

## Colossians 4:7-18

### Final Greetings and Review

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March 7, 2010

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
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### Tychicus – Paul’s Delivery Man

Colossians 4:7-9 As to all my affairs, Tychicus, our beloved brother and faithful servant and fellow bond servant in the Lord, will bring you information. For I have sent him to you for this very purpose, that you may know about **our circumstances** and that he may encourage your hearts; and with him Onesimus, our faithful and beloved brother, who is one of your number. They will inform you about the whole situation here.

Our circumstances = Paul, Epaphras, and Aristarchus imprisoned (vs. 10; Philemon 23)

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### Fellow Workers In The Gospel

Colossians 4:10-11 Aristarchus, my fellow prisoner, sends you his greetings; and also Barnabas’s cousin Mark (about whom you received instructions; if he comes to you, welcome him); and also Jesus called Justus; these are the only fellow workers for the kingdom of God who are **from the circumcision**, and they have proved to be an encouragement to me.

Aristarchus = Acts 19:29; Barnabas = Acts 4:36  
Mark = Acts 15:37, 39; 2 Timothy 4:11; 1 Peter 5:13

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### Epaphras: Paul's Evangelist

Colossians 4:12-13 Epaphras, who is one of your number, a bonds slave of Jesus Christ, sends you his greetings, always laboring earnestly for you in his prayers, that you may stand perfect and fully assured in all the will of God. For I testify for him that he has a deep concern for you and for those who are in Laodicea and Hierapolis.

Col. 1:7 (gospel) ...just as you learned it from Epaphras, our beloved fellow bond-servant...

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### Fellow Workers In The Gospel

Colossians 4:14-15 Luke, the beloved physician, sends you his greetings, and also Demas. Greet the brethren who are in Laodicea and also Nympha and the church that is in her house.

Demas = 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 4:9-10 Make every effort to come to me soon; for Demas, having loved this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica...

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### Paul's Letters Are Scripture!

Colossians 4:16 When this letter is read among you, have it also read in the church of the Laodiceans; and you, for your part read my letter that is coming from Laodicea.

Read = αναγνωσθη - "to know exactly" – it normally involves the reading aloud in the assembly! (1<sup>st</sup> Thess 5:27)

Acts 15:21 For Moses from ancient generations has in every city those who preach him, since he is read in the synagogues every Sabbath.

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### What Is The Laodicean Letter?

**Colossians 4:16** When this letter is read among you, have it also read in the church of the Laodiceans; and you, for your part read *my* letter that is coming from Laodicea.

- It is the current letter to the Colossians. (Laodicea would be visited first by Tychicus.)  
 ινα και εν τη λαοδικεων εκκλησια αναγνωσθη και την εκ λαοδικειας ινα και **υμεις** αναγνωτε.
- It is the Ephesians epistle. (Marcion's canon had Ephesians entitled: "To The Laodiceans")
- It is a letter from the Laodiceans
- It is a lost letter from Paul

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### Paul's Signature

**Colossians 4:17-18** And say to Archippus, "Take heed to the ministry which you have received in the Lord, that you may fulfill it." This salutation by my own hand – Paul.  
**Remember my chains.** Grace be with you. Amen.

Archippus – (Philemon 2) – perhaps son of Philemon who lived at Laodicea.

**First Imprisonment:** Acts 28 , Col. Eph. Philip. Phile. 60-62 A.D.

**Second Imprisonment:** 66-67A.D. 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy

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### Major Themes

- Salvation by faith alone in Christ alone:**
  - Colossians 2:8 See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, *according* to the tradition of men, *according* to the elementary principles of the world, rather than *according* to Christ.
  - Worship of angels (2:18) heretics sought protection from stoicheia by invoking angels.
  - εμβατευων (embateuone) heretics based knowledge on visionary experiences during initiation. (2:18)

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## Major Themes

The greater implication is with Christology where it appears that Christ is either neglected in favor of calling upon angels or is regarded on the same level as the angels..." (Arnold, *The Colossian Syncretism*, 102).

- **Faith Alone** = God's ordained means – the opposite of "self made religion" (Col. 2:23).
- **Jesus Alone** = Any addition to Christ confirms that the one who adds does not know the Christ of the Scriptures (2<sup>nd</sup> Cor 11:4).

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# Major Themes

2. **For future study of the Scriptures:**  
**Colossians teaches believers have left the realm (sphere) of Satan and have permanently entered Jesus' Kingdom.**

Colossians 1:13 For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son...(cf. Col 2:7, 9, 13)

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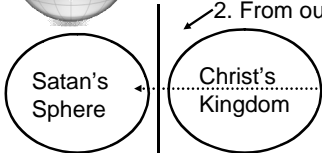
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# Believers Are Not In Satan's Sphere

John 17:15 I do not ask You to **take** them **out** of the world, but to **keep** them **from** the evil one. They are not of the world...

1.  **Christians** **ἐκ** **αὐτῶ ἐκ** Motion

1. From inside

2.  **Satan's Sphere** **τῆρῶ ἐκ** Protection

2. From outside

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