

**“Concluding Remarks”**

• H A N D O U T •

▶ The letter to the Colossians concludes with some personal thoughts from the Apostle Paul.

Colossians 4:7-9 • Tychicus will tell you all the news about me. He is a dear brother, a faithful minister and fellow servant in the Lord. I am sending him to you for the express purpose that you may know about our circumstances and that he may encourage your hearts.

He is coming with Onesimus, our faithful and dear brother, who is one of you. They will tell you everything that is happening here.

Q: What do we know about Tychicus?

Q: How does Paul describe Tychicus?

Q: What does Paul say is his purpose for sending Tychicus to the Believers at Colosse?

▶ The purpose is two-fold:

1.

2.

Q: Paul tells the Colossians that Tychicus is bringing Onesimus with him. How does Paul describe Onesimus to the Colossians?

Colossians 4:10-11 • 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.) 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.

Q: Who are these three men who send their greetings to the church at Colosse and what is special about them?

1	Aristarchus		Acts 19:29 Acts 20:4 Acts 27:2
2	Mark, [cousin of Barnabas]		Acts 12:12, 25; 13:13; 15:37-39; 1 Peter 5:13
3	Jesus called Justus		No cross-reference

Q: What is significant about Paul making the remark that these three men are the only Jews among my fellow workers for the kingdom of God?"

Q: It is believed that Paul was under house arrest in Rome when he wrote this letter. We know Paul was allowed visitors, and that he was the only prisoner. So, why does Paul describe Aristarchus as a "fellow prisoner?"

[Note: It is unclear and can be interpreted as either a literal reference, or a spiritual reference.]

If literal:

If spiritual:

If the latter is the case:

Q: Why would Paul need to tell Colosse to welcome John Mark?

Q: What can we learn from the broken relationship between Paul, Barnabas, and John Mark?

Colossians 4:12-13 • 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. I vouch for him that he is working hard for you and for those at Laodicea and Hierapolis.

Q: We learned from the first chapter that Epaphras was the founder of the Colossian church. What does Paul say is Epaphras' concerned that has him wrestling in prayer on the church's behalf?

Q: Was this concern that Paul expressed just a local problem?



Topographic Map of  
Lycus River Valley

Q: What do we know about Laodicea?



Laodicea

Q: What do we know about Hierapolis?



Hierapolis

Colossians 4:14-15 • Our dear friend Luke, the doctor, and Demas send greetings. Give my greetings to the brothers at Laodicea, and to Nympha and the church in her house.

Q: What do we know about Demas?

Q: What do we know about Luke?

Q: Why is the reference to the church in Nympha's house significant?

**Paul gives some instructions at the close of the letter.  
He ends the letter as he began – with a simple prayer ...**

Colossians 4:16-18 · 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.

Tell Archippus: "See to it that you complete the work you have received in the Lord."  
I, Paul, write this greeting in my own hand. Remember my chains. Grace be with you.

Q: Where is the letter that the Believers at Colosse were to reach from Laodicea? We have no Epistle by this name.

Q: Should that alarm us to think that some scripture or letters have been lost?

Q: Who is Archippus?

Q: Why does Paul tell them that he wrote this letter in his own hand?

Q: What has Paul accomplished by this letter?

**► Historical Note regarding the Apostle Paul:**

Paul was released from this Roman House arrest in AD-62. But he was imprisoned again in AD 66. This imprisonment would lead to his death.

The AD-66 imprisonment was not in the comfort of a house where he could receive visitors and preach the gospel unencumbered. This time it was in a Roman jail cell, which scholars believe was the Mamertine Prison in the heart of ancient Rome.

Mamertine Prison comprised of only two dark, underground dungeons placed one on top of the other. They were filthy, closer to a sewage tank than prison cells. Many prisoners died there of starvation while awaiting their date of execution.

It was from this awful place that Paul penned his second letter to Timothy. Paul expressed loneliness and requested Timothy to do his best to visit. He explained that as soon as he was arrested and brought to court, all of his companions had forsaken him and he was alone. There was one exception and that was Dr. Luke, who was staying close by trying to minister to Paul.

Paul's written plaintive request to Timothy tears at our heart strings: *"Make every effort to come before winter. Stop and pick up Mark on your way. And when you come, could you bring the cloak which I left at Troas, and the parchments ..."*

Yet, in spite of the conditions of this final incarceration, his physical weariness, and the fact that he knows his time on earth is growing short, Paul's message to Timothy is hopeful and confident.

In the end, Paul sums up his life of ministry this way:

*2 Timothy 4:7-8 · "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have remained faithful. And now the prize awaits me—the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give me on the day of His return. And the prize is not just for me but for all who eagerly look forward to His appearing."*



**This concludes our study on Colossians  
and the Side-Road we took to Philemon.**

