

Colossians 4:7-18

Biblical Biographies

4:7-18 - When the Colossians heard these names they saw their faces in their mind. They probably had funny stories and memories of these individuals. My hope is for us to get to know these individuals a little better and learn from their lives.

4:7-8 - Tychicus – The Beloved Traveling Brother

Tychicus was a guy that Paul cared about and entrusted with an incredible amount of responsibility.

- 2 Timothy 4:12 – sent to Ephesus
- He probably delivered the book of Ephesians – Eph 6:21-22
- Titus 3:12 – Probably sent to Crete / Here he is sent to Colossae
- He accompanied Paul to Jerusalem with the collection for the church (Acts 20:4).

Tychicus would report on how Paul was doing. He knows what's going on in Paul's life. He has been on journeys with him, they have done ministry together. They have built a relationship together. Paul looks at Tychicus and sees more than just a buddy or co-worker, he sees a brother...

What kind of relationships are you building in the church? Who in the church really knows how you are doing? With whom can you share your struggles and successes?

The Bible calls the Christian life a race. Who is running beside you? Build relationships that matter. Build relationships that help you run. Build relationships that ultimately last for eternity. Who can you take out to lunch this week?

Tychicus is a faithful minister and a fellow servant in the Lord. He has become an extension of Paul's ministry. Paul has seen Tychicus in action. Tychicus has been faithful. Faithful in the small things, faithful in the large things – faithful in all things.

How about you? Do people around you describe you as dependable and faithful? When you are given a duty or responsibility at work or at church are you faithful in doing your best?

4:9 - Onesimus – The New Brother

At one point, Onesimus had been a slave to a man named Philemon. He illegally left Philemon and headed for Rome, which could get him into a lot of trouble. He ran into Paul and became a new believer. Paul sends Onesimus home not as a fugitive slave or as a convict, but as a new brother in Christ.

Philemon is now challenged to change his perspective on Onesimus. Philemon must forgive him and treat him with love, even though he was truly wronged in this situation.

How do you respond when you are truly wronged? When someone says something false about you, something of yours is taken, or you are just treated badly – are you able to respond with forgiveness and love? Where do you still hold on to some anger and bitterness?

Do we treat new brothers and sisters equally regardless of their past? Do we love the recovering drug addict as quickly as the successful businessman who has just come to Christ? Why is it easy for us to struggle in this area?

4:10 - Aristarchus – The Imprisoned Brother

What if that were to happen today? What if it became normal for Christians to suffer persecution for what they believed – would you be ready for that?

Would you trust God even if a close friend or family member became imprisoned for their faith? How can we grow in this area? How do we ready ourselves?

4:12 - Epaphras – The Wrestling Brother

What kind of wrestling is Epaphras doing? What does it mean to say that he is struggling in prayer?

Are there any things in your life that you consider worthwhile enough to wrestle in prayer?

Are you wrestling in prayer for your church, your pastors, your small group or your spiritual family?

4:15 - Nympha – The Hospitable Sister

- She is willing to freely give of the things God has given her.
- She is honoring the needs of others above herself, by making room and giving of her time.
- She sees that earthly inconvenience is not as important as eternal impact.
- Nympha has eternal priorities and opens her home to others.

How can your temporary resources and possessions be better used to impact eternity?

What are ways that you can become more hospitable to others in the church and in your neighborhood?

4:17 - Archippus – The Called Brother

Archippus has a God-given specific ministry. Paul took the time to make sure that Archippus was following through on this ministry. What have you been called to do? What is your specific ministry?

Who is holding you accountable for fulfilling your ministry and using your spiritual gifts?

If the church wrote a letter about its members and the pastors wrote a couple descriptions of you, what would those descriptions be? What would you want them to be?