

TITLE: Colossians (Lesson 19)

TEXT: Col. 4:7-10

INTRO: On the list of the most important relationships that we can have; the relationship with Christ is number one. Second on the list would be family and friends. The book of Acts and the writings of Paul reveal that the apostle had a host of Christian friends. What was true of Paul is also true of us; we need others if we are going to succeed in ministry. Let's look at a few friends and their unique contributions to the cause of Christ.

I. (vs. 7-8) Tychicus (A Dependable Friend)

A. He was trustworthy.

NOTE: He was most likely the messenger entrusted to deliver not only Paul's letter to the Colossians but also the Church at Ephesus. (Eph. 6:21) *Over a thousand miles!*

B. He was a *beloved brother*.

NOTE: John 13:35

C. He was a *faithful minister*.

NOTE: Truth provokes passion and that love translated into ministering to and for Paul.

D. He was a *fellow servant in the Lord*.

NOTE: He accompanied Paul in Acts 20:4. He was sent by Paul to Ephesus in 2 Tim. 4:12. He was mentioned in Titus 3:12. It was not easy to be a friend of Paul!

II. (vs. 9) Onesimus (A New Friend)

A. He had a history. (See Philemon) *Saved to Serve*

B. He became "a faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you."

NOTE: In his book *How to Win Friends and Influence People* Dale Carnegie wrote: "You can make more friends in two months by becoming interested in other people than you can in two years by trying to get other people interested in you." See Prov. 18:24

III. (vs. 10a) Aristarchus (A Loyal Friend)

A. He was a friend for troubled times.

NOTE: Acts 19:23-31; 20:1-4

B. He was a *fellow prisoner*.

NOTE: Acts 26:32-27:2 His affiliation with the Apostle Paul made him a voluntary prisoner. He was there for the riot, the voyage, a storm and shipwreck, and even prison.

IV. (vs. 10b) Marcus (A Reconciled Friend)

A. He had been a member of the first church sent missionary team.

NOTE: Acts 13:1-5; 13

B. Paul's second missionary journey begins with contention.

NOTE: Acts 15:36-41

C. Mark later proved himself a faithful minister and Paul commends him.

NOTE: 2 Tim. 4:9-11 Oh and God would use Mark to pen the gospel of Mark!

CONCLUSION: The lesson here is not *do I have friends like these?* But rather *am I a friend to others* like Paul's friends were to him?

