

Colossians 4:7-18 **Closing Greetings**

Company Paul sent to the Colossian Church with this epistle

7 Tychicus, a beloved brother, faithful minister, and fellow servant in the Lord, will tell you all the news about me. 8 I am sending him to you for this very purpose, that he may know your circumstances and comfort your hearts, 9 with Onesimus, a faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you. They will make known to you all things which are happening here.

Greetings from prison

10 Aristarchus my fellow prisoner greets you, with Mark the cousin of Barnabas (about whom you received instructions: if he comes to you, welcome him), 11 and Jesus who is called Justus. These are my only fellow workers for the kingdom of God who are of the circumcision; they have proved to be a comfort to me.

Special greeting from Epaphras, Luke, and Demas

12 Epaphras, who is one of you, a bondservant of Christ, greets you, always laboring fervently for you in prayers, that you may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God. 13 For I bear him witness that he has a great zeal for you, and those who are in Laodicea, and those in Hierapolis.

14 Luke the beloved physician and Demas greet you. 15 Greet the brethren who are in Laodicea, and Nymphas and the church that is in his house.

Share this epistle with those at Laodicea and read the epistle sent to them

16 Now when this epistle is read among you, see that it is read also in the church of the Laodiceans, and that you likewise read the epistle from Laodicea.

Instruction to Archippus

17 And say to Archippus, "Take heed to the ministry which you have received in the Lord, that you may fulfill it."

Personal note from Paul

18 This salutation by my own hand--Paul. Remember my chains. Grace be with you. Amen.
NKJV

Facts Revealed:

Company Paul sent to the Colossian Church with this epistle [Colossians 4:7-9]

- ✚ Paul sent his Epistle to the Colossians by the hands of Tychicus and Onesimus.
- ✧ Tychicus was from Asia whom Paul viewed as a beloved brother, faithful minister, and fellow servant in the Lord.
- ✧ Paul sent Tychicus with his epistles to the Ephesians, Colossians, and to Titus in Crete.
- ✧ Onesimus was viewed by Paul as a faithful and beloved brother who was from Colossi.
- ✧ Paul sent Onesimus with Tychicus, carrying the epistle to Colossians, and also with an epistle to Philemon in which Paul asked Philemon to receive Onesimus as a brother in Christ.
- ✧ When they arrive, they will update the Colossians about all the things that are happening in Rome and about the status of Paul and his ministry there.

Greetings from prison [Colossians 4:10-11]

✚ Paul's **Jewish** fellow workers for the Kingdom of God are Aristarchus, Mark, and Justus. Paul said, "they all have proved to be a comfort to me."

- ✧ They all send their greetings to the Colossians.
- ✧ Aristarchus from Thessalonica is a fellow prisoner with Paul.
- ✧ Mark from Jerusalem, the cousin of Barnabas, is free and has been greatly helping Paul.
- ✧ Paul had previously written to the Colossians to welcome Mark if he comes to them.
- ✧ Justus originally had the name Jesus, which was a common name at the time.

Special greeting from Epaphras, Luke, and Demas [Colossians 4:12-15]

✚ Epaphras is the one sent to Paul in Rome with support from the Colossian Church. [Colossians 1:7]

- ✧ Paul identifies Epaphras as a bondservant of Christ because of the faithfulness of his labors in the service of the Lord, his ministry to Paul in his imprisonment as representing the Colossian Church.
- ✧ Epaphras is fervent in his prayers for the Colossian Church, that they may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.
- ✧ Paul has witnessed the zeal of Epaphras for the Colossians as well as those in Laodicea and Hierapolis.
- ✧ Epaphras sends his greetings with this epistle along with Luke the beloved physician and Demas.
- ✧ Paul sends special recognition to the brethren in Laodicea and especially Nymphas and the Church in his house. (some sources identify Nymphas as a woman, others as a man)

Share this epistle with those at Laodicea and read the epistle sent to them [Colossians 4:16]

✚ Now when this epistle is read among you, see that it is read also in the church of the Laodiceans, and that you likewise read the epistle from Laodicea.

- ✧ Laodicea was located about 12 miles from Colossae.

Instruction to Archippus [Colossians 4:17]

✚ And say to Archippus, "Take heed to the ministry which you have received in the Lord, that you may fulfill it."

- ✧ An encouraging note to continue faithfully to complete his personal ministry as appointed by the Lord.

Personal note from Paul [Colossians 4:18]

✚ This salutation by my own hand--Paul. Remember my chains. Grace be with you. Amen.

- ✧ Paul was a prisoner in Rome chained to his guards, so it was difficult for him to write his epistles by his own hand.
- ✧ Thus Paul makes the special request that they remember his chains.
- ✧ Closing with a blessing of "Grace be with you. Amen."