Study Guide

COLOSSIANS

Always. Only. Jesus.

Jesus, Our Bond | Colossians 4:7-18

7Tychicus will tell you all about my activities. He is a beloved brother and faithful minister and fellow
servant in the Lord. 8I have sent him to you for this very purpose, that you may know how we are and
that he may encourage your hearts, 9and with him Onesimus, our faithful and beloved brother, who is
one of you. They will tell you of everything that has taken place here.

10Aristarchus my fellow prisoner greets you, and Mark the cousin of Barnabas (concerning whom you
have received instructions—if he comes to you, welcome him), 11and Jesus who is called Justus. These
are the only men of the circumcision among my fellow workers for the kingdom of God, and they have
been a comfort to me. 12Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ Jesus, greets you, always
struggling on your behalf in his prayers, that you may stand mature and fully assured in all the will of
God. 13For I bear him witness that he has worked hard for you and for those in Laodicea and in
Hierapolis. 14Luke the beloved physician greets you, as does Demas.

15Give my greetings to the brothers at Laodicea, and to Nympha and the church in her house. 16And
when this letter has been read among you, have it also read in the church of the Laodiceans; and see
that you also read the letter from Laodicea. 17And say to Archippus, "See that you fulfill the ministry
that you have received in the Lord."

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

Introduction

With all of Paul's theological acumen, he had a keen personal interest in others. Despite his all his own problems, he cared for the problems of others. Though suffering for the gospel, he kept sharing the gospel. Why? The gospel of Jesus bound him to the saints and bound him to declare the gospel of Jesus.

Twenty centuries later, we exist together for Always. Only. Jesus. Bound together in Jesus. Bound together for Jesus' gospel mission.

The BIG Idea:
Always. Only. Jesus. binds us together in the gospel and binds us together for Jesus' gospel mission.

The Curriers | 4:7-9

The Colleagues | 4:10-14

The Churches | 4:15-17

The Closing | 4:18

We are all missionaries.

Wherever we go,

we either bring people nearer to Christ

or we repel them from Christ.

Eric Liddell
(1902-1945)

Let's Think About It

Who has been an especially encouraging Christian friend or mentor in your life? What made their influence meaningful?

Consider

What does the story of Onesimus teach us about grace, forgiveness, and transformation?

Why is suffering often connected to gospel partnership in the New Testament?
Mark had failed earlier in ministry but later became "useful" again. What does this teach us about failure and restoration?

Why are prayer warriors like Epaphras essential to the mission of the church?

What warning should believers take from Demas abandoning the faith mission because he loved "this present world"?

Why was it important for Paul's letters to be read publicly and shared among churches?

Apply

Is there someone you need to encourage the way Paul encouraged Archippus?

What practical steps can you take to become more faithful in prayer for others?

How can we support believers who are suffering or struggling in ministry?

Are there worldly distractions or desires pulling your heart away from devotion to Christ?

What does it look like for your daily life to be centered on "Always. Only. Jesus."?

Reflect

Paul remembered individuals by name and ministry role. What does this teach us about how God values ordinary faithfulness?

How does this passage challenge modern individualism in the church?

What legacy do you hope your life leaves in the kingdom of God?

Lift high the cross,
The love of Christ proclaim,
Till all the world adore
His sacred name.

George W. Kitchin
Michael R. Newbolt

Wherefore I cry, and cry again;
And in no quiet canst thou be,
Till I a thankful heart obtain
Of thee:
Not thankful, when it pleaseth me;
As if thy blessings had spare days:
But such a heart, whose pulse may be
Thy praise.

Gratefulness, George Herbert