

Colossians 4:7-18
Your Friends in Jesus

Grace, peace ...

I. Jesus People

A. Faith

B. Focus

II. Work Together

A. Ministers

B. Volunteers

III. Spread the Message

A. Read

B. Learn

C. Live

... and more grace to you.

Children, Listen ...

1. God gave strength to Paul for his life and ministry? Who else helped him?
2. Some people are called to be ministers and some others are paid to do church work, but should all Christians be part of the ministry of the church?
3. What are some things you see people doing in our church that help make things work here?
4. What part can you play in working for the Kingdom of Jesus?

A Blessed Network

We can sometimes imagine in our minds that Paul was a very independent, self-sufficient individual, but that could not be further from the truth. First, Paul was utterly dependent upon the Lord to sustain and keep Him – that may be obvious. But it becomes clear when reading the Book of Acts and his epistles that he also relied heavily on the support of faithful believers. Everywhere he went he sought a trusted network of saints to share in his Kingdom work. Here, at the close of the letter to the Colossians, Paul commends numerous individuals to the church. In his final greeting he mentions many names adding positive comments about their ministry or their character. Paul serves as a good reminder to us that we are not only to be encouraging and supportive of other saints, but that we must not be too proud to rely on the ministry and prayers of others as we serve together in the Lord's work.

As we close out this series of sermons from Colossians, we should reflect back on what we have learned and be sure we are applying it to our lives. Paul was confident that what he was given to write was from the Lord – so much so that he wants to make sure it is read to other believers as well. What a blessing that this little letter, preserved in God's Word, has been used to edify churches, inspire believers, and convict sinners in countless ways ever since it was composed and sent out so long ago.

I want to publicly thank the last Sermon Frontload crew for their faithful contributions to the development of the messages that have been preached. It was a privilege to preach from this wonderful letter to the Colossians and to do so with the extra blessing of your input.