

WAYS JESUS CHANGES LIVES

Colossians 4:7-18

⁷Tychicus will tell you all the news about me. He is a dear brother, a faithful minister and fellow servant in the Lord. ⁸I am sending him to you for the express purpose that you may know about our circumstances and that he may encourage your hearts. ⁹He is coming with Onesimus, our faithful and dear brother, who is one of you. They will tell you everything that is happening here.

¹⁰My 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.) ¹¹Jesus, 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. ¹²Epaphras, 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. ¹³I vouch for him that he is working hard for you and for those at Laodicea and Hierapolis. ¹⁴Our dear friend Luke, the doctor, and Demas send greetings. ¹⁵Give my greetings to the brothers at Laodicea, and to Nympha and the church in her house.

¹⁶After 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.

¹⁷Tell Archippus: "See to it that you complete the work you have received in the Lord."

¹⁸I, Paul, write this greeting in my own hand. Remember my chains. Grace be with you.

1. TYCHICUS: GREATER OPPORTUNITY
(Colossians 4:7-8; Ephesians 6:21-22; Acts 20:4; 2 Timothy 4:12; Titus 3:12)

2. ONESIMUS: DEBT PAID
(Colossians 4:9; Philemon 1:10)

3. ARISTARCHUS AND JUSTUS: EXPANDED WORLD
(Colossians 4:10-11; Acts 19:29; Acts 20:4; Acts 27:2-6;
Acts 28:16; Philemon 1:24)

4. MARK: FALL FORGIVEN
(Colossians 4:10-11; Acts 13:1-13; Acts 15:36-40; 2
Timothy 4:11)

5. EPAPHRAS: HEART SHARED
(Colossians 4:12-13; Colossians 1:7)

6. LUKE: SKILLS USED
(Philemon 1:24, 2 Timothy 4:10-11; Luke-Acts)

7. DEMAS: CHOICE GIVEN
(Philemon 1:24; 2 Timothy 4:10-11)

8. NYMPHA: HOSPITALITY HONORED
(Colossians 4:15)

9. ARCHIPPUS: CHALLENGE OFFERED
(Philemon 1:2)

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Discussion Questions

1. What do we know about Onesimus? Which of Paul's rules, instructions, and greetings would be appropriate in preparing to receive this runaway slave from Colossae? How might the Colossians feel about him?
2. Aristarchus, Mark, Luke, and Demas were all with Paul at various times. Why would he include them in his greetings to the church?
3. In light of the influence of the false teachers, why would Paul's commendation of Epaphras be especially important? (Colossians 1:7; Colossians 4:12-13)
4. Seeing how Paul operated with a team of fellow Christians, what does this imply for you? For your small group?
5. Of the qualities used to describe these people, which one would you like others to say about you in five years? How do Colossians 2:6-7 and 3:1-2 suggest you can get moving in that direction?
6. How has your respect and love for Christ grown through this study? What from this book has helped you develop a more thankful heart?