



[Gracious - Epaphras](#)

Jared Coe

Selected texts

July 26, 2026

[Life Change: We faithfully share the grace of God](#)

More to him than meets the eye...

A Gracious Fellow Slave

Colossians 1:3-8

A Faithful Minister

Colossians 1:3-8

A Prayerful Wrestler

Colossians 4:12-13

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Upcoming
Events



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PAUL'S VALUABLE PARTNERS

VIRTUS

Aquila & Priscilla

Timothy

John Mark

Epaphroditus

EPAPHRAS

Titus TIMOTHY

Luke

Barnabas



PLEASE SILENCE YOUR PHONE



Courtesy of the Desmond Doss Council



Courtesy of the Desmond Doss Council



Courtesy of the Desmond Doss Council

A dark, circular frame with a thin white border is centered on a textured red background. Inside the circle, the text "A Gracious Fellow Slave" is written in a white, serif font.

A Gracious
Fellow Slave

We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, for we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all the saints because of the hope reserved for you in heaven. You have already heard about this hope in the word of truth, the gospel that has come to you. It is bearing fruit and growing all over the world, just as it has among you since the day you heard it and came to truly appreciate God's grace. You learned this from Epaphras, our dearly loved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf, and he has told us about your love in the Spirit.

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Divine Authority

Judaism

Yahweh is a
living being and
personally
engaged with
humanity

Greeks

Pantheon of
gods ruled and
were driven by
the same
flawed passions
as humans

Phrygian

Mother
goddess
embodied
nature's
wisdom and
permanence

Ethics

Judaism

Obey the Torah

Greeks

Individual
excellence and
the pursuit of
reason

Phrygian

Divine ecstasy
justifies
behavior that
violates
ordinary social
norms

Social Organization

Judaism

Anyone could
convert. Affirm
exclusive loyalty
to Yawheh

Greeks

Anyone could
assimilate and
continue to
believe what
they want

Phrygian

Must believe
the Mother
goddess was
the ultimate
authority

New Testament Roman Provinces



The fact that the Christian gospel could transform a wildly emotional people like the inhabitants of Phrygia is eloquent testimonial to the fact that it is “the power of God unto salvation, to everyone that believes.” More powerful than the march of conquering armies was the quiet leaven of the Christian message challenging entrenched prejudices and traditions of the past “days of their ignorance.”



Who shared the good
news of God's grace
with you?



Who are you
compelled to share the
good news of God's
grace with?

G - God created us to be with Him

O

S

P

E

L

G - God created us to be with Him

O - Our sins separate us from God

S

P

E

L

G - God created us to be with Him
O - Our sins separate us from God
S - Sins cannot be removed by good deeds
P
E
L

G - God created us to be with Him

O - Our sins separate us from God

S - Sins cannot be removed by good deeds

P - Paying the price for sin, Jesus died and rose again

E

L

G - God created us to be with Him

O - Our sins separate us from God

S - Sins cannot be removed by good deeds

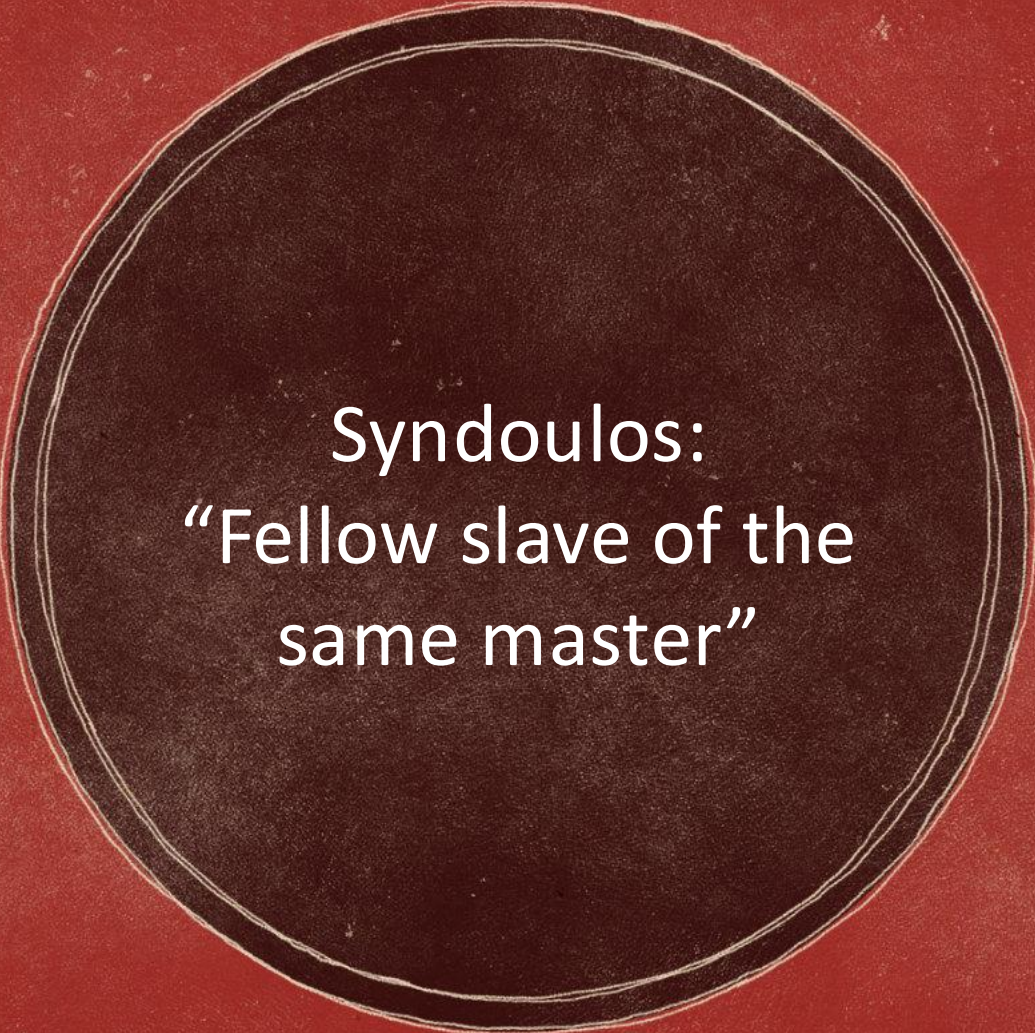
P - Paying the price for sin, Jesus died and rose again

E - Everyone who trusts in Him alone has eternal life

L

- G** - God created us to be with Him
- O** - Our sins separate us from God
- S** - Sins cannot be removed by good deeds
- P** - Paying the price for sin, Jesus died and rose again
- E** - Everyone who trusts in Him alone has eternal life
- L** - Life with Jesus starts now and lasts forever

We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, for we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all the saints because of the hope reserved for you in heaven. You have already heard about this hope in the word of truth, the gospel that has come to you. It is bearing fruit and growing all over the world, just as it has among you since the day you heard it and came to truly appreciate God's grace. You learned this from Epaphras, our dearly loved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf, and he has told us about your love in the Spirit.



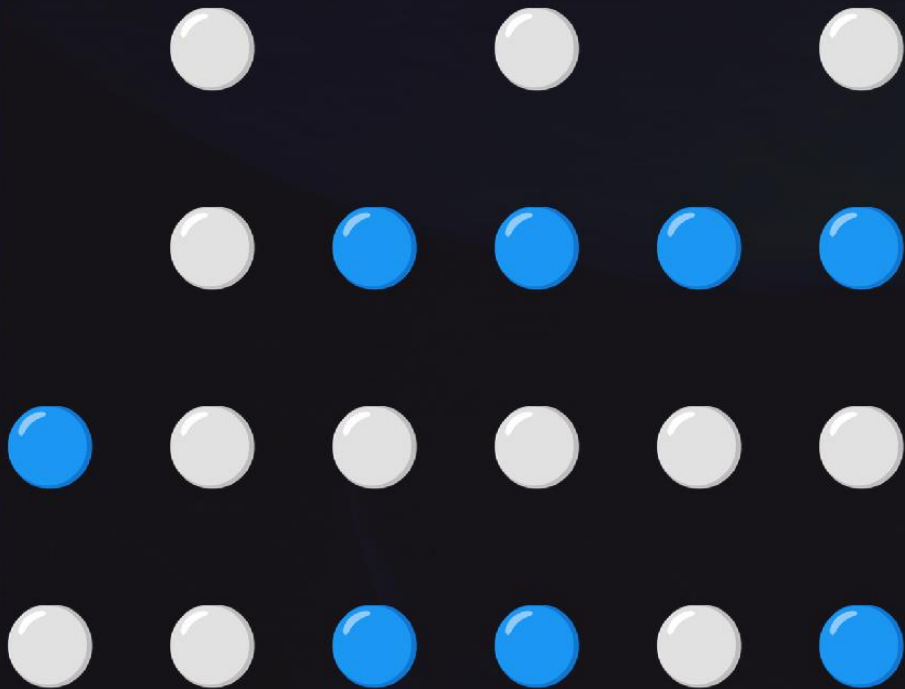
Syndoulos:
“Fellow slave of the
same master”



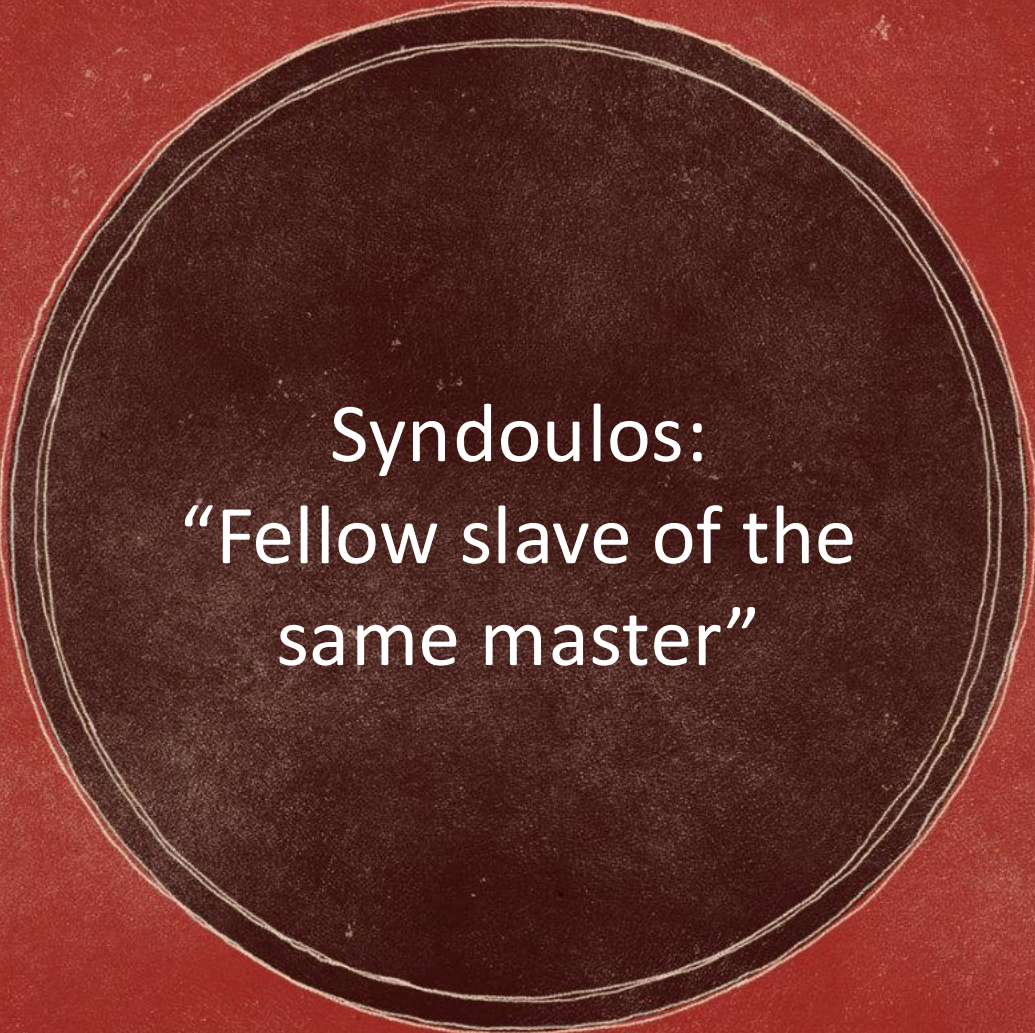
You see, dear - I think there are two types of people in the world. Those who divide the world up into two kinds of people...and those who don't.

- Tony Hendra

BINARY CLOCK



There are 10 kinds of
people in the world.
Those who understand
binary and those who
don't.



Syndoulos:
“Fellow slave of the
same master”

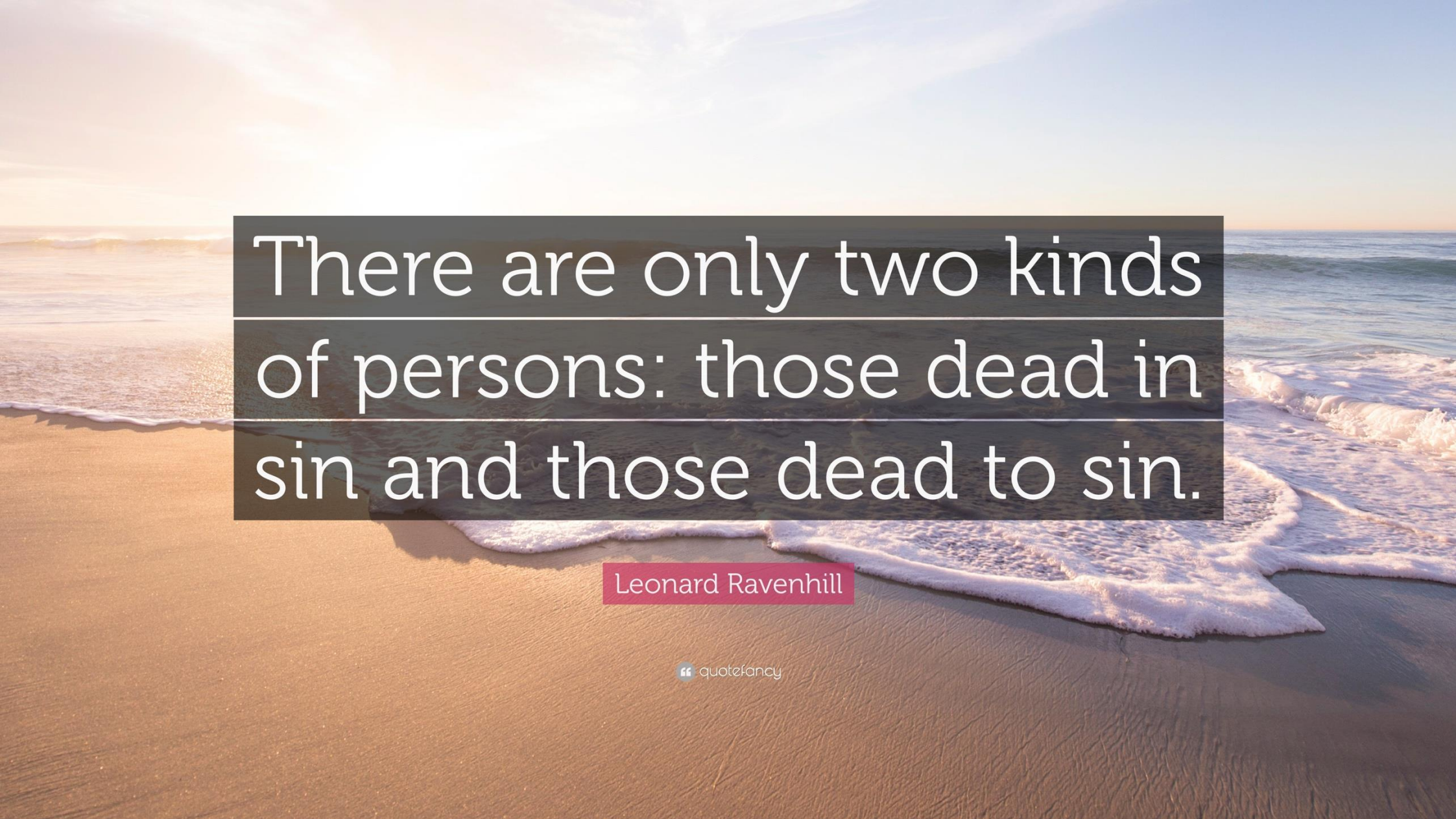
“What then? Should we sin because we are not under the law but under grace? Absolutely not! Don’t you know that if you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of that one you obey—either of sin leading to death or of obedience leading to righteousness? But thank God that, although you used to be slaves of sin, you obeyed from the heart that pattern of teaching to which you were handed over, and having been set free from sin, you became enslaved to righteousness. I am using a human analogy because of the weakness of your flesh.

For just as you offered the parts of yourselves as slaves to impurity, and to greater and greater lawlessness, so now offer them as slaves to righteousness, which results in sanctification. For when you were slaves of sin, you were free with regard to righteousness. So what fruit was produced then from the things you are now ashamed of? The outcome of those things is death. But now, since you have been set free from sin and have become enslaved to God, you have your fruit, which results in sanctification—and the outcome is eternal life!

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

“For you know that you were redeemed from your empty way of life inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of an unblemished and spotless lamb.”

“This is how we know that we love God’s children: when we love God and obey his commands. For this is what love for God is: to keep his commands. And his commands are not a burden, because everyone who has been born of God conquers the world. This is the victory that has conquered the world: our faith.”



There are only two kinds
of persons: those dead in
sin and those dead to sin.

Leonard Ravenhill



A Faithful Minister



Courtesy: Tim Vincent



“I’m humbled, Jared, and to be honest I’m often not sure if it’s faithfulness or just foolishness that has kept me in youth ministry this long. I pray it’s the prior but fear it’s the latter. In any case, you certainly have my permission with one caveat, please don’t paint me as a saint...I’m not! I’m simply a servant doing my master’s business. That’s it!”

- Tim Vincent

We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, for we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all the saints because of the hope reserved for you in heaven. You have already heard about this hope in the word of truth, the gospel that has come to you. It is bearing fruit and growing all over the world, just as it has among you since the day you heard it and came to truly appreciate God's **grace**. You learned this from Epaphras, our dearly loved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf, and he has told us about your love in the Spirit.



Pistos:
Faithful/Trustworthy

A
Prayerful
Wrestler

“Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ Jesus, sends you greetings. He is always wrestling for you in his prayers, so that you can stand mature and fully assured in everything God wills. For I testify about him that he works hard for you, for those in Laodicea, and for those in Hierapolis.”

“Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ Jesus, sends you greetings. He is always wrestling for you in his prayers, so that you can stand mature and fully assured in everything God wills. For I testify about him that **he works hard for you**, for those in Laodicea, and for those in Hierapolis.”

“Works hard” (echei polyn ponon) = heavy toil to the extent of pain.

“Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ Jesus, sends you greetings. He is always wrestling for you in his prayers, so that you can stand mature and fully assured in everything God wills. For I testify about him that he works hard for you, for those in Laodicea, and for those in Hierapolis.”

Wrestling (agōnizomai) = To contend for, exert, fight for

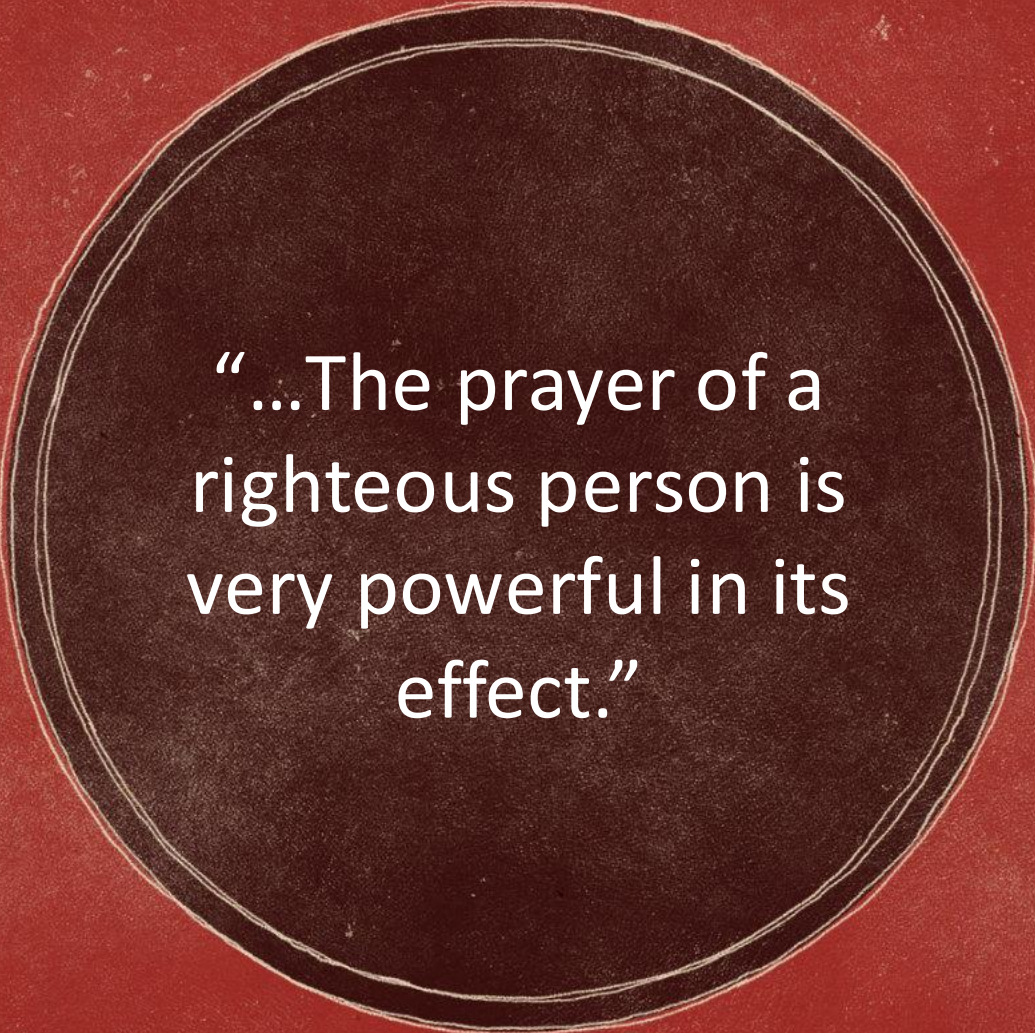


Courtesy: Garyn Marshall



Courtesy: Garyn Marshall

“Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ Jesus, sends you greetings. ~~He is always wrestling for you in his prayers, so that you~~ can stand mature and fully assured in everything God will ~~I~~ testify about him that ~~he works hard for you, for those in Laodicea,~~ and for those in Hierapolis.”



“...The prayer of a
righteous person is
very powerful in its
effect.”

- Fellow slaves of Christ
- Faithful ministers
- Prayer wrestlers

PAUL'S VALUABLE PARTNERS

VIRTUS

Aquila & Priscilla

John Mark

EPAPHRAS

Luke



Apolllos

Epaphroditus

Titus TIMOTHY

Barnabas