

# Being Faithful in Keeping Christ First

Colossians 4:7-18

## Eleven very different people who faced the challenges of being faithful Christ-first believers:

1. Tychicus – “Quick Study Intern” (vs. 7-8)
2. Onesimus – “Redeemed Runaway” (vs. 9)
3. Aristarchus – “Second fiddle” (vs. 10a)
4. Mark or John Mark – “Recovered Quitter” (vs. 10b)
5. Jesus called Justus – “Motivated Misfit” (vs. 11)
6. Epaphras – “Entrepreneur” (vs. 12-13)
7. Dr. Luke – “Loyal Luke” (vs. 14)
8. Demas – “Costly Casualty” (vs. 14b)
9. Nympha – “Hospitable Hostess” (vs. 15-16)
10. Archippus – “Impulsive Minister” (vs. 17)
11. Paul – Wounded Winner (vs. 1)

## **Conclusion:** Faithfulness to Jesus Christ means many things...

- Giving when you feel like keeping
- Praying for others when you need prayer
- Getting up when you have stumbled badly
- Courage to stay when others run away
- Suffering patiently when you can't understand why
- Working when you can't see immediate results
- Finishing when pleasures beckon you to leave your post
- Remaining warm-hearted to others when the world is cold to you
- Looking for opportunities when life stinks