

Context

Colossians gives us a concise, but comprehensive view of who Jesus is. And with this, an understanding of how the truth of who He is can profoundly impact our personal lives. This New Testament book shows us that he's the supreme factor in every equation of life.

It's always helpful to read an entire book of scripture before digging into each chapter and verse. If you haven't yet, it would be good to read all of Colossians before beginning this week's study. You will definitely want to read the first twenty-three verses of chapter one.

In this section we see the Apostle Paul reflect on many of the companions that have played a key role in his life to further the Gospel. As we dig into each of these men we find things that are worthy of emulating as we seek to be used of God in significant ways.

Reread Colossians 4:7-18

1. This is our last set of LIFgroup questions for the book of Colossians. Take some time to look over the book. As you think through the different sections of Colossians what have been the key points of insight and application in your life? How have you grown spiritually over the last 12 weeks?
2. We see the power of key relationships for the Apostle Paul in this passage. Who in your life has played a key role in your spiritual development and your ministry?
3. If you could summarize those key people's contribution to your life in one sentence what would that sentence say? Where might you be without God blessing your life with these people?
4. Paul hardly ever did ministry alone. He clearly saw the value in having companions by his side. Take a look at Proverbs 27:17 and Ecclesiastes 4:9-12. According to these verses how we are better off when we don't go at things alone?
5. From the following passages and contexts what can you learn about Tychicus? Acts 20:4 / Titus 3:12 / 2 Timothy 4:12 / Ephesians 6:21 / Colossians 4:7
6. Onesimus was previously a runaway slave yet God has transformed his life. Read Philemon to see how Paul goes to bat for Onesimus, a man who has proven faithful to Paul. How could the story of Onesimus bring hope to someone with a tainted past (that's all of us:). See 1 Corinthians 5:17.
7. Aristarchus (see Colossians 4:11 / Acts 19:29 ; 20:4, 27:2) voluntarily accompanied Paul in his multiple times in prison. What does this say about Aristarchus? Is there anyone in your own life that is experiencing a hard time and your companionship could minister to them?

8. John Mark was a man that first deserted Paul and his companions but later he became a great source of help to Paul. For his story of transformation see: Acts 13:5-13 / Acts 15:37-39 / Philemon 24 / 2 Timothy 4:11. Do you know anyone that needs a second chance?
9. Epaphras (Col 4:12-13) was the founder of the Colossian church and a living example of Colossians 4:2. How could this non-public practice have great impact for your life and your church?
10. 2 Timothy 4:9-10 tells the story of Demas (Colossians 4:14b). His story serves as a reminder to "finish the race". Do you see any "yellow or red flags" in your life that could derail you from finishing the ministry God has for you?
11. After looking at the lives of these men what are some of the most significant things you can take-away?