

Rooted in Christ – A Study of Colossians—Lesson 21

Women of Grace | GraceLife Church

Tychicus, our beloved brother and faithful servant and fellow slave in the Lord, will make known to you all my affairs, whom I have sent to you for this very purpose, that you may know about our circumstances and that he may encourage your hearts; and with him Onesimus, our faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you. They will inform you about the whole situation here. Aristarchus, my fellow prisoner, sends you his greetings; and also Mark, the cousin of Barnabas (about whom you received instructions; if he comes to you, welcome him); and also Jesus who is called Justus. These are the only fellow workers for the kingdom of God who are from the circumcision, and they have proved to be a comfort to me. --Colossians 4:7-11

Day 1—Verse 7

Tychicus, our beloved brother and faithful servant and fellow slave in the Lord, will make known to you all my affairs, --Colossians 4:7

1. In Chapter 4:7-11, we see the first half of Paul's ministry partners, men devoted to the gospel. How important is it that we have people around us devoted to Kingdom work?
 - a. What is the fallout of attempting to run alone?

2. Read Hebrews 12:1-4. From Hebrews 12:1-4 and these verses in Colossians 4:7:11, why is it important to frequently be looking to faithful saints of old?

3. What do the following verse tell us about who Tychicus is?
 - a. Acts 20:1-4

 - b. Ephesians 6:21

- c. 2 Timothy 4:12
 - d. Titus 3:12
4. Tychicus was with Paul in both his imprisonments. What does this tell you about his commitment to Christ, the gospel, and Paul?
- a. What can we glean from this for our own lives?
5. What does Paul call him?
- a. What was his mission in this verse?
 - b. Why would Tychicus' mission have been so important to the Colossians?
6. When looking for friends and ministry partners to run with, what should we be looking for?

Day 2—Verse 8

whom I have sent to you for this very purpose, that you may know about our circumstances and that he may encourage your hearts; --Colossians 4:8

1. Today we have phones, email, and social media, but in Paul's day the need for a messenger would have been great. Read about the dangers Tychicus would have faced in 2 Corinthians 11: 25-28.
 - a. What things would he have faced on his journeys?

 - b. What does this tell you about Tychicus' character and relationship to Paul?

2. From Scripture, what other letters did Tychicus deliver?

3. From this verse, what is the second half of his mission?

4. What were Paul's circumstances at the time he wrote this letter?

5. How would the news of Paul's circumstances encourage the Colossians?

6. How important is it to encourage one another?

Heart Check:

- Can you encourage someone who works maybe behind the scenes this week through a handwritten letter or card (example: a young teen, single worker, homemaker or husband/father who works hard for providing for his family)?
- Are you a faithful friend or ministry partner (we are all ministry partners if we are part of the body)? What can you do to grow in faithfulness? How can Tychicus be an encouragement to do so?
- Tychicus is described as a beloved brother, faithful servant, and fellow slave. Do you have someone in your life that you would describe in this way? If so, thank God for them and thank them.

Day 3—Verse 9

and with him Onesimus, our faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you. They will inform you about the whole situation here. --Colossians 4:9

1. Read Philemon. What do we learn about Onesimus?

2. How did Paul meet Onesimus?

3. What does the name Onesimus mean?

4. What does Paul call him in Colossians 4:9?
 - a. How is this contrasted with who Onesimus used to be?

5. What was Onesimus' mission now?

6. Remembering our lesson from last week, how was Philemon to treat Onesimus?
 - a. How was Onesimus to respond to Philemon?

7. What does Paul mean by “who is one of you”?
 - a. How was the church at Colossae to treat this runaway slave who had returned?

8. Did Onesimus’ status as slave influence Paul’s affection for him?
 - a. How is this an example of loving the people of God without partiality?

9. Why might it be comforting to the believers at Colossae to have an update on Paul?

Heart Check:

- Do you let people’s past situations or sin keep you from ministering to and with others? How is this the antithesis to Scriptures commands and Paul’s own example?
- Seeing the beautiful story of redemption in the life of Onesimus, is there anything you hold back from doing because you are ashamed of your past? How can he be an example to you that your past does not need to impede your current area of service? How can God use your testimony as a wonderful picture of His love and power toward you? How can the gospel apply to your situation?

Day 4—Verse 10

Aristarchus, my fellow prisoner, sends you his greetings; and also Mark, the cousin of Barnabas (about whom you received instructions; if he comes to you, welcome him);
--Colossians 4:10

1. From Acts 19:29, 20:4 and 27:2, who was Aristarchus?
 - a. What do these verses tell us about his willingness to suffer for Christ and with Paul?

2. What does Paul call Aristarchus?

3. From these verses, who was John Mark?
 - a. Acts 12:12

 - b. Acts 12:25

 - c. Acts 13:5

 - d. Acts 15:37-39

 - e. Col. 4:10

- f. Philemon 24

 - g. 2 Tim. 4:11

 - h. Which book of the Bible did Mark write?
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- 4. Why would Paul mention Barnabas and that the Colossian church needed to welcome Mark?

 - 5. How might Mark's transformation from a failure to a faithful servant encourage you in your sanctification?

 - 6. There is both an encouragement and a warning to the Colossian church about Mark; what would they be?

Hear Check:

- If you have sin in your past or a broken relationship that is keeping you from faithfully serving, how can Mark's life and Paul's response to him be an encouragement to you to engage in faithful service?

- The warning to the Colossian church was that they were not to hold Mark's past sin over his head but to welcome him. Is there anyone in your life whom you are holding past sin over their head? How is the encouragement to welcome Mark a rebuke to you? What further steps must you take?

Day 5—Verse 11

*and also Jesus who is called Justus. These are the only fellow workers for the kingdom of God who are from the circumcision, and they have proved to be a comfort to me.
--Colossians 4:11*

1. What does "from the circumcision" mean?

2. Paul had a great desire to see his fellow Jews saved. How might these three faithful men (Aristarchus, Mark, and Justus) have been an encouragement to him in light of that desire?
 - a. What do we learn about Paul's heart towards his countrymen in Romans 9:3?

3. Justus is not mentioned anywhere else in Scripture. How does Paul's mention of him encourage you in those efforts towards the Kingdom that no one notices or thanks you for?

4. How important is it for those working towards the Kingdom of God to have relationships that encourage and strengthen them?

5. Often, we can think of Paul as a “Super Apostle”, but here we see him needing comfort. Do you often think of how your leaders need comfort and encouragement?

a. In what ways can we comfort and encourage them?

6. What does Proverbs 27:9 tell us about what kind of friend we should be?

Heart check:

- Could it be said of you that you are a comfort to other believers to your leaders?
- Are you a Proverbs 27:9 friend?
- Even if your work is unseen, how can the fact that the Lord sees all encourage you to press on?
- Do you have bitterness in your heart when your work is not acknowledged? Who are you truly working for if this is your response?

Dig Deeper – Faithful Ministry:

- If you are a member of GLC and have trouble finding areas to serve, please contact office@gracelife.ca to find out the needs of our church and how you can faithfully serve them.
- How can hospitality serve as a major area of comfort and encouragement to those at GLC? If you are not regularly engaged in hospitality, make a plan to get to know new people and have them over. If you are physically unable, find other ways to accomplish this: letters, phone calls, asking for prayer requests, etc.