

Colossians – Chapter Four

v.1 – This finishes the exhortation of relationship between masters and servants by reminding masters to treat their servants (or employees) justly.

v.2-4 – Exhortation to watch and pray with thanksgiving. And the request that they pray that Paul would have opportunities presented to preach the gospel and make the mystery plain.

v.5-6 – Exhortation to walk in wisdom before unbelievers, taking every opportunity to share the gospel and show the proof of our changed and redeemed lives, going forth in the character of God. Our speech also should be wise, full of grace and seasoned with the salt that preserves from corruption, and makes the our words palatable to the hearers (even tasty).

v.7 -18 – Paul’s closing, sending greetings from those with him and messages to those in or near Colosse:

Tychicus – The bearer of the letter to Colosse, Ephesus, and Philemon. He was a companion of Paul’s during a portion of the third missionary journey (Acts 20:4), a native of Asia minor (Turkey). He was with Paul in his first imprisonment in Rome (Col. 4:7-8; Eph.6:21-22) And mentioned again in Titus 3:12, Paul saying he may send Tychicus to Titus in Crete. In 2 Timothy 4:12, written from Rome during the second imprisonment, Paul says he has sent Tychicus to Ephesus. It is strongly believed that Tychicus, along with Trophimus, (2 Cor. 8:16-24) was one of the two associated with Titus in handling the collection for the poor Christians in Judea.

Onesimus – Runaway slave of Philemon, converted by Paul during his imprisonment in Rome. His name means useful. Sent back to Philemon by Paul

Aristarchus – fellow prisoner of Paul; from Thessalonica. Became a companion of Paul’s on his third missionary journey, accompanying him to Ephesus. In Acts 19:29, he was seized and nearly killed during Demetrius uprising in Ephesus. Acts 20:4 went with Paul to Greece, Acts 27:2 and then to Rome. Probably was martyred with Paul in Rome.

Mark – writer of the gospel. Cousin of Barnabas. Abandoned Paul and Barnabas during the first missionary, and the subject of bringing him along on the next journey caused the rift between Paul and Barnabas. But later there was reconciliation for Mark was with Paul during his first imprisonment in Rome.

Epaphras – probably founded the church at Colosse. With Paul in Rome. Reason this letter was written.

Luke – Companion of Paul till the end. Writer of Luke and Acts.

Demas – was at one time faithful but was lured away by the world II Tim. 4:10, left and went to Thessalonica

Nymphas – actually Nympha in original manuscripts, maybe in Laodecea

Archippus – Laborer in the gospel, mentioned in Philemon. No proof was Philemon’s son