



Lesson 14

4:7-18 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 fellow 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 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 work you have received in the Lord.” ¹⁸ I, Paul, write this greeting in my own hand. Remember my chains. Grace be with you.

Notes:

- v. 9 - “faithful and dear (beloved) brother” = Paul’s high estimation of coworkers
- v. 12 – “wrestling” = picturesque description of prayer as ‘agonizing’ – to engage in a struggle
- v. 15 – Note the presence of house churches
- v. 16 – It was assumed that upon reception, Paul’s letter were read aloud
- v. 16 – The Letter from Laodicea is otherwise unknown. Some say it could have been the letter of Ephesians that was making its round from one church to another.
- V. 18 – Paul apparently always wrote the closing greeting in his own hand to certify the genuineness of the letter. He tells the Thessalonians this is his standard practice (2 Thess. 3:17). He wrote the letter of Galatians with large letters (6:11).

1.) Get in groups and use your Bibles to identify...

- Tychicus (Acts 20:4; Ephesians 6:21; 2 Timothy 4:12; Titus 3:12)
- Onesimus (Philemon 8-16)

- Aristarchus (Acts 19:29; 20:4; 27:2; Philemon 24)
- Mark (Acts 12:25; 15:36-40; 2 Timothy 4:11; Philemon 24; 1 Peter 5:13)
- Barnabas (Acts 4:36; 9:27; 15:36-40; Galatians 2:9,13)
- Jesus, also called Justus (only mentioned here): A coworker of Paul in Rome.
- Epaphras (Colossians 1:7; Philemon 23)
- Luke (2 Timothy 4:11; Philemon 24; see also Paul's journeys in Acts 16:8-10ff)
- Demas (Philemon 24; 2 Timothy 4:10)
- Nympha (only mentioned here) A woman who had opened her house to Christians in Colosse.
- Archippus (Philemon 2) A worker in the church at Colosse, possibly a son of Philmon and Apphia, or at least a member of their household.

2.) Why is it important to inform others about ourselves and take the initiative to stay informed about others?

3.) What makes Christian friendships so extraordinary?



SERIES INTRODUCTION

You've very likely experienced something like this: During a serious conversation, a person says something about God that just doesn't sound right. Sometimes you can recognize that what the person believes is a horrible distortion of the truth. Sometimes you aren't so sure. "God wants me to be happy." "I don't need the Bible or worship to have a relationship with God." "God helps those who help themselves." When you take a careful look at those statements, you realize how dangerous they are.

Our next Bible study, *10 Lies About God*, addresses ten popular lies about God that people often hide behind to sidestep the truth that there is a God to whom they are accountable or to avoid admitting the reality that they are sinners who need a Savior. It will help us recognize and respond to these deceptions that keep people from experiencing the peace and joy that comes through forgiveness in Christ and faith in God.

EXPANDING OUR LIST OF LIES

Our study is entitled "10 Lies About God," but there are surely many more! Let's brainstorm together to expand our list to include some of our own that we've heard (or used or fallen into ourselves).

10 Lies Lessons:

- Lesson 1 "God Wants Me to Be Happy"
- Lesson 2 "There Are Many Ways to God"
- Lesson 3 "God Has Grown Softer on Sin"
- Lesson 4 "God Helps Those Who Help Themselves"
- Lesson 5 "God Has Made Death a Natural Part of Life"
- Lesson 6 "A God of Love Wouldn't Send People to Hell"
- Lesson 7 "It Doesn't Matter How God Made the World"
- Lesson 8 "God Is Distant and Disinterested in What Happens"
- Lesson 9 "I Don't Need the Bible or Attend Worship to Have a Relationship with God"
- Lesson 10 "God Doesn't Judge Anyone, and Neither Should You"

"Extra" Lies for us to Investigate...