

TITLE: Colossians (Lesson 20)

TEXT: Col. 4:11-14

INTRO: Charles Spurgeon once said: “Friendship is one of the sweetest joys of life. Many might have failed beneath the bitterness of their trial had they not found a friend.” As we near the end of this epistle to the Colossians, we have been examining the friends whose names the apostle Paul has listed in chapter four. We have already met Tychicus who was a dependable friend. We have met Onesimus who was a relatively new friend. And then there was Aristarchus who was such a loyal friend. And lastly we considered Marcus (John Mark) who was reconciled to Paul and considered a friend.

I. (vs. 11) Justus (A Comforting Friend)

A. His name.

NOTE: *Jesus* was his Jewish name, *Joshua* (Hebrew) and *Justus* was his Greek name. Like Marcus he was “of the circumcision” meaning they were Jews.

B. He provided *comfort* (relief and consolation) to Paul.

NOTE: 2 Cor. 1:3-4

II. (vs. 12-13) Epaphras (A Praying Friend)

A. “who is one of you”

NOTE: Col. 1:7-8 He was probably a convert of Paul’s ministry in Ephesus and instrumental in the planting of the church in Colossae. Responsible for this book!

B. “a servant of Christ, saluteth you” (See Philemon 23)

C. “always labouring fervently for you in prayers”

1. *Always* means he prayed faithfully.

NOTE: “Pray without ceasing.” (I Thess. 5:17) Prayer is the backbone of ministry!

2. *Labouring fervently* means to fight, to contend, to struggle, to endeavour with strenuous zeal (James 5:16)

D. “that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.”

NOTE: Matt. 5:48 (See *Scofield note*) Doctrinal truth is the antidote to false doctrine!

E. “For I bear him record, that he hath a great zeal for you...”

NOTE: Warren Wiersbe wrote: “Prayer for Epaphras was not an impersonal religious exercise, for he carried these people in his heart and prayed for them personally.”

III. (vs. 14a) Luke (A Close Friend)

A. “the beloved physician”

NOTE: Most likely a Gentile, he wrote the gospel of Luke and the book of Acts. He is mentioned during Paul’s second and third missionary journeys. His friendship provided not only spiritual encouragement but as a physician physical advice as well.

B. He remained close to the apostle Paul to the end. (2 Tim. 4:11)

NOTE: “...there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.” (Prov. 18:24b)

IV. (vs. 14b) Demas (A Fickle Friend)

NOTE: Philemon 23-24; Col. 4:14; 2 Tim. 4:10 “*having loved this present world*”

A. Pain of betrayal. *Ahithophel* (Ps.41:9; 55:12-14) *Judas* (Matt. 26:47-50)

