

The Supremacy of Christ
The Gospel Encourages Participation
Colossians 4:7-18

Introduction

Today is our final message on the letter to the Colossians and the Supremacy of Christ. As we learned, Colossae was a city in Asia Minor (modern-day Turkey), situated in the Lycus River valley about 110 miles southeast of Ephesus. It was a prominent city in classical Greek times because of its importance in producing dyed wool and its location on the trade route between Ephesus and the East.

1. The Colossian church was a church evangelized by Epaphras, a _____ of Paul (Col.4.12-13).
2. Epaphras became alarmed about a _____ that was developing in the Colossian church.
3. Paul commends the Colossians for receiving the _____.
4. The gospel can change _____ about your life.

I. Tychicus and Onesimus, messengers of the letter. (7-9)

5. Paul sent Tychicus and Onesimus with this letter to the _____ with more news about how he was doing.
6. Onesimus was a _____ owned by Philemon, a believer in Colosse.
7. Paul called Onesimus a "faithful and beloved _____."
8. Anyone can _____!

II. Greetings from three of Paul's faithful Jewish friends.

9. Aristarchus was a Macedonian from _____.
10. Aristarchus was Paul's _____ companion when the Ephesian mob seized Paul.
11. In this letter, Paul calls Aristarchus, my fellow _____.

III. Mark, the cousin of Barnabas

12. Paul mentions "Mark as the _____ of Barnabas.

13. In Acts 13 and 15, we read that Paul had a falling out with both Barnabas and _____.
14. Paul felt that Mark, who was also called John Mark, had _____ their missionary team.
15. Mark's actions upset Paul, and he _____ to let John Mark go with them on their next missionary trip.
16. In time, God's _____ changed Paul and softened him towards others who had previously offended him.

IV. Jesus, who is called Justus:

17. Paul also includes greetings from Jesus, called _____.
18. His name is listed among along with Tychicus, Onesimus, Aristarchus, and Mark as a _____ and support for Paul while he is in Roman custody.
19. At that time, Paul had only _____ workers with a Jewish heritage with him.
20. Paul was in Roman custody because of the Jewish _____ that took place on the temple mount over the mere mention of God's offer of grace to the Gentiles.

V. Greetings from Epaphras. (12-13)

21. Prayer can be hard _____, and Epaphras worked diligently at it, especially knowing the danger of the false teaching in Colosse.
22. Epaphras prayed that the Colossian Christians would stand perfect and _____ in all the will of God.
23. Paul called Epaphras a _____ of Christ.
24. His prayers were intense because he deeply _____ for and loved his Colossian fellow believers.

VI. Greetings from Luke and Demas. (14)

25. Verse 14 says, "Luke the beloved physician and Demas _____ you." (Colossians 4:14)

26. Luke approaches his writings from a historical and analytical viewpoint and includes _____ details and observations.
27. Some writers suggest Luke's writings were presented together as a "friend of the court" report, _____ to the Romans why Paul stood before Caesar's court. In his letter to Philemon,
28. Demas is also grouped among Paul's fellow _____.
29. The last mention of him is in 2 Timothy 4:10, where Paul writes that Demas had _____ him, having loved this present world, and departed for Thessalonica.

VII. Greeting to Nymphas and the Laodiceans. (15)

30. "Greet the brethren who are in Laodicea, and Nymphas and the church that *is* in his _____."
31. _____ was a neighbor city of Colosse, along with Hierapolis (Colossians 4:13).
32. House _____ were quite common in the first-century church.

VIII. Instructions for spreading the message in this letter.

33. When Paul and the other apostles wrote letters to churches, the letters were like _____ and publicly read in the congregations.
34. It was the general practice to _____ the letters among the churches, especially those close to each other.
35. Apparently, Paul also wrote a letter to the _____ that we do not have today.
36. Paul was not writing _____ scripture every time he set pen to paper.

IX. A special word to Archippus. (17)

36. Paul mentions Archippus in his letter to Philemon, calling him a fellow _____ and leader of a house church.
37. Paul wanted Archippus to be encouraged and strengthened, but he wants the _____ of the believers at Colossians in telling Archippus how valued and needed he was in God's work.

38. If the _____ spoke up, then Archippus would know his ministry was wanted and needed.
39. God's plan and purpose _____ you!
40. Paul's encouragement to Archippus also speaks to us regarding some enduring principles of ministry.
- It is God who gives ministry to people.
 - Authentic ministry is received and accomplished in the Lord, not in human ingenuity or strength.
 - Ministry can be left unfulfilled.
 - We must take heed to and be _____ in our ministry to fulfill and finish it and
 - We should help and encourage others to fulfill their ministry.

Conclusion. (18)

41. Paul wanted the Colossian Christians to recognize how important it is to remain in _____ and ministry with others.
42. The Colossians experienced the same peace and hope and started _____ people they knew about it.

If you have met Jesus and been changed by His grace, then you are fully qualified to spread this gospel to others! Faithful to his calling, Paul ends with the words, "Grace be with you!" Paul the Apostle of Grace, even when confronting heresy, or elaborately conceived and hidden mysteries, or trying to achieve righteousness through works, reminds us we can only move forward safely in the Christian life if God's grace is within and upon us! So, grace be with you all!

ANSWERS

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|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. Disciple | 17. Justice | 33. Newsletters |
| 2. Cult | 18. Workers | 34. Share |
| 3. Gospel | 19. Three | 35. Laodiceans |
| 4. Everything | 20. Riot | 36. Inspired |
| 5. Colossians | 21. Work | 37. Soldier |
| 6. Slave | 22. Complete | 38. Support |
| 7. Brother | 23. Bondservant | 39. Includes |
| 8. Change | 24. Cared | 40. Diligent |
| 9. Thessalonica | 25. Greet | 41. Fellowship |
| 10. Travel | 26. Medical | 42. Telling |
| 11. Prisoner | 27. Explaining | |
| 12. Cousin | 28. Laborers | |
| 13. Mark | 29. Forsaken | |
| 14. Abandoned | 30. House | |
| 15. Refused | 31. Laodicea | |
| 16. Grace | 32. Churches | |