

CHRISTOLOGY NOTES 17

Discipleship Hour, 10/30/2020

COLOSSIANS 4:8-17

Last week we took up both the method and the men which present the Truth Displayed. We saw in 4:2-4 the individual's soul life (private) and in 4:5-6, the individual's public life (communal). Now the remaining verses list believers whose lives exemplify these characteristics:

Colossians 4:7-8 Tychicus, a beloved brother, faithful minister, and fellow servant in the Lord, will tell you all the news about me. I am sending him to you for this very purpose, that he may know your circumstances and comfort your hearts,

Ephesians 6:21 But that you also may know my affairs *and* how I am doing, Tychicus, a beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord, will make all things known to you;

Tychicus was an encourager. David encouraged himself, but most don't.

1 Samuel 30:6 Now David was greatly distressed, for the people spoke of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and his daughters. But David strengthened himself in the LORD his God.

David encouraged himself. Only those who do can encourage others. So, Tychicus is sent to comfort ("parakaleo" = to call alongside and is a name of the Holy Spirit - Comforter = Divine Encourager).

Few know who Tychicus was; yet this is the noblest of callings. Content to be out of public acclamation, Tychicus served his God well by being a lifter of the brethren.

Colossians 4:9 with Onesimus, a faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you. They will make known to you all things which *are happening* here.

This was the runaway slave of Philemon. Paul will use his name as a play on words: Onesimus means useful or profitable.

Philemon 11 who once was unprofitable to you, but now is profitable to you and to me.

Philemon 20 Yes, brother, let me have joy from you in the Lord; refresh my heart in the Lord.

Paul says, "I beseech you for Profitable, who used to be Unprofitable, but now is Profitable...Yes, let me have profit of you..." because to Paul he is a faithful and beloved brother .

Tychicus can represent the greatness of small things done for Christ.

Onesimus can represent the greatness of the transforming power of Christ.

Colossians 4:10-11 Aristarchus my fellow prisoner greets you, with Mark the cousin of Barnabas (about whom you received instructions: if he comes to you, welcome him), and Jesus who is called Justus. These *are my* only fellow workers for the kingdom of God who are of the circumcision; they have proved to be a comfort to me.

Aristarchus, Mark and Jesus Justus. Are these Jewish Christians? No...just Christians. The new wine of Christianity cannot be kept in the old skins of Jewish law. Indeed, the new wine bursts the old skins – so why save the remnants.

Aristarchus is mentioned 3x in Acts and once in Philemon as a "fellow prisoner" of the gospel. Jesus Justus is quite obscure but still a saint who had obtained a faith of equal standing with all. Mark, on the other hand is well known. Here, however, he is introduced with a rather strange comment: Mark: concerning whom you have received instructions...welcome him."

The background is: Mark's Mom owned the upper room

Acts 12:12 So, when he had considered *this*, he came to the house of Mary, the mother of John whose surname was Mark, where many were gathered together praying.

He was not an apostle, but a late disciple.

Mark 14:51-52 Now a certain young man followed Him, having a linen cloth thrown around *his* naked *body*. And the young men laid hold of him, ^{and} he left the linen cloth and fled from them naked.

Obviously, this story spread. Later, hostility would rise against these disciples:

Acts 12:1 Now about that time Herod the king stretched out *his* hand to harass some from the church.

Herod laid violent hands on the church, killed James and arrested Peter.

Acts 12:25 And Barnabas and Saul returned from Jerusalem when they had fulfilled *their* ministry, and they also took with them John whose surname was Mark.

Acts 13:13 Now when Paul and his party set sail from Paphos, they came to Perga in Pamphylia; and John, departing from them, returned to Jerusalem.

This really bothered Paul to where he and Barnabus went in different directions.

Acts 15:36-41 Then after some days Paul said to Barnabas, "Let us now go back and visit our brethren in every city where we have preached the word of the Lord, *and see how they are doing.*" Now Barnabas was determined to take with them John called Mark. But Paul insisted that they should not take with them the one who had departed from them in Pamphylia, and had not gone with them to the work. Then the contention became so sharp that they parted from one another. And so Barnabas took Mark and sailed to Cyprus; but Paul chose Silas and departed, being commended by the brethren to the grace of God. And he went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.

Paul wouldn't have him at that time, but later...

2 Timothy 4:11 Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for ministry.

Mark is a great example of Faith recovered. He later wrote the Gospel.

Colossians 4:12-13 Epaphras, who is *one of you*, a bondservant of Christ, greets you, always laboring fervently for you in prayers, that you may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God. For I bear him witness that he has a great zeal for you, and those who are in Laodicea, and those in Hierapolis.

Epaphras, at the start of the letter, was "a faithful minister of Christ." Now he is "doulos" (lit. a slave.) He is minister of the head, Christ, and servant of the body because he is "always praying" "agonizoma:" = hard and struggling "for you" "That you may stand mature and fully assured in all of the will of God."

Standing against the confusion and heresy permeating the region: the Colossians are not yet mature...

Ephesians 4:14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,

Note the “ground” of standing is the will of God (i.e., not the aid of angels; the legalistic additions, the Gnostic wisdom, or severity to the flesh) but Lit. “perfect and complete” (mature and assured) “in everything that is God’s will.”

Epaphras evangelized the whole region and prays hard for them all. He made a 1,000 mile trip on their behalf!

Colossians 4:14 Luke the beloved physician and Demas greet you.

Notice, Luke has a title “beloved” but Demas, has none. In v.7, Tychichus was the “beloved brother, faithful minister, and fellow servant in the Lord.” With each name Paul gives he included some report of good. It is significant that Paul the positive has nothing positive to say about Demas.

2 Timothy 4:10 for Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world, and has departed for Thessalonica...

There is not room for both God and the world in the heart. However, to choose God is to own the world but to choose the world...

James 4:4 Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

Note: Loyalty is not age in the Lord:

Corinthians 10:12 Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.

Now, Paul sends greetings personally

Colossians 4:15 Greet the brethren who are in Laodicea, and Nymphas and the church that is in his house.

Nympha (feminine) and the church in her house. (Consider: Prisca, Lydia, etc.)

Colossians 4:16 Now when this epistle is read among you, see that it is read also in the church of the Laodiceans, and that you likewise read the epistle from Laodicea.

Reading the words of Paul remains the occupation of the church

Colossians 4:17 And say to Archippus, "Take heed to the ministry which you have received in the Lord, that you may fulfill it."

"received in the Lord" = God is the author and source of ministry. To know this is the ability to have "you fulfill it". God is your Source before He can be your sufficiency.

Colossians 4:18 This salutation by my own hand—Paul. Remember my chains. Grace be with you. Amen.

Grace at the close! Grace at the first:

Colossians 1:2 To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ *who are in Colosse*: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

From first to last with Paul it is grace! 3:11 Christ is all and in all.