines have been carrying powerful and encouraging messages. Many thanks indeed! And we PTL (Praise the Lord)!

I was just building them up yesterday and sharing on the lines of the importance of us using the Word of God daily. I encouraged them on how we are to speak to others and edify and encourage them with the Word of God. This word from brother Arthur is incredibly powerful!

The Lord Jesus told us that His Word is both Spirit and Life. I told the men that that means - it is the Life source and His Spirit. And when we speak or confess this life Word of God - it is God Himself going forth to bring it to pass. I shared with them, *Isaiah 55:10-11*, "As the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is My Word that goes out from My mouth: It will not return to Me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it." Then, we went to *Jeremiah 1:12*, "The Lord said to me, 'You have seen correctly, for I am watching to see that My Word is fulfilled.'" From there, we continued on to *Psalm 103:20*, "Praise the Lord, you His angels, you mighty ones who do His bidding, who obey His Word."

I also shared with them on how, when we make a habit of using the Word of God in our intercessions, the Word releases the power of God to work in any certain situation. Also, when we hear, and or read the Word, it renews our minds to, the WAY, the TRUTH, and the LIFE. And it's His 'living' Word that changes us both internally and externally. God's Word is immensely powerful!

For everything in existence must and will respond to its Creators Word. Everything was started 'by' His Word, and it is 'kept' by His Word. Thank you again, Brother Arthur. And I send my personal greetings to all of the brothers and sisters that read these newsletters! Your brother in Christ."

The Harvest is Plentiful

By C.P.

Greetings to the *Overcomers for Christ* family! God Bless us all, Amen! Brother, I sure do miss you, like crazy. I finally had the privilege of leading another cellie to the Lord! I've lost count of how many people the Lord has blessed me to be able to share the Gospel with and lead them to Him. But maybe, close to 13 in 9 years. God is good all the time! The devil is a liar.

You know brother Duck, and maybe I'm crazy, but when I read our newsletter from *Overcomers for Christ* everybody always seems to want to talk about getting out of prison. It's a little hard for me to understand, because the harvest in this place is so ripe! All we have to do is accept the blessing we have right in front of us. Everyone seems to think that when they get out of here, life is going to be so much easier or better.

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Overcomers for Christ

From the Inside

With so many lost right here just ready and receptive to the Word of God, why would anyone want to leave? Electricity is only \$2.00 a month and the food is free. To see the doctor, it's only .50 cents. Man, God is always so good, whether in the valley or on the mountain top! So why is everyone in such a hurry to leave here? God's blessings are in abundance right where I'm at!

Honestly, I feel like I'm at the bowling alley bowling, like a little kid with the bumper guard up. In the last 8 years I have received my Doctor's in Bible. In here, we have By Beholding We Become, Prisoners of Hope, and Caris Bible College to learn and study under, and it's all free! I don't know of a better place where people call out and cry out to God. Anyhow, I'm going to always enjoy every day that God gives me under the Sun! And for any of the incarcerated OC4C family, Andrew Wommack Ministries is amazing. You'd all be wise to write for their Bible courses and **FREE** literature listed on the back inside page of the OC4C newsletter.

I have everything I need, and I sure do love you all for all that you do for us behind the walls! While I was in the county jail, I remember watching your heart fall down your cheeks for all four of your grandsons. And I still remember the 'Ultra Tony' articles he used to write, and how full of joy you were with his obedience to do so. That's why I especially love watching, through the newsletter pictures, young Anthony continuing to grow up in the ministry. It's a real blessing to see, and it makes the newsletters special to me. What a blessing to have a grandpa and grandma like you both in his life.

Never Think That You Don't Have Value to God

Contributed by Foot and P.G.

This is a vision that a minister had. He says it was late; he was tired and wanting to go to sleep, but God wanted to talk. He said, "It was about midnight, but it dawned on me that God does not sleep." His question, "Where on earth does man keep his most priceless treasures and valuables?", made me restless. So, I said, "Lord, usually treasures like gold, silver, diamonds, and precious jewels are kept locked up somewhere out of sight, and usually with guards, with security to keep them under lock and key." God spoke, "That's also like Me and My most valuable treasures on earth, they are also locked up." I then saw Jesus standing in front of seemingly thousands of prisons and jails. The Lord said, "These are My treasures, and they have almost been destroyed by the enemy. These ones have the greatest potential to be used and bring forth glory to My name. Tell My people I am going this hour to the prisons to activate the gifts and callings that lie dormant in these lives that were given to Me before the foundation of the earth. Out of these walls will come forth an army of spiritual men and women who will have power to literally kick down the gates of hell and overcome satanic powers that are holding many of My own people bound in My own house.

"Tell My people that the great treasure inside these walls, in these forgotten vessels; these people must come forth, and touch these ones because a mighty anointing will be unleashed, for future victory in My kingdom and they must be restored." Then I saw the Lord step up to the prison door with a key. One key fit every lock, and as the gates began to open, I then heard and saw great explosions which sounded like dynamite going off between the walls. It sounded like all out spiritual warfare.

Jesus turned and said, "Tell My people to go in now and pick up the spoil and rescue these." Jesus then began walking in and touching inmates who were thronging (surrounding) Him. Many being touched instantly began to have a golden glow come over them. God spoke to me, "There's some gold", while others had a silver glow around them. Like slow motion, they began to grow into what appeared to be giant knights in armor, like warriors. They had on the entire Armor of God and every piece was solid and pure gold, even golden shields.

When I saw the golden shields, I heard God say to these warriors, "Now go and take what satan has taught you and use it against him, go and pull down the strongholds coming against My church." The spiritual giants then started stepping over the prison walls with no one to resist them and they went immediately to the front lines of the battle of the enemy. I saw them walk right past the church and the big-name ministers known for their power with God. They were surpassed by these giant warriors like David going after Goliath. They crossed the enemy's line and started delivering many of God's people from the clutches of satan while demons trembled and fled out of sight at their presence. No one, not even the church, seemed to know who these spiritual giants were or where they came from. All you could see was the Armor, the

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Foot's Bible Study

Nahum 1:1-3:19

When people wonder why God doesn't punish evil immediately help them remember that if He did, none of us would be here. We can all be thankful that God gives people time to turn to Him. (1:3)

Don't insist on learning through personal experience, instead learn the lessons history has already taught. Put your trust in God above all else. (3:8-10)

Revelation 9:1-21

The word 'angels' here means fallen angels or demons. These four unidentified demons will be exceedingly evil and destructive. But note that they do not have the power to release themselves and do their evil work on earth. Instead, they are held back by God and will be released at a separate time, doing only what He allows them to do. (9:14)

Psalms 137:1-9

God destroyed Babylon and its offspring for their proud assault against God and His Kingdom. The Medes and Persians destroyed Babylon in 539 B.C. Many of those who were oppressed lived to see the victory. The phrase about the infants is harsh because the psalmist is crying out for judgment, "Treat the Babylonians the way they treated us." (137:8-9)

Proverbs 30:7-9

Having too much money can be dangerous but so can having too little. Being poor can, in fact, be hazardous to spiritual as well as physical health. On the other hand, being rich is not the answer. As Jesus pointed out, rich people have trouble getting into God's Kingdom. In **Matthew 19:23-24**, "Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'I tell you the truth, it is very hard for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. I'll say it again—it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of God!'"

Like Paul, we can learn how to live whether we have little or plenty. In **Philippians 4:12**, "I know how to live on almost nothing or with everything. I have learned the secret of living in every situation, whether it is with a full stomach or empty, with plenty or little." But our lives are more likely to be effective if we have "neither poverty nor riches". (30:7-9)



"Foot" Notes

Hey family!

We all have those in our lives that we pray they also can find their peace and comfort in Jesus Christ. I take great joy when someone I consider family finds Jesus Christ because in my heart I know that they too can follow me home to an eternity in Heaven where we can gather together again. You too should take this perspective with your own loved ones as they too find their faith in Jesus Christ.

Love to y'all short and tall ... Vaya con Dios ... Don't ride faster than your angels can fly!

Quote Worthy

"Do not be afraid to give up the good to go for the great."

- John D. Rockefeller - (1839 - 1937) an American businessman and philanthropist. He was one of the wealthiest Americans of all time and one of the richest people in modern history. Rockefeller was born into a large family in Upstate New York who moved several times before eventually settling in Cleveland, Ohio. He became an assistant bookkeeper at age 16 and went into several business partnerships beginning at age 20, concentrating his business on oil refining. Rockefeller founded the Standard Oil Company in 1870. He ran it until 1897 and remained its largest shareholder. In his retirement, he focused his energy and wealth on philanthropy, especially regarding education, medicine, higher education, and modernizing the Southern United States.

Never Think That You Don't Have Value to God Contributed by Foot and P.G. ... continued from page 7

golden Armor of God from head to foot. Then, the shields were restored to God's house where there was great victory and rejoicing. I saw silver and precious treasures and vessels being brought in. Beneath the gold and silver were the people that nobody knew, the rejects of society, the black sheep, the street people, the outcasts, the poor and the despised. These were the treasures that were missing from His house. In closing the Lord said, "If My people want to know where they are needed, tell them they are needed in the streets, in the hospitals, in missions and in prisons. When they arrive there, they will find Me and the next move of My spirit and they will be judged by My Word, in **Matthew 25:42-43**, **"For when I was hungry, you gave Me no meat, I was thirsty, and you gave Me no drink. I was a stranger you took Me not in. Naked and you clothed Me not. Sick and in prison and you visited Me not" ... or did you?**

Ten Ways You Can Rely on God's Grace

By Rick Warren

***"For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases Him."* - Philippians 2:13 (NLT)**

As believers, we tend to think about grace when it's connected to our Salvation. But grace is about much more than how you come to Christ. Your entire Christian walk must be fueled by the grace of God.

You can do nothing in Him or for Him that doesn't ultimately come from His grace. The Bible says, ***"For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases Him"* (Philippians 2:13 NLT).**

In fact, grace brings 10 great benefits to your life:

You're saved by grace. The only way to heaven is through the doorway of grace. You can't earn it. You can't work for it. You can't buy it (**Ephesians 2:8-9**).

You're forgiven by grace. Though we don't deserve it, God wipes our slate clean by His grace (**Isaiah 43:25**).

You're sustained by grace. God will never ask you to do anything He doesn't give you the ability and the power to do. That power and ability is called grace (**Philippians 2:13**).

You're healed by grace. God heals your broken heart and binds up your wounds even though you don't deserve it (**Psalms 147:3**).

You're liberated by grace. Your relationship with Jesus isn't a bunch of chores to do. Instead, it's about resting in what the Lord has already done. If your Christian life is not a life of resting in Christ, you're moving into legalism (**Matthew 11:28-30**).

You're given talents by grace. God has given each of us the ability to do something well, and we're to use those abilities for Him (**Romans 12:6**).

You're used by grace. God uses you to fulfill His purposes in this world, not because of anything you've done but simply through His grace (**Ephesians 3:7**).

You're kept saved by grace. You cannot lose your salvation because it's a gift of God. If you could earn it, then you could lose it the moment you stopped earning it (**Jude 1:24**).

You're transformed by grace. Through His grace, God makes you new through the renewing of your mind (**Romans 12:2**).

You're matured by grace. God's work of making you more like Jesus happens not because you've earned it or by your own effort but by the grace of God (**2 Peter 3:18**).

Remember, God's grace is real and powerful in your life. It's God's grace that brings you to Christ in the first place and that fuels every step of your Christian walk.

Talk It Over

Which of the 10 benefits above do you find the most difficult to accept? Why?

How can you take one of the benefits of grace mentioned above and help someone else understand and apply it in his or her life?

What does knowing the benefits of grace give you as far as the confidence to do or change in your life?

Will you trust in God's grace today?

What Others Are Saying

"Hello brother, all is well here. I got my newsletter, thank you ! I'm enrolled in college now, so I've been pretty pressed in my studies. It's only Eng 100 but it isn't easy. I'm going for business management and administration. Wish me luck!! Thank you for the new pen pals, I need someone to talk to. I'm off closed custody, but still on Lumley and there's no retention jobs. I'm doing what I can and still walking with the Lord! I won't be compromised so if I walk alone, He's still with me! I'm grateful to be alive, time is time anywhere you are, so I make every day count!! Wish y'all the best of the Lord's blessings and pray for our Father to come take us home soon to be with Him!!! Praise God! Y'all are my family, and I love y'all. Thank you for all the cards." - L.R.

"Good morning brother 'Duck', I got the March edition of  last night and I enjoyed your testimony and look forward to your follow up! I'm working on something for consideration and will forward it to you in my next message." - M.D.

"How's the valley's happiest married couple doing? Great, I'm sure. I appreciate you writing me, being a Pastor, I know you must have a busy schedule. I hope you can find the time to get away with your wife and enjoy some nice weather. Have I told you, I like the name of your church, as we know, Jesus Christ IS the Living Word, Amen? I thank Jesus for being with me all the way through my life, and this time. We know we're not in paradise yet, but our heavenly home is waiting for us. Nothing we go through could **EVER** compare to the suffering that Jesus endured for us. Thank You Jesus for what You accomplished on the Cross for us! No one passes on to the Father but through You! Thank You dear Father, and thank You dear Jesus, for today!" - H.O.

"May the Lord keep you and bless you, brother Wade. I put in the documents to see you, and I can hardly wait for our visit to come. I have so many questions to ask you. Your knowledge and support that I'm seeking is not only for myself, but for the others here with me. I believe by my understanding and God's wisdom that He put you in my life for internal wisdom. You are one of the few that I have turned to for help. I believe that through this new understanding of God's love, and with you by my side, this will help me, as well as others, overcome our trials and suffering, which most of us have done to ourselves. God bless you." - A.S.

"Let me catch you up with a situation with Nicole. She was hired as a cook and four hours into her first shift the restaurant's main investor showed up walked into the kitchen looked at her with disgust and pulled aside the gal who hired Nicole. Moments later that gal let Nicole go stating that the investor would not have a woman cooking in his kitchen especially one with all the tattoos. Thank the Lord I'm still in here on hiatus. I told Nicole she had a case of discrimination, she responded back referring me to Psalm 7 stating that she's trusting God to meter out any justice to this dude and was praying for him. Brother with tears of pride in my eyes I see where my lineage is light years beyond me in the spiritual side of life. She's amazing. She had wanted to get this second job so she could buy a laptop for my granddaughter Gretchen for college as she's graduating high school and starting college in the fall and wants to become a schoolteacher. Anyhow I am in awe of the way the Spirit moves through Nicole." - Foot

"Just got my  issue of the newsletter today. Wow! What a powerful testimony of Pat and Skeeter. I have been meditating on the Word that you shared with me and I plan to share it with the group tonight." - J.T.

"Hello! How goes it my friend? You know the same old thing over here at my end. Thank you for your birthday card. Love you guys." - J.B.

"Thank you for the **Overcomers for Christ** newsletters and your cards. They very much bless me. And once I'm done with them, I usually do share them with the others around me. Your teachings, in the newsletters, have been very edifying, exhorting and uplifting. I looked up the meaning of those three words, and this is what I came up with. Edify: To instruct or improve spiritually, to build and establish in moral or religious knowledge. Exhort: To incite by argument or advice; urge strongly, to give warning or advice; make urgent appeals. Build-up: To develop gradually by increments; to promote the health, strength, esteem or reputation of; the act or process of building up. Brother Wade, this is what your articles do. And I have a feeling that the Holy Spirit has been using you this way, throughout your spirit filled Christian life." - C.M.

"May the Lord bless you, brother Wade! They moved me again, so I'm sending you all my new housing information. Now, we are going to start all over again. You, my friend, have helped change my life. Your articles, Vision/Imagination, are beyond belief. And props to the staff the Lord has brought you, to believe in Salvation and the fruit of His Spirit. Throughout my life I was lost, but your wisdom has helped bring me forth to a new demand for knowledge, through the Scriptures, your  newsletters and your articles of success! May the Lord keep you and bless you along with your staff many blessings to you." - A.R.S.

WORD OF THE MONTH

Proselytize

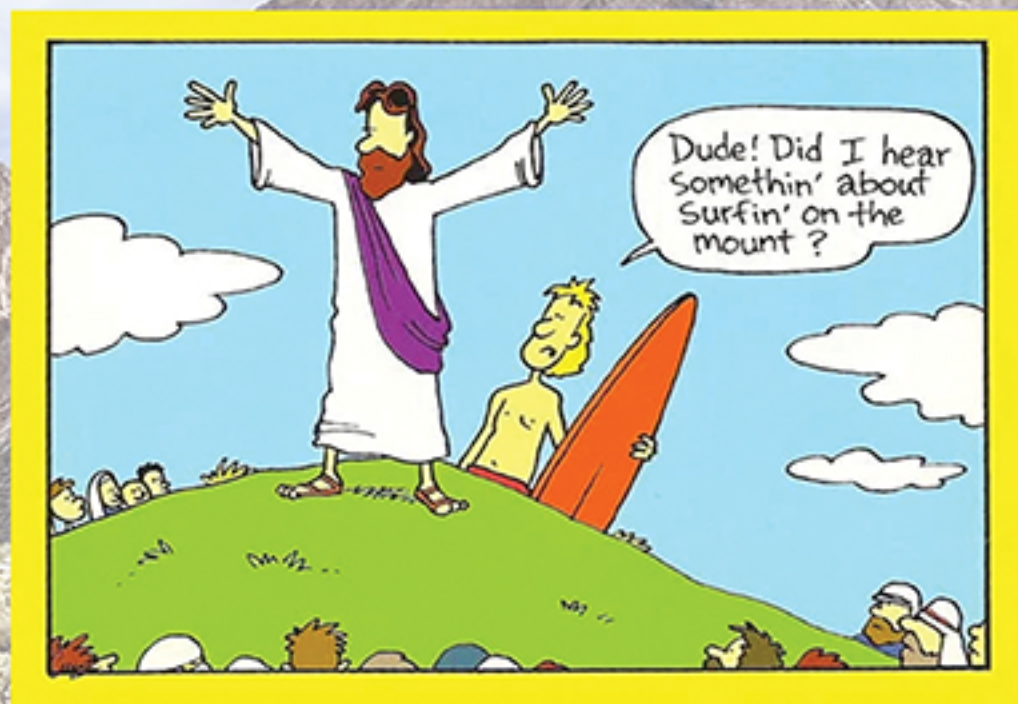
Pronunciation – pros-e-ly-tize pră-s(ə-)lə- tīz

Verb – 1: to induce someone to convert to one's faith; 2: to recruit someone to join one's party, institution, or cause

"After she started volunteering for a nonprofit to fight climate change, Aadya would proselytize her friends to join as well."

Did You Know ... Proselytize comes from the *proselyte* (meaning "a new convert") which comes from the Late Latin noun *proselytus*. *Proselytus* means "stranger" or "alien resident" and comes from a similar Greek word *proselytos*. When **proselytize** entered English in the 17th century, it had a distinctly religious connotation and meant simply to "recruit religious converts". This meaning is still common, but today one can also **proselytize** in a broader sense, recruiting converts to one's political party or pet cause, for example.

Christian Comedy



Living Word Bible Church Locations

Mesa - 3520 E. Brown Rd. Mesa, AZ 85213 Ahwatukee - 14647 S. 50th St. #165 Phoenix, AZ 85044
Scottsdale - 7965 E. Cavasson Boulevard Scottsdale, AZ 85255 Gilbert - 202 S. Gilbert Rd. Gilbert, AZ 85296
Phoenix - 3525 W. Lewis Ave. Phoenix, AZ 85009 Español Mesa - 3520 E. Brown Rd. Mesa, AZ 85213

Ministry Tithes & Offerings

Here is how you can give to the *Overcomers for Christ* ministry:

By check or money order – Make checks payable to **Living Word Bible Church** and in the memo section put "For Overcomers for Christ". Mail your check or money order to PO Box 42023, Phoenix, Arizona 85080

Your giving does qualify as a charitable contribution on your taxes. For donations of less than \$250, your cancelled check is sufficient proof for taxes. For donations of \$250 or more, you will receive a contribution statement from the organization. If you have any questions, please call or write Wade Anderson.

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Lost and Found

By C.B.

Once upon a time in a land far away
Lived a man who was locked in a cage,
Because of a short temper and a moment of rage
There he still sits to this very day.

But the end is near and almost in sight
If it was wrong or if it was right.
When it was quiet and dim was the light,
He prayed for forgiveness in the Lord's sight.

An old black book sits under his bed,
Telling the story of eating more than just bread.
A heavenly Father and a Son so pure;
An amazing story, that's for sure.

A new day is coming; a sun on the rise,
The Lord's day is coming with fire in his eyes.
I fear naught for I am saved,
A man on the cross then raised from the grave.

Is that not love with no compare.
To say my life was broken would be true,
You can't go back and change or undo,
But forgiveness is a blessing from you know who;

Like a babe, fresh and new.
Born again I start anew.
Life still isn't perfect I confess,
The days are long and the nights are lonely,
But how can you go wrong with the Lord as your big homie?

I don't know exactly where I'm going, only where I've been,
No man is perfect and lives without sin,
You fall down, but get back up again
And stumble you may
But with that old book, I'll find my way.

Help us be better stewards by sending your change of address when you move to help reduce unnecessary waste and expense

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