

The Value of Each One

Colossians 4:7-17

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- Christians are to be:
 - “*complete in Christ*” (cf. Colossians 2:9-10)
 - “*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 (verses 7-9)

Tychicus (verses 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 – Continued to serve Paul as a messenger until the end.
- Note: Possibly one of those 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 (verses 7-9)

Onesimus (verse 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 (verses 10-11)

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

Aristarchus (verse 10a)

- A “*fellow prisoner.*”
- A fellow traveler with Paul. Acts 20:4
 - Who nearly lost his life to 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 (verses 10-11)

Mark (verse 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 subject 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 (verses 10-11)

Jesus, called Justus (verse 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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The Man Who Prayed (verses 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 (verses 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 (verse 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 (verse 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 hath forsaken me, having loved this present world.”
2 Timothy 4:10; cf. Revelation 2:10; 12:11

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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 of others (verses 7-14) (cf. Mark 14:8)
- Those who opened their hearts and their homes to the service of the church, as did **Nymphas (verse 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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