

The Value of Each One

Colossians 4:7-17

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- ▶ Christians are to be:
 - “complete in him” (cf. Colossians 2:9-10 KJV)
 - “perfect in Christ” (Colossians 1:28)
- ▶ Does this mean that those who are in Christ are to be exactly alike in every way?
1 Corinthians 1:10; 12:12ff; Ephesians 4:4, 11ff

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The Men Who Were Messengers (7-9)

Tychicus (7-8) “*the beloved brother and faithful minister and fellow-servant in the Lord*”

- ▶ Acts 20:4 One who accompanied Paul.
- ▶ Ephesians 6:21-22 Messenger of Paul.
- ▶ Titus 3:12 and 2 Timothy 4:12 Continues to serve Paul as a messenger.
- ▶ Note: Possible one in 2 Corinthians 8:23, who were called “*messengers of the churches, they are the glory of Christ.*”

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The Men Who Were Messengers (7-9)

Onesimus (9) “*the faithful and beloved brother*”

- ▶ From Colossae (cf. “*who is one of you*”)
- ▶ Onesimus was a runaway slave converted by Paul and sent back. cf. *Philemon*
- ▶ Was serving as a messenger for Paul.

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Men Who Were Comforters (10-11)

cf. 2 Corinthians 7:13; 1 Thessalonians 3:6-7; Philippians 2:25

Aristarchus (10a)

- ▶ A “*fellow prisoner.*”
- ▶ A fellow traveler of Paul. Acts 20:4
 - Who nearly lost his life in the riot in Ephesus. Acts 19:29
- ▶ Sailed with Paul to Rome. Acts 27:2
- ▶ Now in Rome with Paul, sending greetings.

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Men Who Were Comforters (10-11)

Mark (10b)

- ▶ The writer of the second Gospel, he was the cousin (nephew) of Barnabas – Son of exhortation. Acts 4:36
- ▶ The church in Jerusalem met in his mother’s house. Acts 12:12
- ▶ Started on their first journey, but then turned back. Acts 13:1-13
- ▶ Later became a bone of contention between Paul and Barnabas. Acts 15:36-41
- ▶ Eventually proved “*profitable*” to Paul for service. 2 Timothy 4:11
- ▶ He is now included with those who Paul said “*proved to be a comfort to me*”

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Men Who Were Comforters (10-11)

Jesus, called Justus (11)

- ▶ Little is known of this man, except that he was a Jew (*"of the circumcision"*) and a *"fellow worker unto the kingdom"*
- ▶ He, too, was a comfort to Paul.

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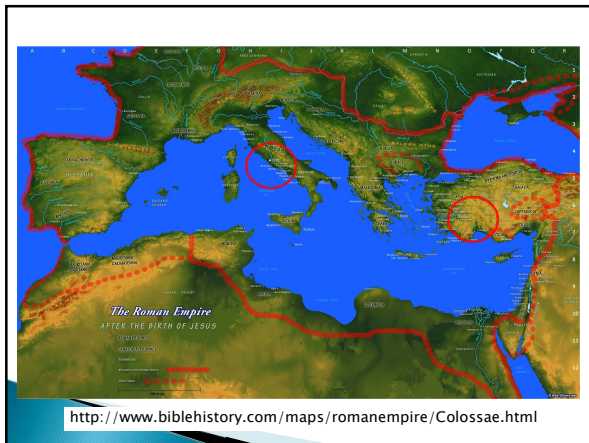
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The Man Who Prayed (12-13)

Epaphras, likely the person who started the church at Colossae. Colossians 1:7-8

- ▶ He was from Colossae (*"one of you"*)
- ▶ He cared deeply for them and those in Laodicea and Hierapolis
- ▶ He too was a *"fellow prisoner"* (Philemon 23); what could he do for those so far away?
- ▶ He could at least pray for his brethren!

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The Man Who Prayed (12-13)

Epaphras, "... always labouring fervently for you in prayers, that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God." KJV

- ▶ He prayed **"constantly"** (*"always"*)
- ▶ He prayed **"fervently"** (*"laboring fervently"* KJV)
- ▶ He prayed **"personally"** (*"for you"*)
- ▶ He prayed **"with a goal in mind"** (*"that you may stand perfect and complete ..."*)

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Two Men Of Contrast (14)

Luke, the *"beloved physician"*

- ▶ A fellow traveler with Paul on a number of his journeys. Acts 16:10; 20:5; 27:1 (note the personal pronouns *"we," "us"*)
- ▶ Wrote the Gospel of Luke and the Book of Acts.
- ▶ He was faithful to Paul to the end. 2 Timothy 4:11

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Two Men Of Contrast (14)

Demas, who later forsook Paul ...

- ▶ At the time Colossians and Philemon was written, Demas was a *"fellow laborer."*
- ▶ But not long after, it was said of him, *"Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world."* 2 Timothy 4:10; cf. Revelation 2:10

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Conclusion

The spread of the gospel during the first century was not accomplished through the efforts of great men like Paul and the twelve apostles **alone**.

- ▶ It was greatly assisted by humble men and women who served as messengers, comforters, those who prayed, and servants others(7-14) (cf. Mark 14:8)
- ▶ Those who opened their hearts and their homes to the service of the church, as did **Nymphas (15)**
- ▶ Paul named **Archippus** (Philemon 2) as an admonition to us as well: *"Take heed to the ministry which you have received in the Lord, that you may fulfill it."*
Colossians 4:17

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