

Scriptures for Today: Colossians 4:7-18 – God's people working together to accomplish His work

Today's Message:
"The Gospel Team"

INTRODUCTION

Last week, we arrived at Paul's closing exhortations. We must pray faithfully, walk wisely, and speak graciously. The Gospel life is both inwardly dependent on God and outwardly visible to our families and the world. This week, we will be reminded of the importance of **working together** to accomplish the work of the Lord – leading people to Jesus Christ and making disciples. We are here to win souls, reproduce disciples, send out missionaries, and plant churches until Jesus Christ comes for us. What are you doing to help *your* local church? God's epic plan includes **all** Christians growing up in Christ and faithfully plugging into His work to reach the entire world for Christ. This is God's message to you...

LEARNING TOGETHER**❖ The Text Colossians 4:7-18****A. Faithful Messengers – the word of God must go to the ends of the earth.**

1. In the work of the Lord, **FAITHFUL** servants minister the word of God to others.

- *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:*
- *Colossians 4:9 – With Onesimus, a faithful and beloved brother, WHO IS ONE OF YOU. They shall make known unto you all things...*

Acts 20:4

... and of Asia,
Tychicus...

Faithful Messengers:

Tychicus – beloved, brother, faithful: **Acts 20:4; Eph 6:21-22; 2 Tim 4:12; Titus 3:12**

Onesimus – beloved, brother, faithful: **Philemon** – runaway slave; Christ transformed life!

"All my state" Paul entrusted his reputation and condition to Tychicus; trusted Him much!

"Comfort your hearts" Ministry is not just information, but encouragement and life-giving!

"With Onesimus" His inclusion points to redemption, reconciliation, and God's epic plan!

Ephesians 6:21-22

... **Tychicus**, a beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord... Whom I have sent unto you... that he might comfort your hearts.

Comparing Scriptures

- **2 Timothy 4:12** – And **Tychicus** have I sent to Ephesus.
- **Titus 3:12** – When I shall send Artemas unto thee, or **Tychicus**, be diligent to come...
- **2 Corinth 5:17** – Therefore if **any** man be in Christ, he is a new creature...

Key Truth

- The church **must** be a place where past **FAILURES** do not define future usefulness.

These men were trusted to carry the Gospel message and Paul's letters to these churches.

The word of God and the future of Christ's church depended on their faithfulness.

For almost 2,000 years, God's people have been blessed because of their faithfulness to Christ.

B. Faithful Partners – a diverse team working together to advance the gospel.

2. Faithful believers must work **TOGETHER** to advance Christ's kingdom.

- **Colossians 4:10**– *Aristarchus my fellowprisoner... and Marcus...*
- **Colossians 4:11**– *And Jesus which is called Justus... of the circumcision...
... my fellowworkers unto the kingdom of God... comfort...*
- **Colossians 4:12**– *Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ...*
- **Colossians 4:14** – *Luke, the beloved physician, and Demas...*

1 Corinth 12:27

Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.

Philippians 1:27

... that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;

Important Note

God uses... imperfect people in cooperative mission – unity does not require uniformity.

Faithful Partners:

Aristarchus – fellow prisoner – one of Paul's missionary team to Asia: **Acts 20:4**

Marcus (a.k.a. John Mark) – wrote Gospel; restored after failure: **Acts 15:37-39; 2 Tim 4:11**

Jesus (a.k.a. Justus) – a Jewish believer; a fellow worker for Christ's kingdom, comfort to Paul

Epaphras – a prayer warrior, minister from Colossae: **Colossians 1:7** (zealous heart)

Luke (a.k.a. Lucas) – the beloved physician, missionary, and historian; wrote Gospel + Acts

Demas – In this list, he is the only one with no detail; possible foreshadow of **2 Tim 4:10**

Comparing Scriptures

- **Luke 10:2** – *[Jesus speaking] ... The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few...*
- **2 Timothy 4:10** – *For Demas hath forsaken me; having loved this present world...*

Key Truths

- Ministry is a team effort; what are you doing to help our TEAM (local church)?

C. Faithful Churches – the local church bears responsibility for God's mission.

3. Faithful churches must **REPRODUCE** faithful disciples, missionaries, and churches.

Acts 2:46

And they, continuing DAILY with one accord in the temple... house to house...

1 Thess 5:27

I charge you by the Lord that this epistle be READ unto all the holy brethren.

2 Timothy 4:5

... make full proof of thy ministry.

▪ **Colossians 4:15** – *Salute THE BRETHREN which are in Laodicea, and Nympha, and THE CHURCH which is in his house.*

▪ **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.*

▪ **Colossians 4:17** – *And say to Archippus, TAKE HEED TO THE MINISTRY, which thou hast received in the Lord, that thou fulfil it.*

▪ **Colossians 4:18** – *... Remember my bonds. Grace be with you. Amen.*

"The church which is in his house" Churches met in home or gathered where possible

"This epistle is read... cause that it be read" Scripture was circulated and read publicly

"Take heed... ministry... received in the Lord... fulfil it" Ministry must be fulfilled, not abandoned!

Key Truths

- A ministry calling is to be not just received – it must be **COMPLETED** for Christ!
- Every believer has a stewardship; **YOU must** finish the work God has given you!

Paul closes with a reminder of his suffering for Christ and God's sufficient grace to sustain. The word of God is carried by faithful messengers... united partners advance the mission... and obedient churches finish the work, by God's grace. What will be said of you and our church?