

Colossians 4:7-18 ⁷ *All my state shall Tychicus declare unto you, who is a beloved brother, and a faithful minister and fellowservant in the Lord:* ⁸ *whom I have sent unto you for the same purpose, that he might know your estate, and comfort your hearts;* ⁹ *with Onesimus, a faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you. They shall make known unto you all things which are done here.* ¹⁰ *Aristarchus my fellowprisoner saluteth you, and Marcus, sister's son to Barnabas, (touching whom ye received commandments: if he come unto you, receive him;)* ¹¹ *and Jesus, which is called Justus, who are of the circumcision. These only are my fellowworkers unto the kingdom of God, which have been a comfort unto me.* ¹² *Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ, saluteth you, always labouring fervently for you in prayers, that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.* ¹³ *For I bear him record, that he hath a great zeal for you, and them that are in Laodicea, and them in Hierapolis.* ¹⁴ *Luke, the beloved physician, and Demas, greet you.* ¹⁵ *Salute the brethren which are in Laodicea, and Nymphas, and the church which is in his house.* 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.* ¹⁷ *And say to Archippus, Take heed to the ministry which thou hast received in the Lord, that thou fulfil it.* ¹⁸ *The salutation by the hand of me Paul. Remember my bonds. Grace be with you. Amen. Written from Rome to the Colossians by Tychicus and Onesimus.*

I. Introduction

A. Context

1. Earlier chapters show Christ of the church
 - a. Christ is pre-eminent (above all things)
 - b. Christ as God the Son, Son of God
2. Chapter 1: Christ is God the Son beyond all comparison
3. Chapter 2: Mystery of God the Father & God the Son, beyond words, philosophies, & religions
4. Chapter 3: Christian is new creation in themself & with their families

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.
5. Chapter 4:1-6: Christian is new creation in the work place

B. Ancient city of Colossae

1. Was important ancient city under Persian & Roman rule
2. Competing religions, life styles, & philosophies

3. Where East meets West at crossroads of the world
 4. Located in now modern southwest Turkey in Middle East
- C. Colossians shows heart of God in loving people
1. Paul's mentions names of over 100 people in all his letters
 2. Paul loved many people as shown in Acts (of the Apostles) & in his letters
- II. Culture of Encouragement
- A. Tychicus in verses 7-8
1. Worked with Paul in the faith
 - a. Traveled extensively with Paul in his missionary journeys (Acts 20:4)
 - b. In Rome while Paul in prison (Ephesians 6:21, 2 Timothy 4:12, Titus 3:12)
 2. He was one of Paul's most trusted & dependable people
- B. Paul's descriptions
1. As a faithful minister
 2. Called beloved brother in Christ
 3. Encouraged, comforted, & consoled Paul
- III. Culture of family
- A. Different members of ministry team family
1. Onesimus in verse 9 – faithful & beloved brother but still a slave
 2. Marcus in verse 10 – trusted messenger and nephew to Barnabus
 - a. Previous had left ministry team back (Acts 13:13)
 - b. Had poor track record with Paul for coming again as ministry team member (Acts 16:37-39)
 - c. Paul later mentions him as part of his ministry team (Philemon 1:24, 2 Timothy 4:11)
 - d. Also part of ministry team with Peter (1 Peter 5:13)
 - e. Generally acknowledged as writer of gospel of Mark
 3. Luke in verse 14 called the beloved physician & writer of gospel of Luke
- B. Many named individuals seen together as family of God
1. Working together in common family relationship & for common goal
 2. Family members in the faith
 3. Church open to all people without discrimination
- Galatians 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.*

4. Redeemed in heaven come from all families, people, tongues, & nations

Revelation 5:9 And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;

IV. Culture of appreciation for the Bible

A. God's Word to be opened & shared

1. Colossae letter in verse 16 to be shared with church at Laodicea
2. Early converts readily received God's Word

Acts 2:41-42 ⁴¹ *Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.* ⁴² *And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.*

3. Bereans received God's word more readily than at Thessalonica

Act 17:11 These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

B. God's Word has authority in all areas of faith & practice

1. God's Word is inspired (God-breathed)

2 Timothy 3:16-17 ¹⁶ *All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:* ¹⁷ *that the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.*

2. Open God's Work & apply it to life

V. Culture of Support

A. Archippus in verse 17

1. His ministry calling received from God
2. Needed to pay attention (take heed) to his ministry
3. Paul's example to Archippus

Acts 20:35 I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.

B. Support to all people in difficult times

1. Past year of Covid Pandemic all reacting to events
 - a. Year of losses
 - b. Year of turmoil

2. Give simple presence of support
3. Give comfort & support with patience

1 Thessalonians 5:14 Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all men.

VI. Culture of Grace

A. Paul's salutation (closing) in the letter to Colossae

1. Body of letter often spoken orally & written down by scribes (writers)
Romans 16:22 I Tertius, who wrote this epistle, salute you in the Lord.
2. Salutation written by Paul's own hand – in verse 18
3. Paul wanted to show his love to them all (maybe bad eye sight)

B. God's grace in action

1. Paul wrote of God's grace to church at Colossae in beginning of letter
Colossians 1:2 To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ which are at Colossae: Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. God's grace
 - a. Message of the gospel
 - b. God's great love for all people
3. All Christians need to receive God's grace every day
4. All Christians need to live God's grace every day