



## The Epistles of Paul the Apostle to the Colossians and Philemon

### *The Report of Tychicus and Onesimus*

#### *Colossians 4:7-9*

- I. THE MESSAGE OF TYCHICUS (Colossians 4:7)
  - A. His Declaration
    1. The message of his declaration—“All my state”
    2. The recipient of his declaration—“unto you”
  - B. His Testimony
    1. A beloved brother
    2. A faithful minister
    3. A fellowservant in the Lord
      - a. Ephesus (Ephesians 6:21-22 and subscript; 2 Timothy 4:12)
      - b. Colosse (Colossians 4:7 and subscript)
      - c. Crete (Titus 3:12)
- II. THE MISSION OF TYCHICUS (Colossians 4:8)
  - A. The Similarity of His Purpose
    1. The statement—“Whom I have sent unto you for the same purpose”
    2. The reference (see Philippians 4:7)
  - B. The Specifics of His Purpose
    1. That he might know the estate of the Colossians
    2. That he might comfort their hearts
- III. THE COMPANION OF TYCHICUS (Colossians 4:9)
  - A. His Name—Onesimus
  - B. His Character
    1. Faithful
    2. Beloved
  - C. His Hometown—“who is one of you”
  - D. His Mission—“shall make known unto you all things which are done here”



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### *The Closing Remarks*

#### *Colossians 4:10-18*

- I. SALUTATIONS FROM PAUL'S FRIENDS (Colossians 4:10-14)
  - A. Their Names
    1. Aristarchus (Colossians 4:10)
    2. Marcus (Colossians 4:10)
    3. Jesus (Colossians 4:11)
    4. Epaphras (Colossians 4:12)
    5. Luke (Colossians 4:14)
    6. Demas (Colossians 4:14)
  - B. Their Associations
    1. Aristarchus (Colossians 4:10-11; see Acts 19:29; Acts 20:4; Acts 27:2)
      - a. Paul's fellowprisoner (Colossians 4:10)
      - b. Paul's kinsman according to the flesh (Colossians 4:11)
      - c. Paul's fellowworker (Colossians 4:11)
    2. Marcus (Colossians 4:10-11)
      - a. Sister's son to Barnabas (Colossians 4:10); Note: This is very likely John who was surnamed Mark (Acts 12:12, 25; Acts 15:37, 39; 2 Timothy 4:11)
      - b. One who gave commandments to and might visit the Colossians (Colossians 4:10)
      - c. Paul's kinsman according to the flesh (Colossians 4:11)
      - d. Paul's fellowworker (Colossians 4:11)
    3. Jesus (Colossians 4:11)
      - a. Also called Justus
      - b. Paul's kinsman according to the flesh
      - c. Paul's fellowworker
    4. Epaphras (Colossians 4:12-13; Colossians 1:7)
      - a. He was a Colossian (Colossians 4:12).
      - b. He was a servant of Christ (Colossians 4:12).
      - c. He labored for the believers in prayer (Colossians 4:12).
      - d. He had a great zeal for the region (Colossians 4:13).
        - (1) Colosse
        - (2) Laodicea
        - (3) Hierapolis
    5. Luke—the beloved physician (Colossians 4:14)
    6. Demas (Colossians 4:14; see 2 Timothy 4:10)



- II. SALUTATIONS FROM PAUL (Colossians 4:15-18)
- A. The Recipients of the Salutation (Colossians 4:15)
1. The brethren in Laodicea (see Colossians 2:1)
  2. Nymphas, thought to be a brother in Laodicea in whose house believers met
  3. The church in Nymphas' house
- B. The Instructions in the Salutation (Colossians 4:16)
1. This epistle was to be read among the believers at Colosse.
  2. Afterwards, it was to be read in the church of the Laodiceans.
  3. Likewise, the believers in Colosse were supposed to read the epistle from Laodicea.
    - (1) As was stated when in the introductory material for this course, the Bible does not contain an epistle from or to Laodicea.
    - (2) Some deal with this problem by suggesting that it was the epistle we know as Ephesians.
    - (3) Yet, the greater possibility is that Paul wrote something we do not have in our New Testament canon of scripture.
      - a) After all, Paul was not inspired, but rather, the scripture was inspired.
      - b) In fact, there is a reference to an epistle written by Paul that most certainly is not contained in the canon of scripture (1 Corinthians 15:9).
- C. The Admonition in the Salutation (Colossians 4:17)
1. The recipient of the admonition—"say to Archippus"
  2. The warning in the admonition
    - a. Take heed to the ministry which thou hast received in the Lord
    - b. That thou fulfil it
- D. The Content of the Salutation (Colossians 4:18)
1. The uniqueness of the salutation—"by the hand of me Paul"
  2. The place of the salutation—"Remember my bonds"
    - a. As has been stated previously, Paul's epistle to the Colossians was a prison epistle.
    - b. At least four other epistles are identified as prison epistles.
      - (1) Ephesians (Ephesians 3:1; Ephesians 4:1; Ephesians 6:20)
      - (2) Philippians (Philippians 1:7, 13-16)
      - (3) Philemon (Philemon 1:1, 9)
      - (4) 2 Timothy (2 Timothy 1:8, 16)
  3. The content of the salutation—"Grace be with you"