

Wednesday in the Word  
Digging Deeper  
March 3, 2021  
Colossians 4:7-18  
A Blip On The Radar Of Eternity

[7] All my state shall Tychicus declare unto you, who is a beloved brother, and a faithful minister and fellow servant in the Lord: [8] Whom I have sent unto you for the same purpose, that he might know your estate, and comfort your hearts; [9] With Onesimus, a faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you. They shall make known unto you all things which are done here. [10] Aristarchus my fellow prisoner saluteth you, and Marcus, sister's son to Barnabas, (touching whom ye received commandments: if he come unto you, receive him;) [11] And Jesus, which is called Justus, who are of the circumcision. These only are my fellow workers unto the kingdom of God, which have been a comfort unto me. [12] Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ, saluteth you, always labouring fervently for you in prayers, that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God. [13] For I bear him record, that he hath a great zeal for you, and them that are in Laodicea, and them in Hierapolis. [14] Luke, the beloved physician, and Demas, greet you. [15] Salute the brethren which are in Laodicea, and Nymphas, and the church which is in his house. [16] And when this epistle is read among you, cause that it be read also in the church of the Laodiceans; and that ye likewise read the epistle from Laodicea. [17] And say to Archippus, Take heed to the ministry which thou hast received in the Lord, that thou fulfil it. [18] The salutation by the hand of me, Paul. Remember my bonds. Grace be with you. Amen.

A blip on the radar of Eternity. Aren't we all? When we consider the length of our little lives among all of human history we are truly a short and often forgotten lot. Psalm 90:10. We can seem so insignificant at times. Yet our Amazing Creator sees us very differently. Psalm 8:3-6. We are destined for greatness yet so many seek it for personal gain or fail to seek it altogether. Contrast the pride in Psalm 2:1-4 to the laziness in Proverbs 6:9-11. The Lord honors neither one. He honors the soul that seeks to serve Him and uplifts the spirit of the one who delights in Him. Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 26, 3:5, 10,12 and 21. What is an overcomer? In the Greek it is the one who subdues another, specifically of Christians, that hold fast their faith even unto death against the power of their foes, and temptations and persecutions. How do we do this? 1 John 4:4, 18, John 16:33, Joshua 1:9, James 1:12, 4:7, Philippians 4:13, Psalm 27:1. This could go on all night. By living the life detailed in the Word of God we overcome evil and the evil one. We stand for justice and right and liberty and represent Jesus Christ to a lost world. We become the little people that others write about and speak about. We leave a legacy for our Savior. Some of us become famous but who cares? If we're famous for preaching Christ, then that's wonderful but if we preach of ourselves or some false god then it is to our shame. When others speak of you, what do they say? Are you known as a Jesus Freak or a fanatic? Hallelujah!

In our text for today, Paul made mention of a few folks who served the Lord and aided in the ministry. Some we've heard of in other letters, some not. Pastor detailed their value to Paul and to Christ in his Sunday sermon. If Paul had not included them then they may have been lost to history. But here they are. The small helps they performed almost 2000 years ago are recorded

and remembered here for us. As we can see, any one of us could have just as easily performed their tasks from accompanying a ministry to delivering letters to forgiving one another. The small things we do for Christ and His people might be forgotten or written for all to read. What matters is that what we do is honored by God. Luke 19:15-17.

Let's take a look at some interesting information on these simple Godly servants. Tychicus was a Christian from Asia. A friend and companion of Paul. His name means 'fortuitous, fateful or fortunate'. Traveling with him was Onesimus, meaning 'profitable or useful'. This newly Christian slave of Philemon could now be especially useful to his master. Aristarchus, meaning the 'best ruler' was a Christian of Thessalonica, and accompanied Paul on his third missionary journey. How did he rule we can wonder? Or is this his future in the millennium? Marcus, meaning 'to defend', must have defended himself well to persuade Paul to reconsider including him in ministry. Barnabas or 'son of rest' was the surname of Joses or Joseph, a Levite, a native of Cyprus. He was a distinguished Christian teacher and companion and colleague of Paul. Was he a comfort or rest to his fellows? Jesus, meaning 'Jehovah is salvation' was known as Justus which meant 'just' which he must have been as a trusted Jewish believer. Epaphras' name means 'lovely'. A character trait a Christian ought to desire especially as he labored much in prayer for those brothers and sisters he loved. Incidentally the city names mentioned here speak of justice and holiness respectively. They were centers of the early church. Luke means 'light giving'. What a name for a believer! May we give the light of the Lord to others as this gospel writer did so well. Demas, meaning the 'governor of the people', apparently had to earn Paul's good grace as did John Mark. Archippus or 'master of the horse' was a Christian teacher in Colosse. What do you think he taught? And what ministry was he encouraged towards? We would love to know more and may ask him one day. Saul's name meaning 'sought after' was changed to Paul meaning 'small'. Did God seek him to humble him? What joy awaits us as we consider fellowshiping with all these saints in the Kingdom to come. Isn't it interesting how God had such control over life as to name so many according to their character? Take courage to serve God in large and small ways as we cannot know the import of our efforts and how they may affect the work of Jesus Christ in the lives of our brothers and sisters. Acts 9:36-42. Was this lovely sister just a blip on the radar or a saint who enriched the lives of fellow believers? Do what you are called to do and rejoice to do so. 2 Corinthians 6:10. For more on this read 6:3-10. Don't be lost to history. Rather, be remembered as a loving, caring follower of Christ.