

Context

- 1] Paul writes to church in Colossae which he has not visited
 - 2] Heart of the teaching = Jesus is God, Creator, Sustainer, Head of Church (1:15-20)
 - 3] Application – 2 things
 - a) Submit to authority, 'in the Lord' (3:18ff)
 - b) Evangelism – us, me, you (4:3ff)
- ??? Jews important? (11) -

Commendation of the messengers (7-9)

- 1] Tychicus (7)

Share the news about our brothers in the Gospel

- a) delivered both Colossians (4:7) and Ephesians (Eph 6:21)

cf (Acts 20:4; 2 Tim 4:12; Tit 3:12)

- b) commended highly

- 1) dear brother (cf 1:2)

Nb v unusual - only by Paul (Eph 6:21; Philemon 16); Peter of Paul (2 Pet 3:15)

- 2) faith-ful minister / servant (cf 1:7; Eph 6:2)

- 3) fellow servant (lit slave) in the Lord

God holds all His peoples existence together in Himself

* Endorse one another, publicly*

- 2] Sent to you for the express purpose (8)

- a) know about our circumstances (lit 'how we are')

- b) encourage your hearts

nb Rejoicing at all times (Phil 4:6) delighting in weakness (2 Cor 12:10)?

Let news of you, encourage other believers.

- 3] Onesimus (9; cf Philemon 10)

- a) faithful & believing brother

- b) one of you

- c) they will tell you everything that is happening here

cf Acts 28:17ff (?)

Greetings from the Jews (10, 11)

- 1] Aristarchus (10; Acts 19:29; Philemon 24)

10/12/14 Pass on greetings

- 2] Mark

- a) Cousin of Barnabus (cf Acts 15:36)

- b) instructions – if he comes welcome him

Welcome those who come in the name of the Lord

- 3] Jesus called Justus

- 4] These are only Jews among fellow worker

- a) for the kingdom of God

God includes all His people as workers in His Kingdom

- b) that have proved a comfort or exhortation?

?? Jews exhorted to remember the Old Covenant's fulfilment in the New (not its tradition)?

Greeting from the rest (12-15)

1] Epaphras (cf Philemon)

a) one of you (12a)

nb who brought them the Gospel (1:7,8)

b) a servant of Christ Jesus *nb Jewish Messiah*

Jesus, is the Jewish Messiah

c) wrestling in prayer for you (12b) that you may -

1) stand firm in the will of God (Ephesians 6:11,14)

2) mature and fully assured

nb Fully assured – hidden with Christ in God (3:3)

The will of God is to be discerned confidently

Struggle in prayer-Pray for believers to stand firm in the will of God, mature and fully assured

d) I vouch working hard for all – you, Laodicea (12m Capital), Hierapolis (6m) (13)

2] Luke

nb travelled with Paul from Acts 16:10 onwards. Writer of Luke's Gospel, and of Acts

3] Demas (Philemon 24)

nb later deserter (2 Timothy 4:10)

4] Nympha (15)

Nb house church (cf 1 Corinthians 16:19)

Keep in touch with local Christians

Personal greetings (16)

1] to brothers in Laodicea

2] to Nympha and the church in her house

The Word of God is to be shared

Miscellaneous instructions (16, 17)

1] Swap my letter with the church in Laodicea (16)

? Paul unaware he was writing the Word of God – only later discerned?

2] Tell Archippus (cf Philemon 2) – fulfil the Lord's work (17)

Work for God is 'in the Lord'

Complete what God has given you to do

Paul's 'sign off' (18)

1] Write greeting with my own hand

cf (1 Cor 16:21; Gal 6:11; 2 thess3:17 cf Phm 17)

2] Remember my chains

Cf my chains (1:24; 4:18; Eph 6:20)

Nb to live is Christ to die is gain (Phil 1:21)

Fellowship of His sufferings and the power of His resurrection (Phil 3:10)

3] Grace be with you

Nb God's undeserved gift

The grace of Jesus is our hallmark - Transmit the grace of Jesus

MP The apostle Paul wrote this personally, triumphant though in chains, charging the Colossians to be filled with God's grace.

KV I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. Remember my chains. Grace be with you (18)