

- 4) a. Even though Epaphras was in prison with Paul (Philemon 23), he was ministering to the believers in Colossae in a significant way. What was his ministry to them?
- b. What situation in the past could have shaped his attitude toward those believers? (See Col 1:3-8)
- c. Epaphras' prayers for them are described in a variety of ways in our English translations: laboring earnestly, always struggling, striving earnestly, always wrestling, laboring fervently. Describe your impression of what his ministry efforts might have looked like.
- 5) Demas is mentioned as part of the team. But his description in the outline above is based on a comment about him in Paul's final letter. (See 2 Tim 4:10) What might have been some likely factors in the transfer of his devotion from the team to the world?
- 6) a. There was great diversity among Paul's team members – Jew and Gentile, slave and free, longer or shorter relationship with Paul, more educated and less schooled. What would have been important factors in overcoming the challenges of such differences?
- b. How can those factors help in building unity in the Body of Christ at Parker Bible Church?

Application:

You may be serving on a team of some kind. At church, at work, in a sports league, and even a family is a kind of team. What strengths, talents, and spiritual qualities are you consciously bringing to the efforts and goals of your team?