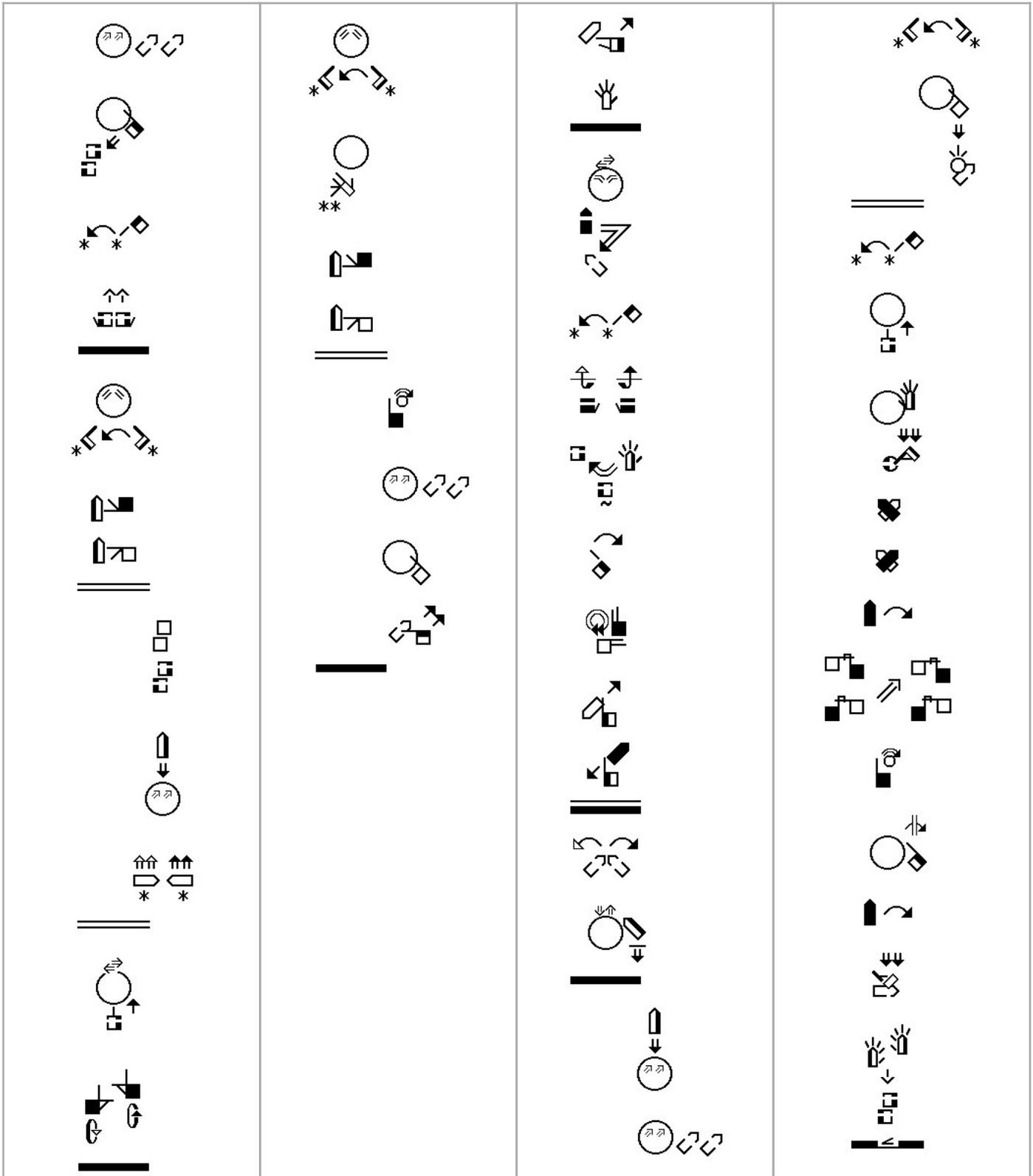


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Chapter 2. You yourselves know, dear brothers and sisters, that our visit to you was not a failure. Verse 2. You know how badly we had been treated at Philippi just before we came to you and how much we suffered there. Yet our God gave us the courage to declare his Good News
 NLT



to be entrusted with the Good News. Our purpose is to please God, not people. He alone examines the motives of our hearts. Verse 5. Never once did we try to win you with flattery, as you well know. And God is our witness that we were not pretending to be your friends just to get your money!
NLT

Verse 11. And you know that we treated each of you as a father treats his own children.
 Verse 12. We pleaded with you, encouraged you, and urged you to live your lives in a way that God would consider worthy. For he called you to share in his Kingdom and glory. Verse 13. Therefore, we never stop thanking God that when

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you received his message from us, you didn't think of our words as mere human ideas. You accepted what we said as the very word of God -- which, of course, it is. And this word continues to work in you who believe. Verse 14. And then, dear brothers and sisters, you suffered persecution from your NLT

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own countrymen. In this way, you imitated the believers in God's churches in Judea who, because of their belief in Christ Jesus, suffered from their own people, the Jews. Verse 15. For some of the Jews killed the prophets, NLT

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17 and some even killed the Lord Jesus. Now they have persecuted us, too. They fail to please God and work against all humanity Verse 16. as they try to keep us from preaching the Good News of salvation to the Gentiles. By doing this, they continue to pile up their sins. NLT

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But the anger of God has caught up with them at last. Verse 17. Dear brothers and sisters, after we were separated from you for a little while (though our hearts never left you), we tried very hard to come back because of our intense longing to see you again. Verse 18. We wanted very much to come to you, and I, Paul, tried again and again, NLT

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19 but Satan prevented us. Verse 19. After all, what gives us hope and joy, and what will be our proud reward and crown as we stand before our Lord Jesus when he returns? It is you! Verse 20. Yes, you are our pride and joy. NLT