

Colossians 4:10-18

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.)

Aristarchus, Paul's traveling companion from the city of Macedonia. Mark, the author of the second Gospel in the New Testament. Mark had been restored to Paul's favor. He is asking the people in Colosse to welcome Mark. The story of Mark is found in Acts 15:36-41:

*Some time later Paul said to Barnabas, "Let us go back and visit the brothers in all the towns where we preached the word of the Lord and see how they are doing." ³⁷ Barnabas wanted to take John, **also called Mark, with them,** ³⁸ **but Paul did not think it wise to take him, because he had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not continued with them in the work.** ³⁹ They had such a sharp disagreement that they parted company. Barnabas took Mark and sailed for Cyprus, ⁴⁰ but Paul chose Silas and left, commended by the brothers to the grace of the Lord. ⁴¹ He went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.*

¹¹ Jesus, who is called Justus, also sends greetings. These are the only Jews among my fellow workers for the kingdom of God, and they have proved a comfort to me.

Nothing else is known about Justus except that he was a Jewish team member. Most of Paul's team members were Greeks. These two men were a blessing and comfort to Paul.

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.

Epaphras was another co-worker of Paul, a fellow prisoner. He was known as a man of prayer "wrestling in prayer" and the purpose of his prayer was that the believers in Colosse stand firm in the will of God, mature and convinced about doing the will of God.

¹³ I vouch for him that he is working hard for you and for those at Laodicea and Hierapolis.

Paul was "vouching for him" highly recommending him because he was a hard worker.

¹⁴ Our dear friend Luke, the doctor, and Demas send greetings.

Luke, the author of the third Gospel who was also a medical doctor.
Demas who later became a deserter as recorded in 2 Timothy 4:9

“Do your best to come to me quickly, ¹⁰ for Demas, because he loved this world, has deserted me and has gone to Thessalonica.”

¹⁵ Give my greetings to the brothers at Laodicea, and to Nympha and the church in her house.

Laodicea was a wealthy city under Roman rule

Nympha, a lady co-worker who had a church in her house.

A church is a fellowship of believers. A church can be small with only a few people or large with a hundred thousand people. A church can meet anywhere. In China, under Communism it is next to impossible to get a building permit for a church but there are thousands of house-churches totally perhaps over 40 million believers.

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.

Even though this letter was actually addressed to the believers in Colosse it was also for the church in Laodicea. Today we are also reading this letter in Jakarta because the truth is for any one any where

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

This is good advice for all of us **TO COMPLETE THE JOB WE HAVE RECEIVED FROM THE LORD**. Not to quit or be diverted. It is a good feeling to complete an assignment.

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

Usually some one would be Paul's secretary but this letter to the Colossian believers was written by Paul personally. He is reminding the believers of "his chains" that he is in prison.

Grace is a beautiful word. It means to receive something we don't deserve. **Salvation is grace. Forgiveness is grace. Healing is grace, God's protection is grace. Being alive today is grace.**

ARISTARCHUS fellow prisoner of Paul. His name is mentioned 5 times in the NT. Traveled with Paul as a team member. Arrested in the city of Ephesus.

MARK. John Mark, the son of Mary, a woman of wealth and position in Jerusalem. A close friend of Peter. He had the privilege of accompanying Paul on his first missionary journey but failed to stay with him the entire trip. Because of this Paul refused to take him on the second journey. About a dozen years later he was again with Paul and just before Paul's execution he was sent for by the apostle. The life of Mark proves that one failure in life does not mean the end of usefulness.

JUSTUS also called Jesus. A Jewish team member of Paul.

EPAPHRAS. A servant of Jesus Christ. A prayer warrior and a hard worker. Highly recommended by Paul.

LUKE, the Doctor. Also called the beloved Physician. He was not an eyewitness of the life of Jesus Christ. The only Gentile author of two books in the Bible, Gospel of Luke and the Book of Acts. He was primarily an evangelist. He accompanied Paul in his missionary work.

DEMAS. A Team member but later left and became a deserter. Why? He loved the world better. Mark 8:36, *What good is it for a man to **gain the whole world**, yet forfeit his soul? ³⁷ Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul? ³⁸ If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels."*

NYMPHA. A Church in her house.

ARCHIPPUS, a fellow soldier. Also a church in his home. Complete the work you have received in the Lord.