

Women's Bible Study – Fall 2018
Colossians 4:2-18
Nov. 13, 2018 – Juli Fischer



Who do you hang around with? Who has an influence on you? Groups we are involved with: What encourages you about these groups? What spurs you on or tears you down? Let's read:

Final Greetings

7 Tychicus will tell you all the news about me. He is a dear brother, a faithful minister and fellow servant in the Lord. 8 I am sending him to you for the express purpose that you may know about our circumstances and that he may encourage your hearts. 9 He is coming with Onesimus, our faithful and dear brother, who is one of you. They will tell you everything that is happening here.

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.) 11 Jesus, who is called Justus, also sends greetings. These are the only Jews among my co-workers for the kingdom of God, and they have proved a comfort to me. 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. 13 I vouch for him that he is working hard for you and for those at Laodicea and Hierapolis. 14 Our dear friend Luke, the doctor, and Demas send greetings. 15 Give my greetings to the brothers and sisters at Laodicea, and to Nympha and the church in her house.

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.

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

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

Who are these people?

1. Tychicus- he was a representative of Paul's and was probably the bearer of the letter to the Colossians and the Ephesians. He accompanied Paul to Jerusalem with money to help them.
2. Onesimus- you will hear about him in the next letter.
3. a.. Aristarchus- from Thessalonica and went with Paul on his third missionary journey. There was a riot in Ephesus and he was there during this time with Paul. He went to Rome with Paul.
b. Mark- had a falling out with Paul over who should go with him, and later reconciled. He wrote the gospel of Mark
c. Justus

The men in 3 provided comfort

4. Epaphras - founder of the Colossian church

5. Luke -sat with him and accompanied him on some of his trips. Doctor wrote the gospel of Luke.

6. Demas - **2 Timothy 4:10 says; For Demas, because he loved this world, has deserted me and has gone to Thessalonica.**

What I noticed about these verses and about who Paul chose to hang around with:

1. Paul chose men who were (mostly) sold out for Jesus to be his buddies.

We all need friendships that enable us to know God more deeply and that pick us up when we stumble.

Proverbs says, **He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm (Prov. 13:20)**

Let's call these sort of friendships gospel-centered.

Gospel-Centered Friendships Are Like Family Relationships

Many of us here are like family to each other. We see each other more than we see our own family and we share life together.

In Colossians we see that gospel friendships are more than friendships, they are like family relationships. Christ said the same thing about his disciples: **"Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does God's will is my brother and sister and mother" (Mark 3:34b-35).**

Paul said treat older men as fathers, older women as mothers, younger men as brothers, and younger women as sisters with absolute purity. Gospel friendships can be as close as family relationships, and maybe even closer.

Gospel-centered friendships:

- are like family relationships.
- transcend ethnic, social, and gender differences.
- bear one another's burdens.
- pray for us and encourage us to pray
- want us to be reading the Bible
- stick with us through the really tough times

2. Paul did not hold these friends closely but let them go to spread the gospel

a. Our children

b. Encouragement to others.

3. Paul held no competitive spirit toward the achievements or failures of others

Paul did not start Colossae but still wanted it to succeed. Remember, Paul was in jail and had no idea these letters would be read by millions. Paul felt sorrow with them during their difficulties, and he felt true joy at their successes, even though he was in jail!

And what is important to Paul as he leaves us? Prayer.

2 Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. 3 And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. 4 Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. 5 Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. 6 Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

Other verses on prayer: I'd like for you to read them to yourself.

Acts 2:42

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to **prayer**.

Philippians 4:6

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by **prayer** and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

James 5:16

Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The **prayer** of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

1 Peter 3:12

For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their **prayer**

How do we pray for our friends? What do you pray for them?

- Know Jesus??
- Health?

Takeaways:

- Be thankful for the people who surround you in your life.
- We can encourage each other to pursue God in all we do with notes, words, redirections, love.
- When we are discouraged, we can share it!
- And when we are in the midst of a misunderstanding, we can hang in there. Don't give up.
- Pray!

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