



*Part of a team!*

## Tychicus – More than a middle-man (v.7-8)

*'a dear brother' -*

*See also:*  
Ephesians 6:21  
Acts 20:4

*'a faithful minister'*

*'fellow-servant' (v.7)*

*Facing the 'circumstances' (v.8)*

## Onesimus - New life for a slave (v.9)

Counting the cost

**Philemon v.15-18** *"Perhaps the reason he was separated from you for a little while was that you might have him back for good – no longer as a slave, but better than a slave, as a dear brother. He is very dear to me but even dearer to you, both as a man and as a brother in the Lord. So if you consider me a partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. If he has done you any wrong or owes you anything, charge it to me."*

## Mark – A restored meanderer (v.10)

*See also: Acts 15:37,38*

## Aristarchus – A ‘fellow-prisoner’ (V.10)

Sticking your neck out

Not just Jews (v.11)

## Epaphras - 'One of you' (v.12-13)

A church planter (v.13)

*See also: Colossians 1:7  
Philemon v.23*

‘*Wrestling*’ for your friends (v.12)

## Luke – a ‘friend’ of the gospel

### Demas - a lover of this world (v.14)

*'Demas, because he loved this world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica.'* (2 Timothy 4.10)

### Places of compromise (v.15-16)

The Church in Laodicea -

*"I know your deeds, that you are neither cold or hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are luke-warm, neither hot nor cold – I am about to spit you out of my mouth."*

Revelation 3:15,16

*"When the Son of man comes, will He find faith on earth?"*

Luke 18:8

### Archippus – A finisher? (v.17)

*"Tell [insert your name]: "See to it that you complete the work you have received in the Lord."*

### Paul – a reminder of God's grace (v.18)

*"I Paul, write this greeting in my own hand. Remember my chains. Grace be with you."*

#### **Conversation Starter**

Have you ever been part of a really good team?



Finishing  
together

Sunday 3 December  
Colossians 4:7–18

## Growth Group Questions

You will find it helpful to have heard the talk so why not listen at:

<http://leightonbaptists.org.uk/media-links/current-teaching/>

*Some of these questions are personal and others are more general. Feel free to pick and choose which questions your group will find most helpful.*

1. Read verses 7-8. Are there people that you can think of who have been a comfort and encouragement to you in your Christian faith?
2. Do you find it hard to encourage people to remain faithful to God when you take into account their 'circumstances'?
3. Read Col. 4:9 and Philemon verses 8-18. What are your initial thoughts on this situation? How would you react if you were Philemon?
4. Read Col. 4:10-11 and Philemon v.23. How willing would you be to associate with such Christians if it meant potential imprisonment? How does that challenge compare with being willing to speak about your faith in the workplace or school?
5. Read Col. 4:12. Are there people in your life that you want to help stand firm in their faith? What might it mean to 'wrestle in prayer' for them?
6. Read verse 14 and 2 Timothy 4:10. What does it mean that Demas '*loved this world*'? How can we try to avoid the same pitfall?
7. Read Col. 4:15-16 and also Revelation 3:14-22. How do you feel about these words to the church in Laodicea?
8. Read Col. 4:17-18. Before you lift up each other's personal circumstances and needs in prayer, take some time thanking God for His great patience with each of us.