

Colossians 13
Personal Greetings and Exhortations
Colossians 4:7-18

Colossians 4:7-9 Paul sends Tychicus and Onesimus to inform the Colossians as to their circumstances in prison and to encourage them.

7. Tychicus was a beloved brother, faithful servant and fellow bond-servant commissioned to bring information to the Colossians about the situation of those in prison.

8. Tychicus would encourage the Colossians by relaying how Paul and Timothy were coming alongside of them in prayer.

9. Onesimus was the runaway slave of Philemon (Phil 10). He had become a faithful and beloved brother through Paul in Rome. He was from Colossae. He would aid Tychicus in informing them about the situation in prison.

Colossians 4:10-14 Paul's fellow Jewish and Gentile workers send their personal greetings to the Colossians.

10. Aristarchus was a Jew, and fellow prisoner who sent his greetings. Mark, also known as John, was also a Jew and Barnabas's cousin. If he visited the Colossians, they should greet him.

11. Justus was the only other Jew who was a fellow worker for the kingdom of God, meaning he was preparing by service for the messianic (millennial) kingdom. These three Jews were an encouragement to Paul.

12. Epaphras was a Gentile from Colossae, a bondservant of Jesus Christ who sent his greetings. He labored extensively in prayer for them that they might be spiritually mature and certain of what God wanted for their lives.

13. Epaphras labored to the point of exhaustion for the Colossians, Laodiceans, and Hierapoliseans.

14. Luke was a beloved physician, and Demas also sent their greetings.

Colossians 4:15-17 Paul exhorts the Colossians to greet neighboring believers, read their letter, and command Archippus.

15. Greet the brethren in the neighboring city of Laodicea. Greet also the woman Nympha, whose house was used for a church to meet.

16. The letter to the Colossians should be read to the Laodiceans, and the letter to the Laodiceans should be read to the Colossians.

17. Archippus was now the pastor at Colossae, he needed to take seriously the ministry he received from the Lord so he could complete it.

Colossians 4:18 Paul's greeting, command, and benediction.

18. Paul wrote the greeting with his own hand to authenticate that the letter was from him. He commanded them to remember him in his imprisonment, so they would pray for him. He left them with grace since it is necessary to live the Christian life.

Application: Paul had a close knit group of fellow-workers. He recognized their strengths and appointed each to fulfill appropriate tasks. He would say, "you, you., and you, do this, I

need you to do this, you to do that, you come to me, bring so and so with you, and bring this item.” He encouraged them and challenged them in the ministry. They worked together as a team under Paul’s leadership, according to his direction. We can do that here in grace and harmony.