

COLOSSIANS 4:7-18

*Paul closes this letter to the Colossians by showing his deep loyalty. This compels him to acknowledge some of his devout friends and co-workers within his ministry.

*Paul writes a remarkable list of names of people whom Paul knew from this part of the area around Ephesus. Even though Paul never had visited Colosse or Laodicea, this reveals that Paul had led many to Christ. Many of them had returned to their home cities that Paul never was able to reach directly or personally.

Colossians 4:7 - All my state shall Tychicus declare unto you, *who is* a beloved brother, and a faithful minister and fellowservant in the Lord:

1. Tychicus was apparently the one who was chosen by the Apostle Paul to carry this letter from Rome to Colosse.
 - a. He had previously traveled with Paul and was still with him during Paul's second imprisonment.

Acts 20:4 - And there accompanied him into Asia Sopater of Berea; and of the Thessalonians, Aristarchus and Secundus; and Gaius of Derbe, and Timotheus; and of Asia, Tychicus and Trophimus.
 - b. Tychicus was the pastor of the church in Ephesus. Paul mentions him in Ephesians 6, calling him a beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord.

Ephesians 6:21 - But that ye also may know my affairs, *and* how I do, Tychicus, a beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord, shall make known to you all things:
 - c. Tychicus is finally mentioned again in Paul's last testament in II Timothy 4:12 - *And Tychicus have I sent to Ephesus*. He became a wonderful brother in the Lord to the end.

Colossians 4:8 - Whom I have sent unto you for the same purpose, that he might know your estate, and comfort your hearts;

1. Tychicus collected offerings from Gentile Christian assemblies in the Philippian, Corinthian and Thessalonican churches to take as a love gift to the Jewish brethren in Jerusalem, in a show of brotherhood and unity.
2. Tychicus' trip to Colosse would serve two purposes:

First - He would give the saints there a firsthand account of Paul and his fellow servants in Rome.

Second - He would comfort their hearts by encouraging them to stand against the false teaching that was prevalent around them.
3. Apostle Paul had put his stamp of approval on Tychicus, so the church would accept him as he was dealing with all the current heresy going around at that time.

Colossians 4:9 - With Onesimus, a faithful and beloved brother, who is *one* of you. They shall make known unto you all things which *are done* here.

1. Onesimus was the runaway slave of his master Philemon. He fled his home in Colosse and more than likely had stolen from his master. He fled to Rome to escape punishment. Paul confirms this in his

personal letter to Philemon in verse 19 - *I Paul have written it with mine own hand, I will repay it: albeit I do not say to thee how thou owest unto me even thine own self besides.*

2. During his travel to Rome, he became hungry and probably heard Apostle Paul giving the grace gospel. Paul was able to lead Onesimus to Christ and he was saved - eventually to be returned to his master, Philemon, in Colosse.
3. Onesimus will carry this personal letter of Paul's to his former master, Philemon; while Tychicus carries the letter back to the church in Colosse. Two brethren arriving with two letters from Paul to the believers in Colosse.
4. Paul tells Philemon that Onesimus is his "faithful and beloved brother" and now - "who is one of you". You can see that there is a new relationship in Christ. There is now neither slave nor free. Now, a person's past has been forgiven!

Colossians 4:10 - Aristarchus my fellowprisoner saluteth you, and Marcus, sister's son to Barnabas, (touching whom ye received commandments: if he come unto you, receive him;)

1. Aristarchus, a fellow prisoner, was seized and imprisoned in Ephesus when a riot broke out over Paul's teaching.

Acts 19:24-29 - For a certain *man* named Demetrius, a silversmith, which made silver shrines for Diana, brought no small gain unto the craftsmen; Acts 19:25 Whom he called together with the workmen of like occupation, and said, Sirs, ye know that by this craft we have our wealth. Acts 19:26 Moreover ye see and hear, that not alone at Ephesus, but almost throughout all Asia, this Paul hath persuaded and turned away much people, saying that they be no gods, which are made with hands: Acts 19:27 So that not only this our craft is in danger to be set at nought; but also that the temple of the great goddess Diana should be despised, and her magnificence should be destroyed, whom all Asia and the world worshippeth. Acts 19:28 And when they heard *these sayings*, they were full of wrath, and cried out, saying, Great *is* Diana of the Ephesians. Acts 19:29 And the whole city was filled with confusion: and having caught Gaius and Aristarchus, men of Macedonia, Paul's companions in travel, they rushed with one accord into the theatre.

*He chose to be a prisoner with Paul when he was sent to Rome and he remained with Paul throughout his imprisonment.

Acts 27:1-2 - And when it was determined that we should sail into Italy, they delivered Paul and certain other prisoners unto *one* named Julius, a centurion of Augustus' band. Acts 27:2 And entering into a ship of Adramyttium, we launched, meaning to sail by the coasts of Asia; *one* Aristarchus, a Macedonian of Thessalonica, being with us.

2. Marcus is John Mark, the nephew of Barnabas - the son of his sister. He became the writer of the Gospel of Mark.
 - a. Mark left Paul and Barnabas on their first missionary journey in Acts 13 and decided to return home to Jerusalem.
 - b. At the beginning of Paul's second missionary journey, Barnabas desired to give Mark another chance and let him go on the journey with them. But Paul rejects the idea and it causes Paul and Barnabas to separate in Acts 15.
 - c. After Mark matures, he is found again with Paul during his imprisonment here in Colossians 4:10.
 - d. In Paul's last testimony, he speaks words of high praise about Mark - telling Timothy that he is profitable to him in the ministry.

II Timothy 4:11 - Only Luke is with me. Take Mark, and bring him with thee: for he is profitable to me for the ministry.

Colossians 4:11 - And Jesus, which is called Justus, who are of the circumcision. These only *are my* fellow-workers unto the kingdom of God, which have been a comfort unto me.

1. [*Jesus, which is called Justus*] would be in Hebrew the name, "Joshua". Being of the circumcision shows he is Jewish. There were several Jewish converts within the Colossian Church, which was mostly Gentiles. All we knew about Justus is that Paul approved his character in his ministry.
2. Paul salutes these three "from the circumcision believers", who had become Paul's fellow workers in the ministry of grace. Here Paul honors their names in scripture (Aristarchus, Marcus, and Justus).

Colossians 4:12 - Epaphras, who is *one* of you, a servant of Christ, saluteth you, always labouring fervently for you in prayers, that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.

1. Epaphras was the pastor in Colosse. At this time, he was also in prison with Paul. Epaphras prays fervently to be persistent in the ministry to those fellow believers at Colosse.

*His prayer became passionate by praying faithfully and laboring fervently to be complete in the will of God.
2. We cannot pray fervently without an enthusiastic love for people. The better we know people, the better we will be able to pray for them.

Colossians 4:13 - For I bear him record, that he hath a great zeal for you, and them *that are* in Laodicea, and them in Hierapolis.

1. Paul bears witness to the fact that Epaphras not only prayed for those in Colosse, but also for those Christians in Laodicea and Hierapolis.
2. These three cities were very close together in the region. This letter would reach these three churches and Epaphras included all of these in his prayers.

Colossians 4:14 - Luke, the beloved physician, and Demas, greet you.

1. Luke was Paul's beloved physician who helped Paul keep going physically. Luke had traveled with Paul substantially and he ministered to him spiritually and physically in times of sickness, persecution, and imprisonment.
2. Demas served Paul for a while, but we know from scripture that Demas would forsake Paul because of the popularity of this world.

II Timothy 4:10 - For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia.

Colossians 4:15 - Salute the brethren which are in Laodicea, and Nymphas, and the church which is in his house.

1. Greetings are now sent to the brethren in Laodicea. Paul singles out Nymphas, who used his house for the church assembly of the Christian believers in Laodicea.
2. These cities had several heathen temples, but the Christians always met in homes until later on in history.

Colossians 4:16 - And when this epistle is read among you, cause that it be read also in the church of the Laodiceans; and that ye likewise read the *epistle* from Laodicea.

1. After this epistle had been read in Colosse, it was to be sent to the church of the Laodiceans to be read also. Paul could have written an epistle to Laodicea separately, but there is no proof of this being done.
2. Some believe that Paul's letter to the Ephesians was the one in view here. Some theologians believe that the letter to the Ephesians might have been a circular letter which was supposed to be read in several different churches.
3. This is why the Epistles of Ephesians and Colossians have similar passages and are known as sister epistles.

Colossians 4:17 - And say to Archippus, Take heed to the ministry which thou hast received in the Lord, that thou fulfil it.

1. Many believe that Archippus was the son of Philemon and he became a faithful soldier and an active leader in the Colossian church.
2. Paul encourages him to use the gift he has been given and to stay faithful in the Lord's work. Paul mentions him again in his personal letter to his father, Philemon, - Philemon 1:2 - *And to our beloved Apphia, and Archippus our fellowsoldier, and to the church in thy house:*

*Apphia, in this verse, was probably Philemon's wife.

Colossians 4:18 - The salutation by the hand of me Paul. Remember my bonds. Grace *be* with you. Amen.

1. Paul dictated most of his letters because of his physical disabilities. But here, the apostle Paul took the pen in his own hand.
2. Paul closes by giving the Colossians his signature to show that the letter was from him. He then asks them to remember him in his imprisonment being in chains.

*The chains on his hands proved an inconvenience in writing. The sound of pen and chains together is a sign that chains cannot bind the Word of God.
3. Paul closes his letter with the words, "*Grace be with you. Amen.*" Paul was well known for closing out his letters by reminding those believers the grace they received from God - the Grace that had saved them.
4. There is no richer word than the word "grace"! It carries in it all of God's love, that we know is the perfect gift of His Son Jesus Christ for us into eternity. Amen!