Open English Translation of the Bible

A letter to the believers in
Laodikeia

Introduction

This short letter to the believers in Laodikeia (Laodicea) is written in Paulos's (Paul's) name. It echoes several passages from his letters, especially Philippians. It encourages its readers to hold onto the good message, remain united, and put what they've learnt into practice.

The letter survives in Latin manuscripts and later translations. Although Colossians 4:16 mentions a letter from Laodikeia, this text isn't generally regarded as that lost letter or as a genuine letter by Paulos. It's included here as part of the OET's wider collection of additional books.

This draft adapts M. R. James's 1924 English translation into current English, using OET names and terminology. The Latin text is difficult in places, especially verse 5, where the intended meaning isn't certain.

Main components of this letter

Greeting and encouragement *1:1-5*
Imprisonment, hope, and unity *1:6-9*
Instructions and final greetings *1:10-20*

The DC editions are placed side by side by chapter only. Their verse numbering and textual contents differ; corresponding lines are not established equivalents.

Lighter type marks additions. Underscores join parts of a single source word.

Struck words are untranslated. The ◘ sign marks a verse with no text.

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Readers' Version

Greeting and encouragement

1:1 This letter is from Paulos (Paul), a missionary appointed by Yeshua (Jesus) the messiah, not by people or through any human authority. I'm writing to the fellow believers in Laodikeia (Laodicea). 2 May you all experience grace and peace from God the father and the master Yeshua the messiah.

3 I thank the messiah whenever I pray, because you remain in him and keep doing his work as you wait for the promise to be fulfilled on judgement day. 4 Don't let the empty talk of people who slip in among you unsettle you. They're trying to turn you away from the truth of the good message that I announce. 5 Now God will enable those who are associated with me to keep serving the truth of the good message, helping it spread, doing good, and working towards salvation—eternal life.[1]

Imprisonment, hope, and unity

6 Everyone can now see the chains I wear because of the messiah, and I rejoice and am glad about them. 7 This will lead to my lasting salvation through your prayers and the help of the holy spirit, whether I live or die. 8 For me, living means living in the messiah, and dying is joy. 9 In his mercy, he'll do the same in you, so that you share the same love and are united in your thinking.

Put what you've learnt into practice

10 So, dear friends, hold onto what you heard when I was with you. Put it into practice with reverence for God, and you'll have eternal life, 11 because it's God who's at work in you. 12 Whatever you do, do it without hesitation.

13 Finally, dear friends, rejoice in the messiah, and watch out for people who are greedy for dishonest gain. 14 Bring all your requests openly before God, and remain firm in the messiah's way of thinking. 15 Do what's wholesome, true, pure, right, and worthy of love. 16 Keep what you've heard and received firmly in your hearts, 17 and you'll have peace.

Final greetings

18 The believers here send their greetings. 19 May the grace of the master Yeshua be with your spirit.

Literal Version

1:1 Paulos ambassador not from humans nor through a_human but through Yaʸsous chosen_ _one/messiah, to_brothers who are in_Laodikeia. 2 Grace to_you_all and peace from god the_father and master Yaʸsous chosen_one/messiah. 3 Thanks I_give to_chosen_one/messiah through every prayer of_me, because continuing you_all_ _are in him and persevering in works of_him, the_promise awaiting for the_day of_judgement. 4 Neither may_unsettle you_all of_some empty_ _talks insinuating, so_that you_all they_may_ _turn_away from the_truth of_the_good_message which by me is_proclaimed. 5 And now will_cause god that those_who are from me for the_progress of_the_truth of_the_good_message serving and doing kindness of_works which of_salvation of_ _life eternal. 6 And now manifest are the_bonds of_me which I_suffer in chosen_one/messiah; in_ _which I_am_glad and I_rejoice. 7 And this for_me is for salvation perpetual; which itself brought_ _about by_prayers of_you_all and supplying the_ _spirit holy, whether through life or through death. 8 It_is for to_me to_live in chosen_ _one/messiah and to_die joy. 9 And that same_ _thing in you_all he_will_do by_mercy of_him, so_ _that the_same love you_all_may_have and you_ _all_may_be of_one_mind. 10 Therefore, beloved, as you_all_heard in_the_presence of_me, so hold_ _fast and do in fear of_god, and will_be for_you_ _all life for ever: 11 It_is for god who works in you_all. 12 And do without hesitation whatever you_all_do. 13 And what is [remaining], beloved, rejoice in chosen_one/messiah; and beware_of those_dishonourable in gain. 14 All let_be the_ _petitions of_you_all openly before god; and be firm in the_mind of_chosen_one/messiah. 15 And what sound and true and pure and just and lovable, do. 16 And what you_all_heard and received in the_heart hold_fast; 17 and will_be to_ _you_all peace. 18 Greet you_all the_holy_ones. 19 Grace of_master Yaʸsous with the_spirit of_ _you_all. 20 And cause to_be_read to_those_in_ _Kolossai and of_those_in_Kolossai to_you_all.

1 **RV 1:5 · Note** The Latin wording of this verse is difficult. This draft follows James's interpretation of its general sense; the precise meaning needs further review.

Literal Version

Readers' Version

20 Have this letter read to the people in Kolossai (Colossae), and have their letter read to you.

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LAO · OET-RV v0.1.1

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