



Christ Over Teamwork
Colossians 4:7-18
Study Guide

Teamwork!

In the conclusion of Paul's letter to Colossae, we find out that Paul was not a loner. He was able to accomplish the mission of God to spread the good news of Jesus, by working together with a team of people.

1. Read Colossians 4:7-8. Tychicus was a trusted servant. As one of Paul's traveling companions, he was increasingly entrusted with bigger responsibilities- from delivering an offering to Jerusalem, to delivering letters to churches, to even being asked to fill in the pastoral roles of Titus and Timothy for a season. (Acts 20:4; Romans 15:25-26; Eph. 6:21-22; Titus 3:12; 2 Tim. 4:12). What has God entrusted to you at this point? What does it mean to be a 'faithful minister' to you? Discuss.

2. Read Colossians 4:9. According to the letter to Philemon, Onesimus was a runaway slave who came to know Christ in Rome and was being sent back to Philemon at Colossae. Notice how Paul calls him a "faithful and beloved brother" who is "one of you". Paul shows compassion, generosity and total acceptance of Onesimus (Philemon 1:12, 18). He is even willing to pay for anything that was stolen. What does that say about teamwork?

3. Read Colossians 4:10-14. Imagine some of the stories represented here and discuss what it would have been like working with these men. What can we learn about teamwork from their stories?

- Aristarchus- willing to be in prison and shipwreck with Paul.
- Mark- able to be reinstated after abandoning Paul & wrote the Gospel of Mark
- Justus- able to comfort Paul in loss as a fellow Jew.
- Epaphras- founder of the church and tirelessly working and praying
- Luke- willing to limit his career as a physician by traveling with and serving Paul

-Demas- forsaking the mission for his love of the world (2 Tim. 4:9)

4. Read Colossians 4:15-18. Why do you think it is so important for us to “fulfill [our] ministry” (v. 17). What ‘herd’ do you run with? Are you part of a group of people who are on mission with God, or not? How are you fulfilling God’s calling on your life? Discuss.

Message Slides
Colossians 4:7-18
Christ Over Teamwork!

Colossians- Christ over All

Ch. 1- Jesus is God

Ch. 2- Jesus over Religion/Philosophy

Ch. 3- Jesus over Transformation

Ch. 4- Jesus over Ministry- Gospel communities lead to missional communities!

Shining in Babylon- A series in Daniel

The Mission- Making Committed Followers of Christ

Matthew 28:19-20

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

A. Tychicus- Trusted servant

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

B. Onesimus- Runaway Slave

⁹and with him Onesimus, our faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you. They will tell you of everything that has taken place here.

1. Compassion

Philemon 1:12 “I am sending him back to you, sending my very heart...”

2. Generosity

Philemon 1:18 “If he has wronged you or owes you anything, charge it to my account!”

3. Full Acceptance

Colossians 4:9b “They will tell you of everything that has taken place here.”

C. Aristarchus- Fellow Prisoner

¹⁰Aristarchus my fellow prisoner greets you, ...

D. Mark- Restored Brother

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

Philemon 1:24- “Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, Luke, my fellow workers.”

2 Tim. 4:11 “...Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is very useful ...”

E. Justus- Nonconformist Encourager

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.

F. Epaphras- Tireless Worker

¹² Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ 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.¹³ For I bear him witness that he has worked hard for you and for those in Laodicea and in Hierapolis.

G. Luke- Downward Mobility

¹⁴ Luke the beloved physician greets you,

H. Demas- the Unfaithful

as does Demas.

2 Tim. 4:9

“...for Demas has forsaken me...having loved this present world...”

Conclusion

¹⁵ Give my greetings to the brothers at Laodicea, and to Nympha and the church in her house. ¹⁶ 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.

¹⁷ And say to Archippus, “See that you fulfill the ministry that you have received in the Lord.” ¹⁸ I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. Remember my chains. Grace be with you.

Are you running in a herd of morons?

Are you running in a herd of moralists?

Are you running in a herd of missional believers?