

## Intro

Dave gives everyone nicknames: Joe = contadino (farmer in Italian), Eric = Tech Sergeant (military like ways) I'm reverend  
~ Nicknames are also given to sports athletes: Hoppalong Cassidy (running back), Tom Brady (GOAT), Wayne Gretsky (the great one), Joe Montana (Joe Cool), Pete Rose (Charlie Hustle), Walter Payton (Sweetness), Reggie Jackson (Mr. October  
~ Paul had some nicknames for his co-laborers in this passage (fellowworkers, fellowservants, and fellowprisoners)  
~ What great nicknames Paul has for these men. They're indicative of their relationship to Paul and the work of God

## The Men of Colossians 4

~ Holman NT, "How was Paul able to maintain his perspective while in prison? With so many churches so close to his heart, how was he able to keep up with helping each one face their own unique challenge? Was he a superman? No. He had help. In the concluding verses of the letter to the Colossians, Paul does more than send along personal greetings. He gives us a glimpse into his fellowship of encouragement. Verses 7-18 are more than a mere list of names. They are real, ordinary people, who helped Paul carry out an extraordinary ministry for the sake of an extraordinary Savior. We, too, will need others if we are to maintain the vitality in ministry which Paul exemplifies. "

~ David had his mighty men in the OT but here we see Paul's mighty men

~ Paul was not only a soul winner; he was a great friend-maker. If my count is correct, there are more than 100 different Christians (named and unnamed) associated with Paul in the Book of Acts and in his epistles. He named 26 different friends in Romans 16 alone! (Wiersbe)

### 1 Tychicus (too-khee-kos')

Col 4:7 Tychicus, a beloved brother, faithful minister, and fellow servant in the Lord, will tell you all the news about me.

Col 4:8 I am sending him to you for this very purpose, that he may know your circumstances and comfort your hearts

~ Act 20:4; 6:21; Col 4:7; 2Tm 4:12; Tit 3:12

~ He was with Paul in Ephesus. He is the one who delivered Paul's letter to the Ephesians (Eph 6:21) and this letter

~ Paul sent him to Colosse for the express purpose of informing them about his state of affairs to encourage them.

~ In later years Tychicus was a relief minister for Titus (Titus 3:12). As Paul approached death, he sent Tychicus to care for the church at Ephesus (2 Tim. 4:12).

### 2 Onesimus (on-ay'-sim-os) [He was a Colossian]

Col 4:9 Onesimus, a faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you. They will make known to you all things which are happening here.

~ Phlmn 1:9,10 Onesimus stole ran away from his slave owner Philemon and met Paul while Paul was a prisoner in Rome

~ His name means profitable

### 3 Aristarchus (ar-is'-tar-khos) [He was a Thessalonian]

Col 4:10 Aristarchus my fellow prisoner greets you

~ Acts 19:29; 20:4; 27:2; Col 4:1; Phm 1:24

~ He was with Paul in Ephesus when there was a riot and when Paul spoke to the Ephesian elders (Acts 19:29:20:4)

~ He was accompanied Paul when he was a prisoner on a ship bound for Rome (Acts 27:2)

~ He was also a fellow companion of Paul when he was a prisoner (Philemon 24)

~ Aristarchus was a Thessalonian who accompanied Paul on his third missionary journey (Acts 19:29; 20:4; 27:2). Being Paul's fellow prisoner meant either that Aristarchus attended Paul, or more likely, that he was incarcerated with Paul (probably also for preaching the gospel). Paul also called him a fellow worker (Phile. 24).

~ He was with Paul in prison. In Acts 19:29, Aristarchus was with Paul during the Ephesian riot; in Acts 27:2, he was with Paul in shipwreck. Adversity did not lessen his affection.

### 4 Mark (mar'-kos)

Col 4:10 with Mark the cousin of Barnabas (about whom you received instructions: if he comes to you, welcome him)

~ He was Barnabas' cousin and accompanied Paul and Barnabas on their missionary trip. When things got difficult he left the team. Later in Acts 15:36-39 Barnabas wanted to take John Mark again and Paul said no and they parted ways

~ Later we see John Mark with Paul and ministering to Paul while Paul is a prisoner

~ A reconciliation between Paul and John Mark

~ He was with Paul in Philemon 24

~ He's called by Peter his spiritual son ( 1Pe\_5:13)

~ Paul in 2 Tim 4:11 wanted Timothy to bring John Mark to Paul because John Mark is profitable to Paul's ministry

5 Justus (ee-ooce'-tos)

Col 4:11 and Jesus who is called Justus. These are my only fellow workers for the kingdom of God who are of the circumcision; they have proved to be a comfort to me.

~ Acts 18:7, if this is the same Justus he entertained Paul in his home. It says Justus was a worshipper of God

~ Paul said he was a comfort. This is an invaluable friend in times of difficulty. Paul had his share so he needs Justus

6 Epaphras (ep-af-ras') [He was a Colossian]

Col 4:12 Epaphras, who is one of you, a bondservant of Christ, greets you, always laboring fervently for you in prayers, that you may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.

Col 4:13 For I bear him witness that he has a great zeal for you, and those who are in Laodicea, and those in Hierapolis.

~ He's mentioned three times (Col 1:7; 4:12; Phm 1:23)

~ Col 1:7 He's a dear fellowservant and faithful minister of Christ. His love for the Colossians motivated Paul's prayers

~ He was mentioned earlier (1:7) as the man responsible for bringing the gospel to the Colossians

~ Col 4:12 He's a praying man for the Colossians. Because he himself was a Colossian he was prayerful for them (v12)

7 Luke (loo-kas')

~ Col 4:14 Luke the beloved physician. Also mentioned in 2Tm 4:11 and Philmn 24

~ Luke being called the beloved physician he used his talents for the sake of the gospel

~ He's the author of the gospel of Luke and book of Acts and traveling companion of Paul

8 Demas day-mas')

Col 4:14 Demas greet you.

~ Col 4:14; 2Tm 4:10 Phm 1:24

~ Notice the progression of Demas: 1) he was with Paul (Col 4:14; Philemon 24) and then he forsook Paul (2 Tim 4:10)

~ Paul tells us he loved this present world

9 Nymphas (noom-fas')

Col 4:15 Greet the brethren who are in Laodicea, and Nymphas and the church that is in his house.

~ This is the only mention of Nymphas but it's a lot

~ Perhaps Nymphas didn't think much of it at the time to host church services in his home but it's so important that Paul through the inspiration of the HS tells the church for ages to come that Nymphas had a house church

10 Archippus (ar'-khip-pos)

Col 4:17 And say to Archippus, "Take heed to the ministry which you have received in the Lord, that you may fulfill it."

~ Archippus is also mentioned in Philemon 2 in connection with Philemon (Phlmn 2)

~ It's possible he may have been Philemon's son and ministered to the church in the absence of Epaphras

~ Archippus may have been the son of Philemon and Apphia and pastor of the house church in Philemon's home

In these verses we find men who were:

1 Faithful – Tychicus, Onesimus = they were beloved and faithful brothers to Paul

2 Useful – John Mark (after quitting he became useful) and Onesimus (after being a runaway slave he became useful)

3 Prayerful – Epaphras

4 Sacrificing/Hospitality - Nymphas (he hosted a church in his home)

5 Tottering – Archippus

6 Betraying the Lord and Paul – Demas

7 How about a location here? Laodicea is the 7<sup>th</sup> of the 7 churches in Rev 2,3. It's mentioned 4 times here (v13-16)

- Laodicea was lukewarm, complacent spiritually and needed fellowship with God
- We don't want to be that church

## **Conclusion**

~ What areas are we strong, weak, need to grow in, need to avoid?

~ We need to foster this kind of spirit in our church

~ We must make sure we plan to be a part of each other's lives and minister to each other

~ Invest and minister to each other

~ We can do a better job representing these godly men in Colossians 4

~ It's the responsibility of us men to set a course and pursue it - It's my job to make sure that happens

~ Monthly men's group to fellowship, pray and take in the word

~ As go the men so goes the church

~ I need help as it's now been 7 years of bi-vocational ministry and my flesh gets tired and weary from the course