

Final Greetings

Colossians 4:7-18

Paul's Partners:

Tychicus - Colossians 4:7-8

Onesimus - Colossians 4:9; Philemon 10-21

Mark - Colossians 4:10; Mark's Gospel; Acts 12:12, 25; 13:5; 15:36-39; 2 Timothy 4:11; Philemon 24; 1 Peter 5:13

Epaphras - Colossians 1:7-8; 4:12-13; Philemon 23

Luke - Colossians 4:14; Luke-Acts Narrative, Luke 1:1-4; Acts 1:1; 16:10-18; 20:5-21; 27:1-28:16; Philemon 24; 2 Timothy 4:11

Outline of what is on Paul's heart as he signs off:

Colossians 4:7-9 - The messenger is critical and should remind us that each of us is a messenger on a mission for God in our sphere of influence.

Colossians 4:10-11 - Jewish believers: Our ministry partners matter.

Colossians 4:12-14 - Gentile believers: Prayer partners matter.

Colossians 4:15-18 - We need to be reminded to get involved and stay the course.

Conclusions: There is no long term ministry without partners. These listed men demonstrate the importance of obeying God's call in church life for the blessing of God's people.

There are no insignificant servants who serve God and his people.

There is no service so insignificant that it has no eternal value.

There is no service beneath a servant of the Lord.

There is no servant who is less than a child of the King and a brother for all time.

Paul's final words remind us that in God's economy there are no ethnicities; only family.

In the family of God there should be hearts that are growing large towards the kingdom of God and the family of God; this is the nature of ministry and nothing is too great a sacrifice for God and his people. Everyone has a place, everyone has a ministry while all serve the Master, the only one who can permanently change a life.