

OUTLINE

Col 4:7-11: Tychicus, Onesimus, Aristarchus, Mark and Justus Pastor Adam Hall – Dryden First Baptist Church – May 15, 2022

Colossians 4:7-11 ESV

7 Tychicus will tell you all about my activities. He is a beloved brother and faithful minister and fellow servant in the Lord. 8 I have sent him to you for this very purpose, that you may know how we are and that he may encourage your hearts, 9 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.

10 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), 11 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.

Introduction

In a Nike commercial from 2014, LeBron James brings together his team and the whole city of Cleveland to work toward an NBA championship. This picture of teamwork and unity reminds us of the image that Paul paints here with Tychicus and Onesimus. There is unity and team work that is done for the glory of the Lord

- this passage also reminds me of one of the biggest bands in the world called “Rocking 1000”.

Rockin' 1000 is over a 1000 rock musicians from Europe. This band has hundreds of guitarists, bass players, singers and drummers that play in unison.

- to get a 1000 musicians together without anyone fighting in itself is a miracle
- but these 1000 musicians must listen to the band leader if they want to continue in this band
- if Christians across Canada wanted to do a “gospel 1000” band could it be done?
- it could only be done if every musician submitted to the band leader

- this is how the church _____ to function
- believers in Jesus Christ have a leader and that leader is Jesus Christ
- each person in the church must know their role and submit to Jesus Christ as they do ministry together
- much like that Nike commercial the church needs unity in ministry
- much like the band "Rockin' 1000" the church needs _____ in ministry
- the unity that we see between Paul, Tychicus, Onesimus, Mark, Justus and Aristarchus is what the Lord commands for us as a _____

Review

- Colossians is an amazing book because it _____ upon Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ and Jesus Christ
- Colossians starts with thanksgiving to God because of God's work among the Colossians and Paul prays that this congregation would _____ in holiness (Colossians 1:3-11)
- Paul highlights in this letter the absolute _____ of Jesus Christ
- Colossians 1:15-20 Paul writes a great hymn speaking about Jesus being supreme over creation the _____ and salvation
- Paul continues to teach the supremacy of Christ in Colossians 2
Colossians 2:9-10 For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, 10 and you have been filled in him, who is the _____ of all rule and authority.
- in Colossians 3:1-4:6 we see what new life in Jesus Christ looks like
- a person is saved by grace, delivered from a _____ under the authority of sin and then they are called to live a new life under the _____ of Jesus Christ
- now we come to the end of this great book where Paul gives greetings and instructions to the _____ at Colossae
- this letter ends with a _____ from Paul
- many of Paul's letters end in a similar fashion where Paul mentions _____ who work with him in the gospel and this is just what we see in today's passage

Brief Outline:

- 1) (4:7-8) Tychicus
- 2) (4:9) Onesimus
- 3) (4:10-11) Aristarchus, Mark and Justus

1) (4:7-8) Tychicus

(4:7) Tychicus will tell you all about my activities. He is a beloved brother and faithful minister and fellow servant in the Lord.

- the first person that _____ mentions is Tychicus
- he is described as a person who is from _____ who accompanied Paul on his 3rd _____ journey

Acts 20:4 Sopater the Berean, son of Pyrrhus, accompanied him; and of the Thessalonians, Aristarchus and Secundus; and Gaius of Derbe, and Timothy; and the Asians, Tychicus and Trophimus.

- Tychicus was sent by Paul to Ephesus in 2 _____ 4:12
- _____ chicus was sent by Paul to Crete in Titus 3:12

- so Tychicus was a _____ Christian who served Paul and the church
 - Tychicus was _____ to the Colossians to _____ them on what was going on with Paul
 - we know that Paul is in _____
 - Paul is in prison because he has been preaching the _____ and doing ministry
- Colossians 4:3 At the same time, _____ also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison--

- Paul _____ the Colossians to remember that he is in prison
- Colossians 4:18 I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. Remember my _____. Grace be with you.

- Paul being _____ could have caused some concern for the Colossians and the other Christians in the area namely, Ephesus and Laodicea
- so _____ wants to communicate with these churches all that is going on

a. Paul describes Tychicus in three ways:

i) beloved _____

- a brother in the Greek refers to someone who you are close to
- but in the context of the New Testament it refers to people who are connected together by the person and work of Jesus Christ like a _____ member
- if you are outside of Jesus Christ, and have no relationship with Jesus Christ, you are not a part of the _____ of God
- but if you recognize that your sin is offensive to a _____ God and embrace Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Saviour you will receive the grace of God and be adopted into the family of God
- this means that your sins are _____ and you are brought from death to life because of Jesus Christ

John 5:24 Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and _____ him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to _____.

- you now belong to the family of _____ and thus other people who are in the family of God are your brothers and _____

- Jesus says that those who do the will of the Father are His _____ in the gospel of Matthew

Matthew 12:50 For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother."

- Tychicus was a fellow Christian but he was also " _____ "

- this is a term of endearment and means that Paul loved Tychicus very much

ii) faithful minister

- the word "minister" is the Greek word " _____ "

- often this word is translated as " _____ "

- Tychicus did not serve himself but because of the grace of Christ given to him he served others in the ministry of the _____

- Tychicus followed the example of Jesus _____

- we see the kind of Christ- _____ character one is to exemplify in Philippians
Philippians 2:3-5 Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. 4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. 5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,

- Paul, later in Philippians 2:6-11 explains the _____ service and sacrifice of Jesus Christ

- this is _____ we as believers in Jesus Christ are to be characterized

- we are to _____ humility and service to one another

- this is exactly what Jesus Christ did because He did not come to serve Himself but to give His life as _____ for many (Matthew 20:28)

iii) fellow servant in the Lord.

- this can also be translated “fellow _____” in the Lord

- because Tychicus was delivered from the slavery of _____ and brought into the family of God he then became a _____ to the Lord

- but he was a fellow slave with Paul and the other Christians _____

- being a Christian is not about trying to advance _____ rights and your agenda

- following Christ is laying _____ your rights, taking _____ the cross of suffering, serving Jesus and others as did Tychicus

(4:8) I have sent him to you for this very purpose, that you may know how we are and that he may encourage your hearts,

b. Paul says that he sends Tychicus to the Colossians for this purpose and the purpose is _____ fold

i) Tychicus is sent so that they might know how Paul & the other Christian workers are _____

- Paul has _____ said this in Colossians 4:7

ii) Tychicus is sent so that he might _____ their hearts

- how can Tychicus encourage the _____ of the Colossians?

- of course Tychicus will encourage the Colossians with the _____ of God and the gospel

c. "Encourage"

- when you look at this word "encourage" in the New Testament it is often used in the context of the _____ or the word of God

- one of my favourite uses of this word "encourage" is found in 1 Thessalonians

- just listen to how Paul _____ the Thessalonians to encourage each other

1 Thessalonians 4:15-18 For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. ¹⁸ Therefore _____ one another with these words.

1 Thessalonians 5:9-11 For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰ who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. ¹¹ Therefore encourage one another and _____ one another up, just as you are doing.

- the Thessalonians were to _____ to each other the gospel and the hope of the resurrection

- this is the same _____ that Tychicus would have delivered to the Colossians!

- when you turn on the news, you are not going to get this _____ of encouragement

- CBC is not going to be preaching to you the _____ or the hope of the resurrection

- for the most part Twitter or Facebook are not going to be preaching to you the _____ of the gospel unless you are subscribed to the Dryden 1st Baptist Church page

- we need servants of the _____ in the Canadian church to encourage us with the wonderful _____ of Jesus Christ

2) (4:9) Onesimus

(4:9) 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.

a) Onesimus the slave

- Paul speaks of another individual who will come with Tychicus and his _____ is _____ *simus*

- Onesimus is _____ mentioned in the book of Colossians and in the book of Philemon

Philemon 1:10-16 I appeal to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I became in my imprisonment. 11 (Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me.) 12 I am sending him back to you, sending my very heart. 13 I would have been glad to keep him with me, in order that he might serve me on your behalf during my imprisonment for the gospel, 14 but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your goodness might not be by compulsion but of your own accord. 15 For this perhaps is why he was parted from you for a while, that you might have him back forever, 16 no _____ as a bondservant but more than a bondservant, as a _____ brother-- especially to me, but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

- Onesimus was a _____, of Philemon, who ran away unlawfully

- but by God's sovereignty, he was brought into _____ with Paul

- Paul preached the gospel to him and Onesimus was _____ by grace and became a child of God

- with Onesimus we see that the _____ does not promote slavery because we have Paul commanding Philemon to take him back not as a slave but as a _____ in the Lord

- Onesimus was a slave but because of the providence of _____ and him meeting Paul he becomes a _____ creation and is given a _____ purpose

- this purpose is to do the work of _____ - free and unhindered for the glory of the Lord

- Onesimus is described two ways:

i) _____ brother

- Onesimus is now a brother in the Lord and he is described as someone who is faithful

ii) _____ brother

- this is exactly how Paul commands Philemon to _____ Onesimus in the book of Philemon

Philemon 1:16 no longer as a bondservant but more than a bondservant, as a beloved brother-- especially to me, but how much _____ to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

- *Onesi*____ is described as faithful and beloved

- let us strive to like the example of Onesimus, who is faithful and _____

- Paul tells the Colossians that Onesimus will tell them what is _____ on with Paul

- this is now the _____ time that Paul mentions that people will update them on his condition

3) (4:10-11) Aristarchus, Mark and Jesus

(4:10) Aristarchus my fellow prisoner greets you,

- now Paul writes to the Colossian church delivering _____ from several Christians (4:10-15)

a) Aristarchus

- Aristarchus was a co-worker alongside of _____

- Aristarchus was with Paul on his _____ missionary journey

- he was also dragged off with Paul during the riot in Ephesus over the controversy of the _____ god Artemis

- so we know that Aristarchus was a _____ servant of the Lord and did not fear men

- Aristarchus is called a _____ prisoner with Paul

- therefore he would have been in prison with Paul in _____

and Mark the cousin of Barnabas (concerning whom you have received instructions-- if he comes to you, welcome him),

b) Mark

- Mark is thought to be the author of the gospel of _____
- notice as well that _____ (4:14) is mention later in Colossians and it is thought that he is the author of the gospel of _____

- Mark and Paul were not always _____
- it was because of a disagreement _____ Mark that Paul and Barnabas broke ties and went different directions in ministry
- we see this event in _____ 15

Acts 15:36-40 And after some days Paul said to Barnabas, "Let us return and visit the brothers in every city where we proclaimed the word of the Lord, and see how they are." 37 Now Barnabas wanted to take with them John called Mark. 38 But Paul thought best not to take with them one who had withdrawn from them in Pamphylia and had not gone with them to the work. 39 And there arose a sharp disagreement, so that they separated from each other. Barnabas took Mark with him and sailed away to Cyprus, 40 but Paul chose Silas and departed, having been commended by the brothers to the grace of the Lord.

- even though Paul and Mark had this _____, they were reconciled and they became very close at the end Paul's _____
- Paul desires that the Colossians welcome Mark when he _____ to see them

(4:11) and Jesus who is called Justus.

c) Jesus (Justus)

- Jesus, or Justus, is _____ mentioned anywhere else in the Bible
- we just know that he was a _____ ish believer in Jesus Christ

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.

- Aristarchus, Mark and Justus were "_____ of circumcision"
- that means that they were _____ who had converted to follow Jesus
- also they were _____ with Paul in the kingdom or the gospel of Jesus Christ
- they worked alongside of Paul but they also _____ and encouraged Paul

- here in this section we see _____, togetherness and people doing the work of ministry

Application

1) The Lord Changes People for His Glory

- we see the beauty of the work of Christ in the person of Onesimus and how he is _____
 - he _____ a slave who unlawfully ran away from his master Philemon
 - but by the sovereignty of God everyone's plans were interrupted
 - Onesimus was _____ by Jesus Christ, and not only became a _____ man with respect to being a slave, as well he became _____ because he was delivered from the slavery of sin and the consequences of his sin
 - Onesimus was a slave, and was not even useful to his owner, _____ through Jesus Christ he becomes a _____ and beloved brother

 - the media and Canadian culture demonize many different groups of _____
 - our Canadian culture _____ people that do not agree with them and it _____ the ones who fight against the enemies of its modern values and ideals
 - but Jesus Christ _____, gives grace to the lowest of the low, a slave, and makes them a beloved brother in the family of God
 - if you are _____ Jesus Christ know that you are loved by God
 - no matter your past or your social status you are _____ by God and Jesus Christ
 - we _____ this because of the work of Christ accomplished for us!
- Romans 5:6-8 For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For one will scarcely die for a righteous person-- though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die-- 8 but God shows his _____ for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ _____ for us.

2) Be Encouraged by the Gospel

- one of the _____ things that the pandemic has brought about is that many churches are streaming their services online
- but and what we are seeing is that many churches are _____ preaching the gospel and the Word of God
- many Canadian pastors seem to want to preach about the things that are triggering them or angering them
- I can listen to a sermon and the _____ is not even cracked open, there is not one reference to God

- they preach politics, anti-racism and other forms of woke theology
- people in these churches will _____ receive the kind of encouragement that Paul is talking about here because the pastors preach their political agendas instead of God's _____ found in the gospel

- Tychicus came to Colossae to _____ these Christians with the good news of Jesus Christ

- since he was delivering the letter it is probable that he would have read the letter to the _____

- it is also probably that he would have preached the gospel message found in this letter

- it could have been a ___ point message: Jesus _____, Redeems, Reconciles and Regenerates

i) Jesus _____

- Jesus rescues us from the _____ to come and the darkness of sin (Colossians 1:12-13)

ii) Jesus _____

- in Jesus we have redemption and this means that we are brought from under the authority of sin and now stand under God's grace

iii) Jesus _____

- our _____ alienates us from God but through Jesus Christ, we can be in perfect fellowship with God through Christ's work upon the cross (Colossians 1:20-22)

iv) Jesus _____

- humans are _____ in sin but they are given new _____ because of Christ's work upon the cross (Colossians 2:13)

- Christian be _____ by the good news of Jesus

- if you allow your circumstances to dictate your emotions, you will be _____

- you were _____ in your sins, but the gospel declares that God has given you _____ – Praise the Lord!

3) Strive for Unity in the Church

- if 1000 musicians can get along and each play their parts in _____, then certainly the church can be unified in the clear mission to _____ Christ and make Him known

- but often the church allows charismatic personalities and secondary theological issues to _____ the gospel and the mission of the church

- unity was so important to Jesus that He even _____ that His disciples would be one

John 17:21-22 that they may all be _____, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. 22 The _____ that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one,

- let us as a church be _____ in Jesus Christ and keep the _____ thing the main thing!

- what is the main thing?

- we see what the main thing is in this passage – gospel ministry and _____ to one another

- it is hard to scrap and fight when you are focused upon the _____ and serving one another

- in this section we are given several examples of service, humility and unity

- Paul, Tychicus, Onesimus, Aristarchus, Mark and Justus were all examples of people who _____ the gospel, served the church and each other and strove for _____ in Jesus Christ

Next Sunday May 29

Colossians 4:12~18

Prepare your heart for communion

