

**Col 4:7-9**  
**“Precious People” (Pt. 1)**

**Introduction**

Paul is wrapping things up with final statements about specific people. Although today these people are long-gone, there is still much for us to learn from Paul's closing comments.

What is in a name?

A Name can provoke a lot of emotion, thoughts and opinions by it just being mentioned: Names- Napoleon, Hitler, Hilary, Judas, Satan, Osama Ben laden, Jesus, George W. Bush, Billy Graham

**Paul mentions over 100 people in all his various letters** and many stayed with him for years!

- He mentions 26 different people in the book of Romans alone!
- Here at the end of **Colossians Paul mentions 10 people.**

**You will find different types of people in this world:**

- Those who strengthen you and those who drain you – “don’t write them off just yet.”
- Those who are your counselors and those who are your counselees.
- You have supporters and those you support.
- You have prayer warriors, and those you must spend a lot of time praying for.

In your life’s journey you have very few people who will stick-it-out with you through thick and thin to the very end. And, you will find there are those who will abandon you in your time of need, as Paul found:

**2 Tim 4:16**

16 At my first defense no one stood with me, **but all forsook me.** May it not be charged against them.

17 **But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me,** so that the message might be preached fully through me, and that all the Gentiles might hear. Also I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion. 18 And the Lord will deliver me from every evil work and preserve me for His heavenly kingdom. To Him be glory forever and ever. Amen!

**Quote:**

*“You will discover, that when you need people the most, that they will be there the least”.*

But the “Lord” will never forsake you!!!!

**Psalms 27:10**

10 When my father and my mother forsake me,  
**Then the LORD will take care of me.**

**Psalms 60:11-12**

11 Give us help from trouble,  
 For the help of man is useless. (KJV - ..for **vain** is the help of man).

**12 Through God we will do valiantly,**

**For it is He** who shall tread down our enemies.

**All we can do individually is pray:**

“Lord help me to “not be” that faithless friend, or worse yet, that divisive person or the hurtful person. But, help me to be that “positive”, believing, praying, and helpful friend”.

**Now as we look at the various people in Paul’s life and ministry we will discover that God uses all kinds of people to do the work of the Lord:**

**Col 4:7-9**

7 **Tychicus**, a beloved brother, faithful minister, and fellow servant in the Lord, will tell you all the news about me. 8 I am sending him to you for this very purpose, that he may know your circumstances and comfort your hearts,  
9 with **Onesimus**, a faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you. They will make known to you all things which are happening here.

**4:7-8 #1 - Tychicus**

**Col 4:7-8**

7 **Tychicus**, a beloved brother, faithful minister, and fellow servant in the Lord, will tell you all the news about me. 8 I am sending him to you for this very purpose, that he may know your circumstances and comfort your hearts,

**A. Tychicus (Too-khee-kos), but we will pronounce it a more familiar way (Tie-chee-kus)**

- Tychicus is mentioned five times in the New Testament (Acts 20:4; Eph 6:21-22; Col 4:7; Titus 3:12; 2 Tim 4:12).
- He was an Asiatic Christian who, with Trophimus, accompanied the Apostle Paul on a part of his journey from Macedonia to Jerusalem.
- He is also alluded to have been with Paul in Rome, where the apostle sent him to Ephesus, probably for the purpose of building up and encouraging the church there.
- Apparently, the Colossian Christians didn’t know who Tychicus was personally.

**1. On Paul’s 3<sup>rd</sup> missionary journey he accompanied Paul on his return trip to Jerusalem.**

Tychicus along with Trophimus, accompanied the Apostle Paul on a part of his journey from Macedonia to Jerusalem.

**Acts 20:4**

4 And Sopater of Berea **accompanied him to Asia** -- also Aristarchus and Secundus of the Thessalonians, and Gaius of Derbe, and Timothy, and **Tychicus** and Trophimus of Asia.

**2. Paul was considering sending him to the Island of Crete**

**Titus 3:12** (*Titus was pastoring the church in Crete and needed help*)

12 When I send Artemas to you, **or Tychicus**, be diligent to come to me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there.

**3. Paul wanted to see Timothy once again before he died, and he sent Tychicus as his replacement in Ephesus.**

**2 Tim 4:12** (*Timothy was pastoring the church in Ephesus*)

12 And Tychicus I have sent to Ephesus.

**4. He carried the letter to Ephesus, and told the church of Paul’s current state.**  
**Eph 6:21-22**

21 But that you also may know my affairs and how I am doing, **Tychicus, a beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord**, will make all things known to you; 22 whom I have sent to you for this very purpose, that you may know our affairs, and that he may comfort your hearts.

**Note:**

All ministries need people like “Tychicus”, who can just fill in at any spot, because they are dependable and also, whatever they do, it will be done right.

**B. The Character, and the Characteristics of Tychicus:**

Tychicus is:

1. **a beloved brother,**

Beloved (agapetos) (agape-tos) – the root of agape – he is an “Agape Brother”. We have many “**Agapetos**” brothers and sisters here in our fellowship.

**Brother** (i.e. brother in Christ)

Do you see fellow Believers as Family? We should!

**\*\*\*How does a person become a part of the family of God?**

Maybe you’re listening now and asking, “How can I join the Family, I need a Family.”

**John 1:12**

12 But **as many as received Him**, to them **He gave the right to become children of God**, to **those who believe** in His name:

**Gal 3:26** For **you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus**.

**John 3:3**

3 Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, **unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God**."

**John 3:7**

6 "That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and **that which is born of the Spirit is spirit**." 7 "Do not marvel that I said to you, **'You must be born again.'**

**John 3:14-15**

14 "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up,

15 "**that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life**."

**John 3:16-17**

16 "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, **that whoever believes in Him should NOT PERISH but have EVERLASTING LIFE**."

17 "For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

2. **faithful Minister or servants**

A faithful minister, or Greek word, "diakonos" - a deacon, a waiter, serves food and cares for the poor, carry out duties for the benefit of others and being faithfully being a servant to the body of Christ.

Many have said, To be a part of any ministry team:

1. He must be Available
2. He must be Teachable
3. He must be Faithful

3. **fellow servant/slave in the Lord,**

A Bondslave - Greek word, "syndoulos" "**doulos** – a slave; **syndoulos** - a fellow slave hooked together and owned by the same Master.

**Jesus calls us all to be a "diakonos and doulos":**

**Matt 20:26-27**

26 "Yet it shall not be so among you; but **whoever desires to become great among you**, let him be your **servant (i.e. diakonos)**

27 "And **whoever desires to be first among you**, let him be your **slave (i.e. doulos)**—

C. **will tell you all the news about me.**

But he would carry this letter to them (**will tell you all the news about me**).

D. **Putting verse 7 and 8 together:**

Tychicus was sent to Colosse, both **to report to the believers** there how Paul was doing and to **bring word back to Paul** how they were doing.

1. **I am sending him to you for this very purpose,**
2. **that he may know your circumstances**
3. **comfort your hearts,**

E. **How awesome it is to have beloved, and faithful servants working together:**

**Psalms 133:1-3**

1 **Behold, how good and how pleasant it is**

**For brethren to dwell together in unity!**

2 It is like the precious oil upon the head, Running down on the beard, The beard of Aaron, Running down on the edge of his garments.

3 It is like the dew of Hermon, Descending upon the mountains of Zion;

**For there the LORD commanded the blessing--Life forevermore.**

- Like in the upper room in Acts 1-2, "*They were in one accord together*"!!
- This is where and when God can pour out His Spirit.

4:9 #2 - Onesimus

Col 4:9

9 with **Onesimus**, a faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you. They will make known to you all things which are happening here.

#### A. with Onesimus,

If you're a student of the Word, you know **Onesimus plays a key role in the Book of Philemon.**

- Onesimus was “a slave” owned by a believer in Colosse named “Philemon”, but he ran away and came into contact with Paul in Rome.
- There, Onesimus became a Christian and a dedicated helper to Paul.
- His story is continued in Paul’s **letter to Philemon.**

Onesimus was from Colosse, as also from Philemon – “who was the one of you”:

#### **Philemon 1**

1 Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,  
**To Philemon** our beloved friend and fellow laborer,

#### **Philemon 8-22**

8 Therefore, though I might be very bold in Christ to command you what is fitting,  
9 yet for love's sake I rather appeal to you -- being such a one as Paul, the aged,  
and now also a prisoner of Jesus Christ –

10 **I appeal to you for my son Onesimus, whom I have begotten while in my chains,**

**11 who once was unprofitable to you, but now is profitable to you and to me.**

12 I am sending him back. You therefore receive him, that is, my own heart,

13 whom I wished to keep with me, **that on your behalf he might minister to me in my chains** for the gospel.

14 **But without your consent I wanted to do nothing, that your good deed might not be by compulsion, as it were, but voluntary.**

15 **For perhaps he departed for a while for this purpose, that you might receive him forever,** 16 **no longer as a slave but more than a slave -- a beloved brother,** especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord. 17 If then you count me as a partner, **receive him as you would me.**

18 But **if he has wronged you or owes anything, put that on my account.** 19 I, Paul, am writing with my own hand. **I will repay -- not to mention to you that you owe me even your own self besides.**

20 Yes, brother, let me have joy from you in the Lord; refresh my heart in the Lord.

21 Having confidence in your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say. 22 But, meanwhile, also prepare a guest room for me, for I trust that through your prayers I shall be granted to you.

- The church met in Philemon’s house
- Onesimus was a runaway slave from Philemon.
- This is a potential for a big problem!
- Onesimus comes to Rome and ends up with Paul, and Paul leads him to the Lord.
- Tychicus was traveling with Onesimus and being sent back to his master to get that relationship right.
- Paul was interested in having relationships mended.
- Paul wrote a letter to Philemon to get things straight between the two.

God can redeem our past, for we become new creations in Christ:

**2 Cor 5:17**

17 Therefore, if **anyone** is **in Christ**, he is a new creation; **old things have passed away**; **behold, all things have become new.**

**B. a faithful**

When the end of days comes, and after all the things that God has given us to do is done, there is one simple thing God will look at.

**Have you been Faithful?**

**1 Cor 4:2** Moreover it is required in stewards **that one be found faithful.**

**Matt 25:21**

21 "His lord said to him, '**Well done**, good and **faithful servant**; **you were faithful over a few things**, I will make you ruler over many things. **Enter into the joy of your lord.**'

**The whole passage out of 1 Cor 4:**

**1 Cor 4:1-5**

1 Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. **2 Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.**

3 But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by a human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. 4 For I know of nothing against myself, yet I am not justified by this; but He who judges me is the Lord. 5 Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts. Then each one's praise will come from God.

**Note:**

Being Judged by God is a very complicated thing that ONLY God can do. But we can ask the question to ourselves; "Am I being faithful with the little God has entrusted me with?"

**Prov 20:6**

6 Most men will proclaim each his own goodness,  
**But who can find a faithful man?**

**C. and beloved brother,**

Onesimus like Tychicus was also a beloved brother as well.

**D. who is one of you.**

Onesimus is now back in his own home town, BUT he is now a believer and is one in "spirit" with them; the church of **Colossae.**

**E. They will make known to you all things which are happening here.**

Onesimus, know doubt, has unique first hand info on what was happening with Paul, as well as, Tychicus.

<b>Conclusion</b>
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Next week we will continue to see the unique people that were in Paul's life and ministry.

1. Paul's life in Prison is an example to all of us, that God can turn all things around for good (Rom 8:28). So, whatever your circumstance, God will "work it all together for good" in your difficult situation as well.
2. Let's be Faithful servants of Christ, Let's live in the Spirit and be used daily by the Lord.
3. Let's bring Comforting words from God to one another, and to our very dark world, where there are so many precious people that need the "Good News" of Jesus!!