

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

(10) Aristarchus my fellow prisoner greets you, and Mark the cousin of Barnabas (concerning whom you have received instruction --- if he comes to you, welcome him), and 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.

(12) Epaphras, 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. For I bear him witness that he has worked hard for you and for those in Laodicea and in Hierapolis.

(14) Luke the beloved physician greets you, as does Demas. Give my greetings to the brothers at Laodicea, and to Nympha and the church in her house. And 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. And say to Archippus, "See that you fulfill the ministry that you have received in the Lord."

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

Think on these things:

- 1) Acts 20:4 tells us that Tychicus accompanied Paul on his final missionary journey return to Israel, and that he was from Asia (modern Turkey). How does Paul describe him in v. 7?

- 2) Onesimus (v. 9) was similarly described. Together, he and Tychicus were to share news of Paul and offer the Colossians encouragement. Scan the one-chapter book of Philemon and write down what you learn about Onesimus.

- 3) Where is "here" in v. 9b? See vs. 3, 10 & 18. _____
- 4) What country was Aristarchus (v. 10) from, and what city (see Acts 27:2)? When we read about the riot in Ephesus, we learn that Aristarchus was dragged into the theater because they could not find Paul. Afterward, he, too, went with Paul on his final journey back to Israel. Notice here that Paul calls him "fellow prisoner"; it appears he also was imprisoned with Paul for preaching.

- 5) What do you remember about Mark (see Acts 12:12, 25 and 15:37-39, Colossians 4:10b)? In the end, how did Paul come to regard him (2 Timothy 4:11)? Why do some people believe him to be the author of the Gospel of Mark, considered the first Gospel written (1 Peter 5:13)?

6) Aristarchus, Mark and Jesus (Justus) were all fellow _____ (v. 11).

7) Epaphras was from where, and what was his constant prayer for Colossian believers (vs. 12-13)?

8) Two Gospels were written by Jesus' disciples: Matthew and John. We learned above that Mark, in his latter years, supported Peter until his death and may have written his Gospel from Peter's eyewitness accounts. Now we see in v. 14 that Luke was Paul's companion up until his death (also see 2 Timothy 4:11). Do you think Luke was an educated or uneducated man, and why? Compare Luke 1:1-4 with Acts 1:1-5, and explain one more thing we learn about Luke in regards to our Bible.

Educated? _____

What do we learn? _____

9) From v. 15, one could conclude that the church at Laodicea met in Nympha's house, and from Philemon that the church at Colossae met at Philemon's house. Apparently, Laodicea, Colossae, and Hierapolis (v. 13) formed a triad of churches that were located fairly close together in south central Turkey. Paul expresses a desire that his two letters to Laodicea and Colossae be shared at both churches. However, the letter written to Laodicea didn't survive over time, and only the letter to the Colossians was preserved and provided in our New Testaments. According to Philemon 2, Archippus (v. 17) was the appointed minister at Colossae. There is one thing about Laodicea, though, that many Christians recall. Take a quick look at Revelation 3:14-22 and share what the church in Laodicea became most renown for.

People and situations I want to pray for this week: