

Ten Friends

Colossians 4:7-4:18

Today we end our Colossians series, as Paul delivers final greetings to ten individuals.

[1] **Tychicus the Messenger**

- 'He'll tell you how we're doing and encourage you.' (4:7-8)

[2] **Onesimus the Fugitive**

- This guy didn't know how important he would be in 19th century America. (4:9)

[3-5] **Aristarchus, Mark, Justus: The Comforters**

- 'Paul, we're Jews, too. You're neither alone nor crazy.' (4:10-11)

[6] **Epaphras the Colossian**

- He is "one of you": the man who loved his home city and region (4:12-13)

[7] **Luke the Historian**

- He's a doctor, but who cares. He wrote Luke and Acts! (4:14)

[8] **Demas the Deserter**

- The man who will ditch Paul (4:14, cf. 2 Tim 4:10)

[9] **Nympha the Host**

- A church met in her home (4:15)

[10] **Archippus the Beginner**

- "See that you fulfill the ministry that you have received in the Lord." (4:17)

Final Thoughts

Questions for Further Reflection and Application

1. Read Colossians 4:7-4:18. Consider how the Word of the Living God contains words from a guy who is greeting and mentioning ten of his friends, most of whom we know almost nothing about. What does this say about God, that this is in the Bible?
2. Sometimes we gain great comfort from friends, and for that we should be thankful. Why do you think Paul gained such comfort from fellow Jewish believers? (Col 4:10-11) Is there any similar category of believers for you?
3. Demas the Deserter is a bit of a downer for us—see 2 Tim 4:10. But he may serve as a healthy warning to us: what in the present world are you most tempted to love more than Jesus?
4. Archippus the Beginner needs to finish the ministry that the Lord gave him (Col 4:17). How about you? Is there anything you need to finish?