

APR. 18, 2018

Study Page: Col. 4:7-18

“Farewell”

Reading Colossians 4:7-18

These final greetings afford us intriguing insight into Paul, the human being who was a servant of Christ. If your picture of Paul is something like a traveling lecturer who shows up to deliver his speech, then moves on to the next appointment; a lonely, isolated soul – passages like this destroy that image.

Paul was engaged with people. He loved God and loved God’s people. He poured out his heart about his affection and appreciation for good people. It has also been observed, this reads a little like an address book or contact list.

If Paul had had email and texting, I don’t have any doubt he would use those methods to communicate with people, if unable to be in their direct presence. Paul@HolySpirit.com someone once suggested.

**Tychicus** knew enough about Paul to tell others about his “activities,” and Paul considered him as a “beloved brother.” **Onesimus** was also held in



Colossians:

Study Page: Col. 4:7-18



high regard by Paul: “our faithful and beloved brother.” These two men would tell the Colossian Christians about Paul’s work.

**Aristarchus** was a “fellow prisoner” who sent his greetings. **Mark**, the cousin of **Barnabas** kept Paul in good company, along with **Justus**. Another servant of Christ in this close network was **Epaphras**. He was one of the Colossian group, who prayed for the saints fervently. He was a hard worker. **Luke** is included, “the beloved physician,” and at the time of this writing, **Demas** is mentioned among the faithful.

*Matthew Henry*

*Paul had differed with Barnabas, on the account of this Mark, yet he is not only reconciled, but recommends him to the churches; an example of a truly Christian and forgiving spirit. If men have been guilty of a fault, it must not always be remembered against them. We must forget as well as forgive. The apostle had comfort in the communion of saints and ministers. One is his fellow-servant, another his fellow-prisoner, and all his fellow-workers, working out their own salvation, and endeavouring to promote the salvation of others. The effectual, fervent prayer*

APR. 18, 2018

*is the prevailing prayer, and availeth much. The smiles, flatteries, or frowns of the world, the spirit of error, or the working of self-love, leads many to a way of preaching and living which comes far short of fulfilling their ministry. But those who preach the same doctrine as Paul, and follow his example, may expect the Divine favour and blessing.*<sup>1</sup>

This warm exchange included “the brothers at Laodicea, “and to Nympha and the church in her house.”

**“And when this letter has been read among you, have it also read in the church of the Laodiceans, and see that you also read the letter from Laodicea.”**

This is important. It reflects the interest of the Holy Spirit that inspired writings be circulated. These epistles were not private. Rather, they were intended for public access and future circulation.

**“And say to Archippus, ‘See that you fulfill the ministry that you have received in the Lord.’”**

Then, “I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. Remember my chains. Grace be with you.”

---

<sup>1</sup> Henry, M., & Scott, T. (1997). *Matthew Henry's Concise Commentary* (Col 4:10). Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems.