

LINCOLN COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH
SERMON OUTLINE
Feb. 10th, 2019

Colossians 4:9-13

RECAP: Last week, we looked at these verses that deal with Tychicus, whom Paul sends and whose example we should emulate as a faithful fellow slave in Christ.

“...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.”

- In spite of his sinful past, Paul describes him similarly to Tychicus, also a “faithful” servant and “beloved brother.” **Philemon 10-12.**

“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), 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.”

- This passage plays into the backstory Paul has with Barnabas. If nothing else, this passage is a small reminder that forgiveness is critical to the Christ-like life. **Acts 13:13; Acts 15:36-40.**

“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.”

- Encouragement and support from one fallible human being to another matters. **Acts 14:1-3, Acts 17:5**, and most notably **Acts 18:5-6** show his division with his own people. You can imagine the discouragement and difficulty this gave Paul.

“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. For I bear him witness that he has worked hard for you and for those in Laodicea and in Hierapolis.”

- We remember the story of Epaphras, as he is key to the letter of Colossians, in **Col. 1:7**.
- **“always struggling on your behalf in his prayers,” Luke 18:1-8.** Let us never be too reformed to think that God still doesn’t use our prayers as the means to accomplish His will!
- **“that you may stand mature and fully assured in all the will of God.”** This is what Epaphras exerts effort and time and care for, that the Colossian church will be built up in two things: *maturity and assurance*.
 - He wants them to move past foolish doctrines, such as gnosticism and asceticism, which are immature understandings of the faith. **Col. 2:16-18.**

“For I bear him witness that he has worked hard for you and for those in Laodicea and in Hierapolis.”

- One can see that Epaphras’ work of going to Paul, knowing the issues of the church, and asking for help was also a massive work on his part.

Conclusion: We need to model the life of Epaphras. Let’s be a people that pray with real effort and sincerity for the maturity and well-being of the body of Christ.