

Life in the Word

Cornerstone Sermon-based Life Group Lesson



Sermon Series: **Colossians**

Sermon Title: **Being Faithful in Keeping Christ First**

Scripture Passage: **Colossians 4:7-18**

Getting Started Sharing from personal experience

This week marks the last sermon in our study of the book of Colossians. In chapter 4, Paul address specific people by name and commends them for their part in ministering with him. At first glance, we may think that this passage of Colossians (4:7-18) has less teaching depth and value than the others in Colossians. But actually this passage is a window by which we can look behind the scenes of Paul’s ministry.

One very important thing we can take away from these verses is that Paul makes it clear he could not do his ministry on his own. Paul was not a lone wolf. He didn’t and couldn’t carry out an effective ministry on his own. God has not designed the church to function as isolated individuals.

Observation Discovering the context

1. How many different people does Paul *name* in chapter 4? _____
2. In your Bible, find and jot down where you find 3 scripture passages that support the notion that Christians are stronger together than they are alone.
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
3. In 4:8 Paul says he sent Tychicus to the Colossians to “encourage their hearts.” Share how have you intentionally encouraged someone’s heart recently.
4. Onesimus was a slave and Philemon was his master. Read Philemon 1:8-20. According to what you have read, why do you think Paul referred to Onesimus as a “faithful and beloved brother?”

5. In Colossians 4:10 Paul refers to Aristarchus as a “fellow prisoner.” This was not Aristarchus’s first rodeo when it comes to being in a tough spot, ministering with Paul. What happened to Paul, and specifically to Aristarchus in Acts 19:29?

6. In 4:10, Paul tells the Colossians to welcome Mark, the cousin of Barnabus. When you follow the trail of the relationship between Paul, Barnabus and Mark, you get a sense for the fact that there must have been some healing and forgiveness for each other in the lives of these three men. Let’s follow the trail.
 - a. What happened in Acts 9:26 that must have caused a special bond of brotherhood to develop between Paul and Barnabus?
 - b. Barnabus accompanied Paul on his first mission trip, and John Mark, the cousin of Barnabus joined them. What decision did Mark make in Acts 13:13?
 - c. Later on, while preparing for a second mission trip, Barnabus suggested Mark go with them. Read the story in Acts 15:36-41. What happened between Paul and Barnabus and why?
 - d. Years later, how did Paul speak about Mark in 2 Timothy 4:11?
 - e. And now, in Colossians 4:10, Paul speaks of both Barnabus and Paul as brothers and fellow workers for the cause of Christ, even instructing the church to welcome Mark when he comes to them.
 - f. **Q:** In light of this part of our study this week, do you have a Christian brother or sister in your life where there is still some unattended to hurt or conflict that needs healing? ***This is not for group sharing. It is personal between you and Lord.***

7. In verse 12, Paul gives special kudos to Epaphras. According to Colossians 1:6-7, what role do you think Epaphras played in the establishing of the Colossian church?

8. What familiar Gospel writer does Paul make mention of in verse 14?_____.

Interpretation Discovering the meaning

It is obvious that Paul was so appreciative for those who were his fellow-laborers for the sake of the Gospel.

Q: If you were one of fellow-workers Paul was writing about, what might he say about you?

Core Truths Discovering Biblical truth

In your own words, share at least one core truth God has shown you in this week's study and why it is timely or significant for you.

Practice Makes Progress Putting knowledge into practice

What action is the Lord prompting you to take this week as a result of being in His Word?

Worth Memorizing

Scripture: *Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person. Colossians 2:6*

Prayer Time

How can your Life Group pray for you this week?

Praise Time

How has God blessed you and answered prayer this week?