



Lesson 14

4:7-18 Tychicus will tell you all the news about me. He is a dear brother, a faithful minister and fellow servant in the Lord. ⁸ I am sending him to you for the express purpose that you may know about our circumstances and that he may encourage your hearts. ⁹ He is coming with Onesimus, our faithful and dear brother, who is one of you. They will tell you everything that is happening here. ¹⁰ My fellow prisoner Aristarchus sends you his greetings, as does Mark, the cousin of Barnabas. (You have received instructions about him; if he comes to you, welcome him.) ¹¹ Jesus, who is called Justus, also sends greetings. These are the only Jews among my fellow workers for the kingdom of God, and they have proved a comfort to me. ¹² Epaphras, who is one of you and a servant of Christ Jesus, sends greetings. He is always wrestling in prayer for you, that you may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured. ¹³ I vouch for him that he is working hard for you and for those at Laodicea and Hierapolis. ¹⁴ Our dear friend Luke, the doctor, and Demas send greetings. ¹⁵ Give my greetings to the brothers at Laodicea, and to Nympha and the church in her house. ¹⁶ After this letter has been read to you, see that it is also read in the church of the Laodiceans and that you in turn read the letter from Laodicea. ¹⁷ Tell Archippus: "See to it that you complete the work you have received in the Lord." ¹⁸ I, Paul, write this greeting in my own hand. Remember my chains. Grace be with you.

Notes:

- v. 9 - "faithful and dear (beloved) brother" = Paul's high estimation of coworkers
- v. 12 - "wrestling" = picturesque description of prayer as 'agonizing' - to engage in a struggle
- v. 15 - Note the presence of house churches
- v. 16 - It was assumed that upon reception, Paul's letter were read aloud
- v. 16 - The Letter from Laodicea is otherwise unknown. Some say it could have been the letter of Ephesians that was making its round from one church to another.
- V. 18 - Paul apparently always wrote the closing greeting in his own hand to certify the genuineness of the letter. He tells the Thessalonians this is his standard practice (2 Thess. 3:17). He wrote the letter of Galatians with large letters (6:11).

1.) Get in groups and use your Bibles to identify...

- Tychicus (Acts 20:4; Ephesians 6:21; 2 Timothy 4:12; Titus 3:12)
- Onesimus (Philemon 8-16)

- Aristarchus (Acts 19:29; 20:4; 27:2; Philemon 24)
- Mark (Acts 12:25; 15:36-40; 2 Timothy 4:11; Philemon 24; 1 Peter 5:13)
- Barnabas (Acts 4:36; 9:27; 15:36-40; Galatians 2:9,13)
- Jesus, also called Justus (only mentioned here): A coworker of Paul in Rome.
- Epaphras (Colossians 1:7; Philemon 23)
- Luke (2 Timothy 4:11; Philemon 24; see also Paul's journeys in Acts 16:8-10ff)
- Demas (Philemon 24; 2 Timothy 4:10)
- Nympha (only mentioned here) A woman who had opened her house to Christians in Colosse.
- Archippus (Philemon 2) A worker in the church at Colosse, possibly a son of Philmon and Apphia, or at least a member of their household.

2.) Why is it important to inform others about ourselves and take the initiative to stay informed about others?

3.) What makes Christian friendships so extraordinary?