

COLOSSIANS

CHRIST IS ALL WE NEED

WK OF 11/23/25

PARTNER WITH GOD. PARTNER WITH EACH OTHER. PROCLAIM CHRIST!

COL. 4:7-18

Silence (1-2 minutes)

Sit silently for a minute as a way to center your heart and invite the Holy Spirit to help you listen to and receive God's Word.

Opening Prayer (2-3 minutes)

Read: Colossians 4:7-18

Devotional (30- 45 minutes)

This passage covers the final verses in Paul's letter to the church at Colossae. Written from Rome, this letter ends with a list of names of men and women who were partners with Paul in Rome, Colossae, and elsewhere in the advancement of Christ's Kingdom through spreading of the Gospel and teaching. This list, second in length only to that at the end of Romans, is a reminder that the fulfillment of Christ's command in Matthew 28 to "make disciples of all nations" requires the partnership of every brother and sister in Christ. Here's the **Big Idea**: *Partner with God. Partner with each other. Proclaim Christ – from our neighborhood to the nations. Get it done!*

Each name tells a story and, together, these individuals (and others not mentioned) comprised a multi-national and multi-ethnic (e.g., Jews, Greeks, Romans, Africans, etc.) family, all brothers and sisters in Christ, who changed the Roman world. Let's discuss them!

Colossians 4:7-8 – Tychicus | According to Acts 20:4, Tychicus is from Asia. He's a trusty lieutenant – an apostolic utility player. Tychicus will take the letter to the Colossians and Ephesians (see Eph. 6:21). He'll make the 5-week journey from Rome to Colossae. When he arrives, he'll open the letter then read it to the church. He's Paul's proxy.

1. Paul refers to Tychicus as a "beloved brother, faithful minister, and fellow servant." What does each word of this description tell us about Tychicus?
2. What does v. 8 tell us about Paul's purpose in sending Tychicus to Colossae? That is, what is Tychicus' mission?

Colossians 4:9 – Onesimus | Paul tells us that Tychicus was to be accompanied by Onesimus, “our faithful and beloved brother.” We learn from the book of Philemon that Onesimus is a runaway slave whose owner is Philemon, after whom the book is named. The irony of this situation is that Philemon is one of the leaders of the church at Colossae and Paul sends Onesimus to Philemon as a “beloved brother” in Christ.

3. Please take a few moments to discuss how the indescribable love of Christ made the reunion of Onesimus and Philemon possible, and the transformative impact this must have had on the city of Colossae. Please also consider God’s working in the hearts and lives of Onesimus and Philemon to prepare them for such an extraordinary reunion.

Colossians 4:10-11 – Aristarchus, Mark, and Justus | Here, Paul mentions three men who are “the only ones of the circumcision [i.e., Jews] who serve as co-workers for the kingdom of God” (vs. 11). The first of these, Aristarchus, is described by Paul as a “fellow” prisoner,” a brother in Christ who willingly joined Paul in prison! Mark, also known as John Mark, is the author of the second Gospel, and his leaving Paul and Barnabas during Paul’s first missionary journey was the cause of Paul and Barnabas going in separate directions afterwards. By the time that Colossians 4 was written, however, any rift between Barnabas, Paul, and Mark had been healed and Paul urges the Colossians to welcome Mark when he arrives.

4. Why do you think that Paul says these three men “have become a comfort” to him?
5. It is important that Mark is listed among these men who are a “comfort” to Paul. How is Paul’s attitude towards Mark in Colossians, and the eventual resolution of the disagreement between Barnabas and Paul, an example to us in the Church today?

Colossians 4:12-13 – Epaphras | This is the person who planted the church in Colossae.

6. The language used to describe Epaphras’ prayer life is *agonizomai* – agonizing. He isn’t just casually praying! Please share about a time when you agonized in prayer. Why is praying like this regularly such a challenge?

Colossians 4:14-15 – Demas and Nympha

7. Read 2 Timothy 4:10. What do we learn about Demas? What is the lesson here for us?
8. Nympha was hosting and shepherding a house church in her home in Laodicea. What application points we can draw from her example? (See also Romans 16:3-5)

Colossians 4:17 – Archippus | Archippus appears to also have been a leader in the church at Colossae, and, for reasons not mentioned by Paul, had not “fulfilled the ministry” he had “received in the Lord.” Similarly, for us, the many “winds and waves” of life can easily discourage us which may lead to a “pause” in us carrying out the ministry given to us by the Lord.

9. We know from 1 Corinthians 12 that each of us has been given a gift, a ministry from God. Are any of us in the same position as Archippus? What is preventing you from fulfilling your ministry? Who is someone you might be able to encourage on this matter?

Closing Prayer

Dear Father, thank you (more than we can say) for the life you have given us in Christ. Please energize us and give us the courage to fulfill the ministry to each of us and to partner with brothers and sisters in Christ and carry the gospel to a world so greatly in need. Amen.

Share Prayer Requests (10-15 minutes)