

**Colossians 4:12** “Epaphras, 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.”

**Proverbs 3:5** “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; <sup>[6]</sup> In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.”

#### **D. Don't be fooled by this world system.**

**James 4:4** “You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.”

**Matthew 22:37** “Jesus replied: Love the Lord with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.”

#### **E. Don't quit before you have finished your assignment from God.**

**1 Corinthians 15:58** “Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.”

## **Ministry Requires Teamwork! Colossians 4:7-18 Lesson #16 4/14/24**

### **I. Paul mentioned his fellow servants of the Lord.**

#### **A. Tychicus was a trustworthy servant of the Lord.**

**Colossians 4:7** “Tychicus will tell you all the news about me. He is a dear brother, a faithful minister and fellow servant in the Lord.”

**Colossians 4:8** “I am sending him to you for the express purpose that you may know about our circumstances and that he may encourage your hearts.”

**Colossians 4:9** “He is coming with Onesimus, our faithful and dear brother, who is one of you. They will tell you everything that is happening here.”

#### **B. Onesimus was transformed into a servant of the Lord.**

**Colossians 4:9b** “... Onesimus, our faithful and dear brother, who is one of you. They will tell you everything that is happening here.”

**Philemon 10** “I appeal to you for my son Onesimus, who became my son while I was in chains.”

#### **C. Aristarchus was a tenacious servant of the Lord.**

**Colossians 4:10a** “My fellow prisoner Aristarchus sends you his greetings, ....”

#### **D. Mark turned out to be a good servant for the Lord.**

**Colossians 4:10b** “... as does Mark, the cousin of Barnabas. (You have received instructions about him; if he comes to you, welcome him.)”

**2 Timothy 4:11** “Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, because he is helpful to me in my ministry.”

## **E. Justus was a tremendous comfort as he served the Lord.**

**Colossians 4:11** “Jesus, who is called Justus, also sends greetings. These are the only Jews among my co-workers for the kingdom of God, and they have proved a comfort to me.”

## **F. Epaphras travailed in prayer as he served the Lord.**

**Colossians 4:12** “Epaphras, 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.”

**Colossians 4:13** “I vouch for him that he is working hard for you and for those at Laodicea and Hierapolis.”

## **G. Luke took care of Paul as he served the Lord.**

**Colossians 4:14a** “Our dear friend Luke, the doctor, ....”

**Acts 16:10** “After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.”

## **H. Demas took off and left Paul instead of serving the Lord.**

**Colossians 4:14b** “... and Demas send greetings.”

**2 Timothy 4:9** “Do your best to come to me quickly, <sup>[10]</sup> For Demas, because he loved the world, has deserted me and has gone to Thessalonica. ...”

**1 John 2:15** “Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in them.”

**1 John 2:16** “For everything in the world – the cravings of sinful man, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life – comes not from the Father but from the world.”

## **II. Paul sent a special greeting in the Lord.**

**Colossians 4:15** “Give my greetings to the brothers at Laodicea, and to Nympha and the church in her house.”

## **III. Paul shared some specific requests for the work of the Lord.**

### **A. Read this letter to the church.**

**Colossians 4:16** “After 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.”

### **B. Remind Archippus to finish the call.**

**Colossians 4:17** “Tell Archippus: “See to it that you complete the ministry you have received in the Lord.”

**Galatians 6:9** “Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.”

### **C. Remember, I’m in chains.**

**Colossians 4:18** “I, Paul, write this greeting in my own hand. Remember my chains. Grace be with you.”

**1 Peter 4:13** “But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when His glory is revealed.”

**1 Peter 4:14** “If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.”

## **How can we apply this lesson to our life?**

### **A. Serve the Lord and be faithful.**

**1 Corinthians 4:2** “Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.”

### **B. A failure doesn’t define you.**

**1 John 1:9** “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”

### **C. Take time to pray fervently.**