



COLOSSIANS:
SATISFIED IN CHRIST
An interactive Bible study for
individuals, families,
and LIFE Groups

~Week Seven~
“A Fond Farewell”
Colossians 4:7-18

Welcome to the final lesson in UPC’s study of the book of Colossians entitled “Satisfied in Christ.” These weekly lessons are coordinated with the Sunday sermons at UPC. If you missed any of the sermons or Bible studies in this series, you can always find them online at www.upc-orlando.com.

WARM UP

In this week’s Scripture reading, you will see many names of people who were in Paul’s circle of friends and co-workers. In Bible times, names often communicated something noteworthy about the person. For instance, the name Onesimus (in verse 9) means “useful.” That has special significance in the book of Philemon (which we will study next week).

Share everything you know about your name or nickname. Why were you given that name? Do you know the origin or meaning of the name? Did you ever wish for a different name?

RECALL – Colossians 4:5-6

In the Sunday sermon, we learned how important it is to have relationships with unbelievers. But if we are to “make the most of every opportunity” (verse 5), there are certain things we should and should not do in those relationships.

a) Why does God want us to have non-Christian friends instead of segregating ourselves from them?

b) What “unwise” ways of relating to unbelievers can you think of?

c) What connection does Paul make in verse 6 between the Christian’s lifestyle and his or her effectiveness in evangelism?

d) Give a recent illustration from your own life about a time when you either did or did not remember to season your conversation with the “salt” of grace. What effect(s) did that have on the person you were relating to?

e) Share something you found particularly interesting, encouraging, convicting, or relevant in Sunday’s sermon.

REFLECT – Colossians 4:7-18

Before Paul concludes his letter to his friends in Colosse, he shares words of affection for various people who have served him and the church of that day well.

- a) First mentioned is **Tychicus**. Tychicus was a co-worker of Paul entrusted to deliver not only the letter of Colossians, but Ephesians and Philemon as well. What do you suppose this mission cost Tychicus and earned him the label “faithful minister” (verse 7)?

- b) Next, **Onesimus** is mentioned. Read Philemon 10-16. Who was Onesimus and what had he done wrong? But what does Paul call Onesimus here in Colossians 4? How do you find that significant?

- c) Paul speaks well of **Mark**, a cousin of Barnabas, in verse 10. Read Acts 15:36-41. What had Mark done earlier to upset Paul? By the time Paul wrote Colossians, something had evidently changed. What do you suppose it was?

- d) Why do you think it was important for Paul to take time to send the Colossians greetings from Aristarchus, Justus, Epaphras, and others named in this section?

- e) What was the special contribution **Epaphras** made to the Colossians? (verses 12-13)

- f) What unfortunate thing do we find out later about **Demas**, mentioned by Paul in verse 14? (See 2 Timothy 4:10) What warning does this hold out to us who know and serve Christ?

RESPOND

- a) Paul is sometimes caricatured as a cold, hard-nosed theologian. But as is evident in this week’s passage, nothing could be further from the truth. He was a warm-hearted pastor who valued people and spoke words of affirmation whenever possible. Think of one or two people you know who could use some words of thanks and encouragement. Write their names here:

What will you do this week to express appreciation to these people?

- b) In verse 17, Paul tells the Colossians to encourage **Archippus** to carry out his God-given mission. Is there a possibility that you have gifts from God that you are not currently using? Record and share your thoughts about this question:

Never let a problem to be solved become more important than a person to be loved.
(Barbara Johnson)