

Series "Jesus Is First"
"Companions Of The New Life"
Colossians 4:7-18
Part-17

Paul was not only a great teacher, soul winner; he was a great friend-maker. There are more than 100 different Christians (named and unnamed) associated with Paul in the Book of **Acts** and in his **Epistles**. He named **26** different friends in **Romans 16** alone!

Paul addresses **9 individuals** in these closing verses.

Thought Of Our Passage: The New Life In Christ Can Be Seen In The Company And Companionship That We Keep.

1. Verses 7-9 – Paul’s Representatives

2. Verses 10-14 – Paul’s Coworkers

3. Verses 15-18 – Paul’s Readers

1. Verses 7-9 – Paul’s Representatives:

Colossians 4:7

"As to all my affairs," – Context: Paul has been speaking about "The New Life that Jesus Christ Gives." Now Paul closes with some greetings to some dear friends; "all my affairs," – "personal health, hopes, prospects."

From a Roman prison cell, Paul wrote Ephesians, Philippians, Philemon, and Colossians.

Verses 7-8 – Tychicus: "Tychicus," – name means "fortunate." His name is mentioned 5X in Scripture.

Paul first mentioned him at the end of Paul’s 3rd missionary journey at Ephesus, since he was a native of the province of Asia, Acts 20:4.

End of Paul’s life, he was sent to Crete, Titus 3:12.

Tychicus was sent to accomplish 2 Things:

1. Tychicus delivered the Epistle to the Colossians and he was to bring the slave Onesimus back to his owner in Colossae.

Ephesians 6:21-22

2. Tychicus was to inform the churches of Asia about Paul’s situation.

Called – “our beloved brother” – There can be no greater relationship than that of being in God’s family. (Born again)

Called – “and faithful servant” – “minister;” he was a servant of God, a servant to Paul.

“One Of The Greatest Abilities In The World Is Dependability.”

Called – “and fellow bond-servant in the Lord,” – Paul did not look at himself above Tychicus, but as both servants of the same Master with different tasks.

“will bring you information.” – Tychicus would personally tell them how Paul was.

Colossians 4:8 – “For I have sent him to you for this very purpose, that you may know about our circumstances” – Paul could trust this man to deliver a message, Philippians 1:12-23.

Galatians 6:2

“and that he may encourage your hearts;” – God was working, Philippians 1:12.

Lessons that we learn from Tychicus:

1. There Is Greatness In The Smallest Things Done For Christ.
2. The Momentary Things Done For Christ Are Eternal.

Colossians 4:9

Verse 9 – Onesimus: “and with him Onesimus,” – “profitable;” Prior to his conversion, was said by Paul to be “useless,” Philemon 1:11.

So Tychicus and Onesimus came with this letter of Colossians and also Philemon.

Luke 19:8-10

“our faithful,” – like Tychicus, Paul wanted Onesimus to stay with him, Philemon 1:13.

“and beloved brother” – like Tychicus, he had been born again; Was now part of God’s family.

2. Verses 10-14 – Paul’s Coworkers:

Colossians 4:10

These coworkers/friends were made up of 3 men that were Jews, Aristarchus, Mark, and Justus, and 3 that were Gentiles, Epaphras, Luke, and Demas.

Verses 10-11 – Jewish Coworkers: (1) “Aristarchus,” – name means root word “best meal, ruler of the dinner.”

He was from Macedonia and was with Paul when the riot broke out in Acts 19.

Proverbs 17:17

“and also Barnabas’ cousin (2) Mark”

He was one of Paul’s companion’s on Paul’s first missionary journey. He flaked out at Pamphylia and went back to Jerusalem, Acts 13:13.

Acts 15:39-40

Paul, later on, spoke highly of Mark in 2 Timothy 4:11.

“(about whom you received instructions: if he comes to you, welcome him);”

Colossians 4:11 – “and also Jesus who is called (3) Justus;” – The name is Greek equivalent of the Hebrew “Joshua;” Yahweh is salvation.

“who are from the circumcision;” – He was a Jew.

Verses 12-14 – Gentile Coworkers: (1) “Epaphras,” – is mentioned 3X (Colossians 1:17, 4:12, Philemon 23). Colossians 1 – was he the pastor of the church?

“who is one of your number,” – He was from the church and the city.

“always laboring earnestly for you in his prayers,” – The best thing we can do for anyone is to pray for them.

4 Things about Epaphras – love/prayers for them:

1. Consistent Prayer – “always” praying for you.
2. Fervent Prayer – “laboring earnestly” – we get our word “agonizing.”
3. Personal Prayer – “for you in his prayers”

4. Specific Prayer – “that you may stand perfect and fully assured in all the will of God.” – Believers would mature in their faith!

Colossians 4:13 – “For I testify for him that he has a deep concern for you” – What Paul says literally here is that, “I bear witness that he has a deep pain for you.”

“for you and for those who are in Laodicea and Hierapolis.” – This concern was for 3 cities, 6 miles from each other and 10 miles from Colossae.

Colossians 4:14

“(2) Luke, the beloved physician,” – He was a Gentile. The only gentile writer of the NT.

He first joins Paul in Acts 16:10-39 at Philippi. When the team left for Thessalonica, Luke stayed on in Philippi. At the third missionary journey, Luke joined him at Philippi, Acts 20:1-6, then from here on out, he stayed with Paul as his companion.

2 Timothy 4:11 – “Only Luke is with me.”

“sends you his greetings, and also (3) Demas.” – Mentioned 3X in Scripture:

1. Philemon 24
2. Colossians 4:14
3. 2 Timothy 4:10

3. Verses 15-18 – Paul’s Readers:

Colossians 4:15 – “Greet the brethren who are in Laodicea” – There were 3 cities: Colossae, Hierapolis, and Laodicea.

“Nympha” – or “Nymphas,” which we know nothing about.

“and the church that is in her house.” – In the first centuries of the church, local assemblies met in private homes.

Colossians 4:16 – “have it also read in the church of the Laodiceans;” – Paul’s great concern was that the Word of God be read and studied in these churches.

“have it also read” – The verb “read” means “to read aloud.”

1 Timothy 4:13

“and you, for your part read my letter that is coming from Laodicea.” – Some scholars think it is the Epistle to the Ephesians, 1 Corinthians 5:9.

Colossians 4:17

“Say to Archippus,” – Who was this? This could have been the son of Philemon.

Philemon 2

“Take heed to the ministry” – Paul’s last words before his salutation are directed at Archippus as an encouragement to continue faithfully in his ministry.

“which you have received in the Lord” – Paul reminded Archippus that his ministry was a gift from God.

“that you may fulfill it.” – The word “fulfill” carries with it the idea that God has definite purposes for His servants to accomplish.

Colossians 4:18 – “Remember my imprisonment.” – This spoke of Paul’s obedience, to the Lord, and his love by which he went to prison for the sake of the Gentiles.

Application:

1. Am I Cultivating Godly Relationships? Are My Only Friendships With Non-Believers? (Need to pray and seek to be a blessing to others, be dependable)
2. In Our Service To God And Others, There Is Greatness In The Smallest Things Done For Christ. The Momentary Things Done For Christ Are Eternal.
3. Paul’s Friends Were Both Jews And Gentiles. Our Friendships And Ministry Should Also Cross Racial And Cultural Lines. Jesus, In John 4, Ministered To A Woman Of Samaria.