

From the Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the COLOSSIANS

Colossians is one of the apostle Paul's five "prison epistles", which was written while Paul was in prison in Rome between 60 to 64 A.D.

In the epistle to the Colossians, being the sister epistle to the Ephesians, the apostle Paul presents Jesus Christ as the head of the Church, and fights against a serious heresy that plagued the early church, that of Gnosticism and the closely related to it, Docetic heresy.

The word "Gnosticism" is derived from the Greek word "gnosis" meaning "knowledge". The Gnostics separated matter from thought. They considered matter as evil and thought or knowledge as the absolute necessity for salvation.

This is why in this epistle and also in the one to the Ephesians, the apostle Paul stresses the importance of "epignosis": conscious knowledge, being attained not by philosophical speculations or ascetism but as a gift from the Father of glory through the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the name of Jesus Christ. (Eph.1:17)

Colossians 1:10: **"..being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God."**

Here again we find the word **epignosis (ἐπίγνωσις)** used, which means: clear and exact, conscious knowledge.

(see Rom.10:2 and 1 Tim.2:4).

Colossians 1:13: **"Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness and hath translated us into the kingdom of His dear Son."**

"Hath delivered": In the Greek text we read: **erhusato (ἐρρύσαστο)**: ao. of the verb **rhuomai (ρύομαι)**: to rush or draw (for oneself), ie. rescue, deliver.

"Hath translated": Here we find: **metestesen (μετέστησεν)**: ao. of the verb **methistano (μεθιστάνω)**: to transfer.

"..His dear Son": **tou huiou tes agapes Autou (τοῦ υἱοῦ τῆς ἀγάπης Αὐτοῦ)**: Literally: "..the Son of His love.." So according to the above we read: **" Who delivered us from the power of darkness, and transferred us into the kingdom of the Son of His love."**

Colossians 1:28: **"Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom;"**

In the Greek text the present participle of the verb **noutheto (νουθετῶ)** is used (**nouthetountes - νουθετοῦντες**).

"Noutheto" is a compound verb made out of **nous (νοῦς)**: mind, and the verb **tithemi (τίθημι)**: to put. That is to put one's mind into the proper frame, to instruct, to admonish, to warn. (For a detailed analysis of "noutheto" see: 1Cor. 4:14.)