

Workers of the Kingdom
Colossians 4:7-18
June 3, 2012

I. The News-bearers (7-9)

- Tychicus

Colossians 4:7-8 *Tychicus will tell you all the news about me. He is a dear brother, a faithful minister and fellow servant in the Lord. ⁸I am sending him to you for the express purpose that you may know about our circumstances and that he may encourage your hearts.*

- Who is he?
 - We first meet him in Paul's third missionary journey
 - He joins Paul on way to Jerusalem

Acts 20:4 *He was accompanied by Sopater son of Pyrrhus from Berea, Aristarchus and Secundus from Thessalonica, Gaius from Derbe, Timothy also, and Tychicus and Trophimus from the province of Asia.*

Note: He is carrying gifts from the churches in Macedonia for the church in Jerusalem.

- Tychicus seems to have journeyed with Paul from Jerusalem to Rome

Note: We know that Paul wrote this letter as a prisoner in Rome. (in chains)

- Carrying Paul's letters to the churches
 - Letter to Colossians
 - Letter to Philemon
 - Letter to Laodecian church (which we do not have)
 - Letter to Ephesians

Ephesians 6:21 *Tychicus, the dear brother and faithful servant in the Lord, will tell you everything, so that you also may know how I am and what I am doing.*

- Faithful servant
 - Carrying Paul's letter shows that Tychicus was a trustworthy person
 - Paul sent him to Ephesus before his death to do the Lord's work

2 Timothy 4:12 *I sent Tychicus to Ephesus.*

- He filled in as pastor for Titus

Titus 3:12 *As soon as I send Artemas or Tychicus to you, do your best to come to me at Nicopolis, because I have decided to winter there.*

- Beloved brother
 - He was also to tell the churches about Paul and his situation and comfort them
- Onesimus

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.*

- Runaway slave
 - Ran away from Philemon

Philemon 1:16 *no longer as a slave, but better than a slave, as a dear brother. He is very dear to me but even dearer to you, both as a man and as a brother in the Lord.*

- Under God's guidance
 - Onesimus journeys to Rome and met with Paul in prison
 - Under Paul's teaching, Onesimus becomes a Christian

Philemon 1:10 *I appeal to you for my son Onesimus, who became my son while I was in chains.*

- Sending back Onesimus
 - Paul asks that Onesimus to be in the fellowship of believers
 - Paul asks that Philemon to release him as slave

II. The Greeters (10-14)

- The Jews

Colossians 4:10-11 *My fellow prisoner Aristarchus sends you his greetings, as does Mark, the cousin of Barnabas. (You have received instructions about him; if he comes to you, welcome him.)¹¹ Jesus, who is called Justus, also sends greetings. These are the only Jews among my fellow workers for the kingdom of God, and they have proved a comfort to me.*

- Aristarchus
 - Native of Thessalonica (Thessalonian) (**Acts 27:2**)
 - With Paul during the Ephesian riot of silversmiths

Acts 19:29 *Soon the whole city was in an uproar. The people seized Gaius and Aristarchus, Paul's traveling companions from Macedonia, and rushed as one man into the theater.*

- Traveled with Paul to Jerusalem and to Rome

Acts 20:4 *He was accompanied by Sopater son of Pyrrhus from Berea, Aristarchus and Secundus from Thessalonica,*

Acts 27:2 *We boarded a ship from Adramyttium about to sail for ports along the coast of the province of Asia, and we put out to sea. Aristarchus, a Macedonian from Thessalonica, was with us.*

- Fellow prisoner—he was serving Paul in prison
- Mark
 - Cousin of Barnabas
 - Also known as John Mark
 - Joined Paul and Barnabas during their first missionary journey

Acts 12:25 When Barnabas and Saul had finished their mission, they returned from Jerusalem, taking with them John, also called Mark.

Acts 13:5 When they arrived at Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the Jewish synagogues. John was with them as their helper.

- Mark leaves them

Acts 13:13 From Paphos, Paul and his companions sailed to Perga in Pamphylia, where John left them to return to Jerusalem.

- Barnabas wanted to take Mark on the 2nd missionary journey, but Paul refused because he was hurt by Mark's actions

Acts 15:36-39 Sometime later Paul said to Barnabas, "Let us go back and visit the brothers in all the towns where we preached the word of the Lord and see how they are doing." ³⁷Barnabas wanted to take John, also called Mark, with them, ³⁸but Paul did not think it wise to take him, because he had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not continued with them in the work. ³⁹They had such a sharp disagreement that they parted company. Barnabas took Mark and sailed for Cyprus,

- Mark repented and grew up
 - Learned under Peter (son in faith)

1 Peter 5:13 She who is in Babylon, chosen together with you, sends you her greetings, and so does my son Mark.

- Wrote the gospel of Mark
- Useful for Paul

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.

- Jesus

- Nothing is known about him except that he was a comfort to Paul

Note: His ministry with the Jews have been such a trial for Paul. With these three Jewish men who followed Christ, they were a comfort to him.

- **The Gentiles (12-14)**

Colossians 4:12-14 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. ¹³I vouch for him that he is working hard for you and for those at Laodicea and Hierapolis. ¹⁴Our dear friend Luke, the doctor, and Demas send greetings.

- Epaphras

- Colossian pastor or evangelist
- Informed Paul about the false teachers in church

Colossians 1:7-8 *You learned it from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf,⁸ and who also told us of your love in the Spirit.*

- Faithful servant
- He prayed for the church intensely that they would mature and grow
- God answered Epaphras' prayer through Paul's letter
- Luke
 - Paul's beloved doctor
 - He joined with Paul in his second missionary journey

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.*

Note: "we"—Luke never identifies himself as the author of Luke or Acts; however, we have good information from the church fathers that Luke did indeed write the two books. There is also internal evidence that he did write the book.

- Luke stays with Paul until Paul's death

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.*

- Demas
 - Only here and Philemon 24 that Paul mentions positively (?)
 - Demas left the faith

2 Timothy 4:10 *for Demas, because he loved this world, has deserted me and has gone to Thessalonica.*

- Paul seemed to have known or suspected Demas' fascination with the world because Paul never gives Demas a praise

III. To Friends (15-18)

Colossians 4:15-18 *Give my greetings to the brothers at Laodicea, and to Nympha and the church in her house.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.¹⁷ Tell Archippus: "See to it that you complete the work you have received in the Lord."¹⁸ I, Paul, write this greeting in my own hand. Remember my chains. Grace be with you.*

- To the neighboring cities
 - Laodicea (and Heliopolis)
 - House church of Nympha (female name)
 - Let the letters be read (Colossian letter to Laodicea and Laodiceans letter to Colossae)
- Archippus
 - Fulfill your duty
 - He was a pastor and Paul encourages him to stand in the faith

Note: It is possible that with the false teachers, his confidence was shaken, and Paul reminds Archippus of his duty to the gospel.

- Paul's signature
 - Paul's own autograph of the letter
 - Grace be with you