

COLOSSIANS

Brothers, Sisters, Ministers, Servants, Fellow Workers

Scriptures

Colossians 4:2-18

Ephesians 1:7-10

Colossians 4:12 Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ Jesus, greets you, always struggling on your behalf in his prayers, that you may stand mature and fully assured in all the will of God.

Brothers and sisters

To each other, we are family.

1 Timothy 3:15

Demas - a warning

2 Timothy 4:10

Mark (John Mark) - an encouragement

Acts 13:13, Acts 15:39, 2 Timothy 4:11, Philemon 1:24

Ministers (deacons)

To the work, *we are faithful ministers.*

Phoebe - Rom 16:1

Apollos and Paul - 1Co 3:5

Paul - Eph 3:7

Diversity in the church in Colossae

- Slave - Onesimus
- Doctor - Luke
- Women householder - Nympha
- Spiritual son - Timothy
- Predominantly Greek (Gentile) being written to by Paul (Jew)

Servants (bondservants, slaves)

To the Lord, we are servants

John 15:15

Galatians 1:10

Fellow Workers

To the Work, we are fellow workers

“Salvation is not gained by moral perfection. It is a gift that comes by grace, through faith (Eph. 2:8–9). That in turn means salvation cannot be lost by moral imperfection. What is not at all gained by performance cannot be lost by poor performance. Salvation is about believing loyalty—trusting what Jesus did to defeat Satan’s claim and turning from all other gods and the belief systems of which they are a part.”

— Michael S. Heiser, “Supernatural”

RESOURCES (Links published on JICC App)

3DQ - 3 Discipleship questions to ask each other: What is God saying to you? What are you going to do about it? How can I help?

We will take each area and give one application point.

1. **We are family.** Reread Colossians 4:12. Consider how Epaphras labored on behalf of others ... IN PRAYER. Make a list of three people to spend this next few weeks praying for their maturity: 1. Someone close to you. 2. Someone you know that is going through a difficult time 3. Someone who is difficult for you (that easily frustrates you or has hurt you or disappointed you in some way)
2. **We are ministers.** Consider how commitment to serve others comes because the value of it has been revealed to you. This often comes through a specific experience. (discuss this reality) Where could you be challenged to step out and serve in a way that is different than what you have experienced before? Look for God to surprise you and either -- give you a new place that you can serve OR clarify an area of weakness for you and strength for others -- refining where you might serve in the future.