

Colossians 4:7-18

November 22nd, 2020

Breaking the Ice

ICEBREAKER:

What is your favorite and least favorite Thanksgiving tradition?
How will you be spending the holidays this week?

Turning to Scripture

LEADER: In this last part of the letter to the Colossians, Paul mentions numerous individuals. These details give us insight into the early churches and shows us what the family of God looks like. As we read this passage, listen to how Paul describes these brothers and sisters in the faith. We will spend some time considering this family that God has created, calls, and commissions to the mission of the Kingdom.

ASK FOR A VOLUNTEER TO READ THE PASSAGE FROM THIS WEEK, COLOSSIANS 4:7-18.

"Tychicus will tell you all about my activities. He is a beloved brother and faithful minister and fellow servant in the Lord. I have sent him to you for this very purpose, that you may know how we are and that he may encourage your hearts, and with him Onesimus, our faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you. They will tell you of everything that has taken place here. Aristarchus my fellow prisoner greets you, and Mark the cousin of Barnabas (concerning whom you have received instructions—if he comes to you, welcome him), and Jesus who is called Justus. These are the only men of the circumcision among my fellow workers for the kingdom of God, and they have been a comfort to me. Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Monthly Prayer Gathering:
December 6th

Catch The Vision Members Gathering: December 6th

Next Storyline Baptism Date:
December 13th

Find out more info on all of our Storyline events by going to storylinefellowship.com/events/

Jesus, greets you, always struggling on your behalf in his prayers, that you may stand mature and fully assured in all the will of God. For I bear him witness that he has worked hard for you and for those in Laodicea and in Hierapolis. Luke the beloved physician greets you, as does Demas. Give my greetings to 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. And say to Archippus, "See that you fulfill the ministry that you have received in the Lord." I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. Remember my chains. Grace be with you."

Question #1:

What has stuck out to you throughout Colossians? What has God been teaching you during this season?

Major Themes:

- ▶ Christ above all things.
- ▶ Who Jesus is has implications for every area of our lives.
- ▶ False teaching is real and it will destroy you.
- ▶ The Church is God's family.
- ▶ Scripture is central to the Christian Life.

Question #2:

Take a look at the list of people Paul includes at the end of the letter. Who's story sticks out to you from the list of people that Paul gives?

Question #3:

What is the significance of Jesus creating a new, spiritual family? What do we learn about this family, based on the group included in Paul's ending comments?

Question #4:

What does this unlikely group of people, together in the same mission and family, show us about the unity of the gospel?

A new spiritual family that is created, called, and commissioned by Jesus to extend his Lordship throughout the world.

Tychicus:

"Brother; minister; servant." Sent to Colossae to encourage them about what God is doing in Rome, with Paul, and in the church. He will also attest to Onesimus' character.

Aristarchus

A fellow prisoner with Paul, who is on mission with Paul. He is also one of three who Paul identifies as a Jew. Paul first addresses Jewish believers and then Gentile believers. Paul shares this on purpose, to show that we are all one family.

Onesimus:

A runaway slave who is returning to his master. He met Paul in prison, comes to faith as Paul shares the gospel with him, and how Paul refers to him as a faithful brother. See the book of Philemon, which they also delivered with Colossians.

Justus:

A Jew, who is named Jesus but goes by his second name out of reverence toward the Christ. Also on mission with Paul.

Epaphras:

"One of you" – The Colossians knew Epaphras well. He started the church there in that city, and has labored for them. He has gone to Paul in prison to ask for help for their congregation. He got ill on the way to Rome, but Paul gives a good report.

WRAP UP:

God calls together a family of the most unlikely people. The unity that is displayed there is a testament to the life-change that God works in our hearts. The gospel calls us together and sets us on the same mission together as we live out our lives.

End With Prayer

End in prayer together. Spend some time rehearsing what you are thankful to God for! Thankfulness guards our hearts, and it gives credit and glory to God for what He has done.

Luke:

The physician Luke, who was a faithful companion to Paul. He wrote the gospel of Luke, and narrated the spread of the early church throughout the book of Acts.

Mark:

Perhaps the author of the gospel of Mark. Cousin to Barnabas, we read of his rocky relationship with Paul and their splitting of ways. But here, we see that there has been reconciliation and restoration! Paul and Mark were at odds; Paul felt abandoned by Mark. But the gospel bids them come together.

Nympha:

Nympha, a faithful woman, must own a substantial house in Laodicea, which is where the church there meets. She likely owns a villa with a courtyard space where many people can gather. She demonstrates what it looks like to leverage what she owns for the Kingdom of Christ.

Demas:

Here, he is listed as a faithful brother. But later, in 2 Timothy, we learn that Demas deserts Paul. Not all who start well finish well.

Archippus:

Paul describes him in Philemon as a "fellow-soldier." He has been given a specific task for ministry, and Paul calls him to finish strong.

