

**Bowing to Christ and Making Him Known**  
**Colossians 4:7-18**  
**April 26, 2026**

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE

**Colossians 4:7-18 (ESV)**

<sup>7</sup> Tychicus will tell you all about my activities. He is a beloved brother and faithful minister and fellow servant in the Lord.

<sup>8</sup> I have sent him to you for this very purpose, that you may know how we are and that he may encourage your hearts,

<sup>9</sup> and with him Onesimus, our faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you. They will tell you of everything that has taken place here.

<sup>10</sup> Aristarchus my fellow prisoner greets you, and Mark the cousin of Barnabas (concerning whom you have received instructions—if he comes to you, welcome him),

<sup>11</sup> and Jesus who is called Justus. These are the only men of the circumcision among my fellow workers for the kingdom of God, and they have been a comfort to me.

<sup>12</sup> Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ Jesus, greets you, always struggling on your behalf in his prayers, that you may stand mature and fully assured in all the will of God.

<sup>13</sup> For I bear him witness that he has worked hard for you and for those in Laodicea and in Hierapolis.

<sup>14</sup> Luke the beloved physician greets you, as does Demas.

<sup>15</sup> Give my greetings to the brothers at Laodicea, and to Nympha and the church in her house.

<sup>16</sup> And when this letter has been read among you, have it also read in the church of the Laodiceans; and see that you also read the letter from Laodicea.

<sup>17</sup> And say to Archippus, "See that you fulfill the ministry that you have received in the Lord."

<sup>18</sup> I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. Remember my chains. Grace be with you.

MAIN THEME

As Paul closes his letter to the Colossians, he does something deeply personal—he highlights the people who stood alongside him in the work of the gospel. These are not celebrities or superstars. They are faithful, committed believers who used their lives to make Christ known.



This passage reminds us that the Christian life is not meant to be lived in isolation. The gospel advances through a team—a diverse group of ordinary people united by an extraordinary Savior. Each person listed played a role, and each one mattered.

What united them was not their background, skill set, or personality—but their shared belief in the supremacy of Christ. They had been captured by who Jesus is: the image of the invisible God, the Creator, the Sustainer, the Savior, and the Head of the Church. And because of that, they organized their lives around him.

The question this passage forces us to ask is simple but personal: where do you fit? If Christ truly is who Scripture says he is, then the only reasonable response is to bow before him and make him known.

## DISCUSSION & APPLICATION

### **1. Use Faithful Believers as Your Example**

- What stands out to you about the people Paul mentions in this passage?
- Why is it important to see real people—not just teachings—at the center of gospel ministry?
- Who are the “Tychicus” or “Epaphras” figures in your life?
- How can you learn from and follow their example of faithfulness?

### **2. Every Role Matters in God’s Kingdom**

- What different roles do you see represented in Paul’s list?
- Why does God choose to use a variety of people to accomplish his mission?
- Are you ever tempted to compare your role to someone else’s? Why?
- What gifts or opportunities has God specifically entrusted to you?

### **3. Be Encouraged—God Uses Imperfect People**

- What is significant about Mark being included in this list?
- How does his story encourage you if you’ve experienced failure?
- Why is restoration such a powerful testimony of God’s grace?
- Where might God be inviting you to step back in after discouragement?

### **4. Commit to the Mission of Making Christ Known**

- What does it mean to “fulfill the ministry” you have received from the Lord?
- Where has God already placed you to influence others?
- What keeps you from stepping fully into that calling?
- What is one step you can take this week to live more intentionally for Christ?

### **5. Respond to the Supremacy of Christ**



- How does seeing who Jesus truly is shape the way you live?
- Why is it not enough to admire Jesus without following him?
- What does it practically look like to “bow before him” in your daily life?
- Who in your life needs to see and hear about Christ through you?

## PRAY

Dear Lord, thank you for showing us what a life devoted to you looks like through the example of these faithful believers. Forgive us for the times we have stayed on the sidelines, hesitant to step into the work you’ve given us. Help us to see clearly who Jesus is—our Creator, our Savior, and our King—and to respond with our whole lives. Give us courage to use our gifts, faithfulness to serve where you’ve placed us, and boldness to make you known. Surround us with others who will encourage us, and help us to be encouragers as well. May our lives count for your glory. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

## DIG DEEPER

For further study this week:

- Colossians 1:15–18 — The supremacy of Christ
- 1 Corinthians 12:12–27 — Many members, one body
- 2 Timothy 4:11 — Mark’s restoration and usefulness
- Hebrews 10:24–25 — Encouraging one another
- Matthew 28:19–20 — The Great Commission

## NEXT WEEK’S BIG IDEA

A Life on Mission  
Learning to Share Your Faith

