

FINAL GREETINGS

Pastor Lucas Almeida—Central Baptist Church—February 27, 2022

Colossians 4:7–18

ESV

[7] Tychicus will tell you all about my activities. He is a beloved brother and faithful minister and fellow servant in the Lord. [8] I have sent him to you for this very purpose, that you may know how we are and that he may encourage your hearts, [9] 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.

[10] 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), [11] 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. [12] 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. [13] For I bear him witness that he has worked hard for you and for those in Laodicea and in Hierapolis. [14] Luke the beloved physician greets you, as does Demas. [15] Give my greetings to the brothers at Laodicea, and to Nympha and the church in her house. [16] 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. [17] And say to Archippus, “See that you fulfill the ministry that you have received in the Lord.”

[18] I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. Remember my chains. Grace be with you.

INTRODUCTION

Ephesians 3:21—...to [God] be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

MAIN POINT: Christ is made supreme, and Christ is made central most clearly today in the Church. And you will only experience the benefits of the supremacy and the centrality of Christ if you are a part of the church.

1) THE CHURCH UNIVERSAL IS A NETWORK OF LOCAL CHURCHES

The universal church encourages the local church.

The bible has no category for believers who belong to the church universal and yet is not a part of a local church.

In the bible, individual believers are often identified with local expressions of the church.

2) THE CHURCH ABOUND IN LOVE AND FAITHFULNESS.

‘hesed’ = love / emeth = faithfulness

Exodus 34:6—The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, “The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness...”

The church represents God on earth, and God abounds in love and faithfulness.

The church is a place where love and faithfulness are displayed in...

1. Fellowship
2. Ministry
3. Comfort
4. Truth

3) THE CHURCH IS MARKED BY SUFFERING AND PURPOSE

“The blood of the Martyrs is the seed of the Church.” –**Tertulian**, Church Father

2 Timothy 4:10—For Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica.

Suffering for the believer does not come without purpose.

Philippians 1:29—For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake...

Submit yourself to the supremacy of Christ today.