

COLOSSIANS - THE BELIEVERS UPGRADE

“PAUL’S CO-WORKERS”

Colossians 4:7-18

Lesson #13

January 25, 2017

REVIEW:

A. Tychicus

- 1) First meet him in Acts 20:4
- 2) Paul is in Ephesus near the end of his third missionary journey planning to travel to Jerusalem.
- 3) He would attempt to cement the relationship between the Jewish Christians in Israel and the gentile Christians outside.
 - a) Offering from Galatia & Achaia
 - b) Gentile believers (Tychicus is one of these)
- 4) His willingness to travel the distance shows his loyalty and willingness to serve Paul.
 - a) Time from home and family
 - b) Danger of trip
 - c) Warnings given to Paul
- 5) Paul wrote Colossians two years after his arrest in Jerusalem
 - a) Plot by the Jews to kill him
 - b) Trials before Felix, Festus, and Agrippa
 - c) The hard voyage to Rome
- 6) He was a candidate to replace Titus at Crete
- 7) During Paul's second Roman imprisonment, he is still with him.

- a) Desiring to see Timothy one last time he sends Tychicus to stand in for him at Ephesus.

- 8) It is estimated that He has been with Paul about four years at the writing of Colossians and Paul sends him on the important mission of delivering the letters - Colossians, Ephesians, and Philemon. (Ephesians 6:21 & Colossians 4:9)

- a) The trip was a difficult one as he would have to cross much of Italy on foot, then sail across the Adriatic Sea to the coast of Asia Minor. Then about 100 miles on foot to reach Colossae.

B. Onesimus

- 1) He is a run away slave who made his home in Rome.
- 2) He was led to Christ by Paul
- 3) Paul told him he needed to return to his master and sent him back with a letter to his master, Philemon.

C. Aristarchus

- 1) A Jewish believer with a Greek name and a native of Thessalonica. (Acts 20:4 & 27:2)
- 2) First appeared during Paul's prolonged stay at Ephesus.
- 3) He was seized by the rioting mob in Acts 19:29 when he was recognized as a companion of Paul
- 4) Accompanied Paul on his trip to Jerusalem and on the voyage to Rome. (Acts 27:1-2)

- 5) Called a fellow prisoner not because he was in prison to, but because he willingly lived the prison lifestyle with Paul.
- 6) He bore the hardship with the fame
- 7) Philemon 1:23-24

D. John Mark

- 1) Was the cousin of Barnabas who deserted them both on the first missionary journey as things heated up (Acts 13:5 & 13)
- 2) He was restored through Barnabas and possibly Peter (Acts 15:39-40) (1 Peter 5:13)
- 3) In Philemon 24, Paul names him as one of his co-workers.
- 4) 2 Timothy 4:11

E. Jesus (Justus)

- 1) Jesus - Greek for Joshua (savior)
- 2) Justus - righteousness
- 3) May be one of the Roman Jews converted in (Acts 18:24 NKJV) And some were persuaded by the things which were spoken, and some disbelieved.

F. Epaphras

- 1) Pastor of the church at Colossae
- 2) Had journeyed to Rome to tell Paul of the heretical teachings moving in on the churches in the Lycus Valley.

- 3) Though Epaphras is not there right now, he is still laboring for them in his prayers.
- 4) Laboring is from the word we get agonize from
- 5) Bond servant - A designation Paul uses several times for himself, but only of one other person beside Epaphras (Timothy Phil. 1:1)

G. Luke

- 1) Like Paul, a well educated man.
- 2) Frequently traveled with Paul.
- 3) After joining with Paul on His second Journey, he stayed with him most of Paul's life.
- 4) Speculations on Luke's background
 - a) Titus's brother
 - b) Knew Paul when he was a student at Tarsus
 - c) Freed slave of the household of Theophilus

H. Demas

- 1) Was with Paul during both imprisonments
- 2) Deserted Paul
- 3) (2 Timothy 4:9-10 NKJV) Be diligent to come to me quickly; {10} for Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world, and has departed for Thessalonica; Crescens for Galatia, Titus for Dalmatia.

APPLICATION: "Take heed to the ministry which you have received in the Lord, that you may fulfill it."

Don't underestimate the role of **SERVING/SUPPORTING SOMEONE** in ministry!