

Trust God's plan for your life, make your priorities God's priorities, and live your life for God's glory. God has put his commands close to your heart, you have only to listen to them.

A reading from the Book of Deuteronomy: 30:9-14

Moses said to the people of Israel, "The LORD your God will make you abundantly prosperous in all your undertakings, in the fruit of your body, in the fruit of your livestock, and in the fruit of your soil. For the LORD will again take delight in prospering you, just as he delighted in prospering your ancestors, when you obey the LORD your God by observing his commandments and decrees that are written in this book of the law, because you turn to the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

"Surely, this commandment that I am commanding you today is not too hard for you, nor is it too far away. It is not in heaven, that you should say, 'Who will go up to heaven for us, and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?' Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, 'Who will cross to the other side of the sea for us, and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?' No, the word is very near to you; it is in your mouth and in your heart for you to observe."

The Word of the Lord.

Psalm 82

- ¹ God takes his stand in the council of heaven; *
he gives judgment in the midst of the gods:
- ² "How long will you judge unjustly, *
and show favor to the wicked?
- ³ Save the weak and the orphan; *
defend the humble and needy;
- ⁴ Rescue the weak and the poor; *
deliver them from the power of the wicked.
- ⁵ They do not know, neither do they understand;
they go about in darkness; *
all the foundations of the earth are shaken.
- ⁶ Now I say to you, 'You are gods, *
and all of you children of the Most High;
- ⁷ Nevertheless, you shall die like mortals, *
and fall like any prince.'"
- ⁸ Arise, O God, and rule the earth, *
for you shall take all nations for your own.

Paul and Timothy send greetings and encouragement to the faithful in Colos'sae; they express great joy at the faith which is taking root in these new believers, and highlight the fervent prayers they offer.

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Colossians: 1:1-14

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, To the saints and faithful brothers and sisters in Christ in Colossae:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father.

In our prayers for you we always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. You have heard of this hope before in the word of the truth, the gospel that has come to you. Just as it is bearing fruit and growing in the whole world, so it has been bearing fruit among yourselves from the day you heard it and truly comprehended the grace of God. This you learned from Epaphras, our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf, and he has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

For this reason, since the day we heard it, we have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you may lead lives worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God. May you be made strong with all the strength that comes

from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

The Word of the Lord.