

Hidden for Ages

Is Now REVEALED

This Week's Passage:

Colossians 4:10–18

New International Version (NIV)

¹⁰ My fellow prisoner Aristarchus sends you his greetings, as does Mark, the cousin of Barnabas. (You have received instructions about him; if he comes to you, welcome him.) ¹¹ Jesus, who is called Justus, also sends greetings. These are the only Jews among my co-workers for the kingdom of God, and they have proved a comfort to me. ¹² Epaphras, who is one of you and a servant of Christ Jesus, sends greetings. He is always wrestling in prayer for you, that you may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured. ¹³ I vouch for him that he is working hard for you and for those at Laodicea and Hierapolis. ¹⁴ Our dear friend Luke, the doctor, and Demas send greetings. ¹⁵ Give my greetings to the brothers and sisters at Laodicea, and to Nympha and the church in her house.

¹⁶ After this letter has been read to you, see that it is also read in the church of the Laodiceans and that you in turn read the letter from Laodicea.

¹⁷ Tell Archippus: "See to it that you complete the ministry you have received in the Lord."

¹⁸ I, Paul, write this greeting in my own hand. Remember my chains. Grace be with you.

Memory Verse: Colossians 4:6


⁶ Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

Throughout Colossians, Paul has demonstrated that relationships are an important part of our life of faith. The way believers relate to others matters! This last section of Colossians gives us a window into Paul's own relationships and how much they mean to him. Here we see Paul's heart for his friends and co-laborers in ministry.

**Day One: Read Colossians 4.
Reread Colossians 4:10–18.**

In last week's study, we met Tychicus, Onesimus and Philemon – men from very different walks of life. Each had been transformed by the gospel. This week we will meet more of Paul's friends and coworkers.

1. What does Paul's comment about Aristarchus remind us of regarding Paul's current circumstances? (v. 10; For some background on Aristarchus, see Acts 19:1 and 19:28–20:4.)

2. At this point in Paul's missionary career, John Mark, the cousin of Barnabas¹ is valuable to Paul, but this has not always been the case. Read Acts 15:36–40 to learn more about the conflict regarding Mark.
 - a. What does Paul now say about Mark? (v. 10; * 2 Tim. 4:11)
 - b. Considering the sharp disagreement between Barnabas and Paul regarding Mark in the past, what does Colossians 4:10–11 imply about what has happened since then?

Day Two: Read Colossians 4:10–14.

3. What does Paul say about Aristarchus, Mark, and Justus and their impact on him? (vv. 10–11)
4. We were already introduced to Epaphras in Colossians 1:7–8. With what two things does Epaphras fill his time? (vv. 12–13)
5. Luke, the writer of the book of Acts, joined Paul in Macedonia as he set sail to Philippi in Acts 16:11. Jot down some of the missionary adventures Paul had with the man he describes as a “dear friend” (v. 14). (Acts 16:10–17; 20:7–12; and skim Acts 21)

Day Three: Read Colossians 4:10–16.

6. All of the men Paul mentions in verses 10–14 send their greetings to the Colossians. Like Paul, most of them had never met the Colossians. Why do you think these men would send their greetings?
7. Paul addressed this letter to the Colossian church, but who else is part of his intended audience? (v. 16)

On the map² below, circle Colossae and the places Paul mentions in verse 13, noting their proximity to each other.



Day Four: Read Colossians 4:16–18.

8. What can the Colossians anticipate for further encouragement and teaching? (v. 16)
9. Why might Paul have told Archippus, “See to it that you complete the ministry you have received in the Lord” (v. 17)?
10. Why do you think Paul tells the Colossians to “remember my chains” (v. 18)? (You may wish to consider Jn. 15:18–21; Heb. 13:3; 2 Tim. 1:16.)

Day Five: Read Colossians 1—4.

11. Why are Paul’s final words - “grace be with you” (v. 18) - a fitting conclusion to his entire letter?

12. Think back over the year and the book of Colossians....

What was your most valuable take-away?

How did you see Christ's provision for you in a new or deeper way?

How were you challenged or convicted in your walk with Christ?

What do you want to remember when you think back on this study?

*The 📖 symbol indicates verses for further study.

¹ Acts 9:26–27; 11:22–26; 13:1–3

² <http://www.biblestudy.org/maps/new-testament-churches/asia-minor-western.html>