

“Greetings & Salutations”
Colossians 4:10-14

Introduction:

1. Let’s Turn Back In Our Bibles This Morning:
 - To Colossians 4 - Where Paul Is Wrapping Up His Letter:
 - To This Church:
 - In A City He Had Never Been Too:
 - And To Christians Whom He Had Not Yet Met!
 - But There Was Still:
 - A Deep Love & Care:
 - For Each Other:
 - As Members Of The Body Of Christ!
2. And This Care & Concern:
 - Was Illustrated For Us - As We Saw Last Sunday:
 - Through The Two Messengers He Sent:
 - With His Letter:
 - Tychicus & Onesimus - Who Were Both “Faithful & Beloved Brothers!”
 - And - It Was Through Them:
 - That The Colossians Could Find Out All The Other News:
 - They Wanted To Know!
 - About Paul & His Imprisonment As Well As The Ongoing Ministry In Rome!
3. Well - As Was Customary:
 - In The Letters Of Paul:
 - And In Other Letters Of That Period:
 - There Were Other Men:
 - Who Were With Paul - Who Wanted To:
 - Send Along Their Greetings Too!
 - And So - In 4:10-14 - We Read About:
 - 6 Men - Who May Have All Been Known:
 - By The Colossian Church:
 - In Some Way Or Another!
 - But Who Wanted To Extend Their Own Greetings:
 - To Their Brothers & Sisters In Christ There In Colosse!
4. And So - We Read In 4:10-14 - These Inspired Greetings:
 - “Aristarchus my fellowprisoner saluteth you, and Marcus, sister’s son to Barnabas, (touching whom ye received commandments: if he come unto you, receive him;) / And Jesus, which is called Justus, who are of the circumcision. These only are my fellowworkers unto the kingdom of God, which have been a comfort unto me. / Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ, saluteth you, always labouring fervently for you in prayers, that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God. / For I bear him record, that he hath a great zeal for you, and them that are in Laodicea, and them in Hierapolis. / Luke, the beloved physician, and Demas, greet you!”
 - Now - Even Though The Greetings Of These Six Men:
 - Seem Like A Rather Mundane & Common Way:
 - To End A Letter - There Is Still:
 - A Great Truth Here!
 - Because - Through These Men:
 - We Find A Fuller Illustration:
 - Of What It Means To Love & Care For:
 - One Another As Christians:
 - Even As Christ Himself Loves Us!
5. And So - The Great Truth Is:
 - That Fellow Christians:
 - Should Be Special To Us!
 - Because Of That Special Bond We Have:
 - In The Lord Jesus Christ!
 - Now - We Are Not Sure:
 - Just How Close All Of These 6 Men:
 - Were To The Colossian Church!

- Epaphras Was Certainly The Closest:
 - Since, Like Onesimus, He Was “One Of Them!”
- But - No Matter How Well They Knew Each Other:
 - Or Just Knew **Of** Each Other:
 - There Was A Special Connection And Bond:
 - Between Them!

6. And This Is The Kind Of Connection:

- All Christians Ought To Have:
 - With Each Other!
 - Fellow Christians Ought To Be Special To You!
- Are They Today?
 - Do You Miss Your Church:
 - When You Can’t Make It To A Service?
 - Do You Long To Be With Your Church:
 - When The Doors Of This Building Are Closed?
 - Do You Show This Kind Of Care & Concern For Your Church:
 - So That - “Out Of Sight” Doesn’t Mean “Out Of Mind”?
- Fellow Christians Ought To Be Special To You!
 - And The Greetings Of These Men:
 - Show Us More Of What This Means!

* First - It Means That There Ought To Be:

1. A Special Heart For Each Other!

- Like The Heart Of Aristarchus - To Whom We Are Introduced:
 - Back In 4:10 - “Aristarchus my fellowprisoner saluteth you!”
 - Now - Aristarchus Was A Jewish Believer:
 - From The City Of Thessalonica - Who:
 - Accompanied Paul On His Third Missionary Journey - And Eventually To Rome Itself!
 - Aristarchus Was One Of The Men:
 - Who Got Caught Up By The Mob In Ephesus:
 - And Was Likely Shipwrecked With Paul:
 - On Their Way To Rome!
 - So - Aristarchus Was One Who “Hazarded” His Life For The Lord Jesus Christ!
 - Now - How Well Did The Colossians Know Aristarchus? We’re Not Sure!
 - But - He Is The First One To Send Along His Greeting!
 - And So - It Is Through Him, We Learn What This Kind Of Christian Greeting & Salutation Means!
 - It Means That He Had:
 - A Heart Of Tenderness:
 - For His Brothers In Christ!
 - The Word Translated “Salute” Here & “Greet” In 4:14 Describes The Drawing Of Someone To Yourself In An Embrace - With Tender & Affection!
 - But Since Aristarchus & The Others Were In Rome With Paul & Couldn’t Do This With Their Arms - They Did It Through Their Words!
 - It’s Kind Of Like Saying Or Writing To Someone And Asking Them To “Give Your Love” To Someone Else That You Know!
 - And This Word Of Greeting - By Someone Like Aristarchus:
 - Meant Something!
 - For Paul Here Describes Him As:
 - “My Fellow-Prisoner!”
 - Now - Its Possible That Aristarchus:
 - Was At Some Point Put Under House Arrest Like Paul!
 - But He May Also Have Been So Close To Paul, That He Became A Voluntary Prisoner With Paul!
 - John Eadie - “He Seems To Have Attached Himself To Paul, And He Willingly Shared His Imprisonment, That The Apostle Might Enjoy His Service And Sympathy!”
 - Now - That’s Love! That’s Affection!

- And That Is A Heart Of Tenderness!
 - And He Offers The Same Heart To The Colossian Church By Greeting & Saluting Them!
 - His Heart Was Also:
- A Heart Of Thoughtfulness!
 - Even Though He Was “Out Of Sight” From The Colossian Church:
 - They Were Not “Out Of” His “Mind!”
 - He Thought Enough Of Them:
 - To Ask Paul To Add His Name & His Greeting To This Letter!
 - Instead Of Looking & Thinking About:
 - “His Own Things” - He Thought Also:
 - “On The Things Of Others!” (Phil. 2:4)
 - And It Was Also:
- A Heart Of Togetherness!
 - Even Though He, Along With Paul:
 - Was Many Miles Away From The Colossians:
 - That Distance Did Not Mean Division!
 - There Was A Closeness & Unity:
 - Between Them - That Could Only Exist:
 - Because Of The Gospel!
 - And Aristarchus Wanted Nothing But God’s Best For Them!
 - And So - He “Salutes” Them!
- The Colossian Church Was Special:
 - To Aristarchus - And He Had A Special Heart:
 - For Them!
 - Now - What Is Said About The Greeting Of Aristarchus Can Be Applied To The Greeting Of The Rest Of These Men As Well!
 - But - What Is The Root Of This Kind Of Heart?
 - It Is The Gospel, Isn’t It?
 - It Is The Heart & Love & Care Of Jesus:
 - For Them - As His Own!
 - You Will Never Have Or Even Understand:
 - This Kind Of Heart:
 - Of Tenderness & Thoughtfulness & Togetherness:
 - Until You Understand The Heart Of Jesus Christ!
 - In Ephesians 5:25 - Husbands Are Told To “Love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it!”
 - Jesus Gave His Life For His Church!
 - And Jesus Gave His Life For You & For Your Sin!
 - And When You Realize This & Believe In This - Then & Only Then - Can His Heart Become Your Heart!
 - The Church Will Only Be Special To You In This Way:
 - When Christ Is Special To You!
 - As Peter Says In 1 Peter 2:7 - “Unto You Therefore Which Believe, He Is Precious!”
 - And So Then - Will Be His Church!
 - Do You Have A Special Heart:
 - For Christ & His Church?

* But Then - It Also Means That There Should Be:

2. *A Special Harmony With Each Other!*

- Like The Heart Of Mark - Who Is Reintroduced By Paul:
 - Also In 4:10 - “And Marcus, sister’s son to Barnabas, (touching whom ye received commandments: if he come unto you, receive him;)!”
 - So - Mark Sends His Own Special Greeting:
 - But Paul Adds His Own Remarks!
 - He Says That This Marcus Is:
 - “Sisters Son – Or Cousin – To Barnabas!”
 - So - This Is The Same John Mark - Who Went With Paul & His Cousin Barnabas On

The First Leg Of The First Missionary Journey To Cyprus!

- But Then - He Left!
 - As We Discover From Acts 13:13!
 - And Even Later - As Paul Was About To Embark On His Second Missionary Journey:
 - In Acts 15:37-39 - There Was A “Sharp Contention” Between Paul & Barnabas About Bringing Mark Along!
- So - Paul Was Not Pleased With Mark:
 - And What He Considered Abandonment From The Gospel Work! He “Took His Hand Off The Plough!”
 - But Now - According To This Verse:
 - And Others Like It - It Is Clear That Mark Is Now Present With Paul In Rome:
 - And That Relationship Was Restored!
 - The Details Of That Reconciliation & Restoration:
 - Are Missing - But The Result Is Clear!
 - There Was A Renewed Harmony:
- Through The Presence:
 - Of Mark With Paul In Rome!
 - In Fact - In Philemon - Mark Is Also Called:
 - Paul’s “Fellow-Laborer!”
 - And Mark’s Love For The Lord & For Paul:
 - Flowed Out To All The Brethren!
 - Including Those In Colosse!
 - And This Renewed Harmony Is Also Seen:
- Through The Profitableness:
 - Of Mark To Paul In Rome!
 - Though At One Point:
 - Mark Was Absent & Unprofitable:
 - Now - He Was Present & Profitable In The Work Of The Lord!
 - Later - In 2 Timothy 4:11 - Paul Even Asks Timothy:
 - To - “Take Mark, and bring him with thee: for he is profitable to me for the ministry!”
 - And Paul Knew That Mark Would Be Profitable:
 - To The Colossian Church As Well!
 - And That Is Why We See Harmony - Even:
 - Through The Past:
 - Of Mark!
 - Perhaps The Colossian Church Knew Of Mark’s Past - And Were Suspicious And Apprehensive About Him!
 - Perhaps They Were Having A Hard Time “Forgiving & Forgetting” What They Had Heard About Mark!
 - So - Paul Tells Them:
 - That If & When Mark Visits:
 - Embrace & Welcome Him:
 - As They Would Paul!
 - This Shows The Special Harmony:
 - That Only The Gospel Can Bring!
 - In Spite Of The Past:
 - Through Grace & Forgiveness - There Can Be Repentance, Reconciliation, Restoration, And Renewal In The Church!
 - Is There This Kind Of Harmony:
 - In Your Heart & In Our Church?
 - Even Though Someone Who Is Called A Brother Or Sister - For A Time:
 - Is Absent & Unfaithful & Unprofitable - This Doesn’t Mean That They Are This Way Forever!
 - And If Your Past Looks Like Mark’s Past:
 - There Is Still Hope In Christ For You:
 - And In The Church!
 - Though You Were Once Absent:
 - You Can Return!

- Though You Were Once Unfaithful:
 - You Can Be Faithful Again!
- Though You Were Once Unprofitable:
 - You Can Be Profitable & Useful To The Lord Once Again!
- Remember The Words Of This Hymn:
 - “Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling—Calling for you and for me; Patiently Jesus is waiting and watching—Watching for you and for me!”
 - “Come home! come home! Ye who are weary, come home! Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, Calling, O sinner, come home!”
- And When You Return:
 - There Can Be This Special Harmony Once Again:
 - With Christ & His Church!

* There Also Needs To Be:

3. *A Special History With Each Other!*

- Like The History Of The Man Named Jesus Justus - Who We Meet:
 - In 4:11 - “And Jesus, which is called Justus, who are of the circumcision. These only are my fellowworkers unto the kingdom of God, which have been a comfort unto me!”
 - This Man - Who Possessed The Same Name As His Savior - Jesus - Also Sent His Greeting To The Colossian Church!
 - But - Even Though This Is The Only Place He Is Mentioned In The Bible - Yet The Rest Of 4:11 Describes Him - As Well As Aristarchus & Mark!
 - All Three Of Them Were Jewish Believers! And So - They All Shared The Same History As Paul!
 - And So - With This History Came:
- A Mutual Empathy!
 - They Were All “Of The Circumcision!”
 - As Jewish Believers:
 - They Likely Experienced The Same Struggles & Even Suffering:
 - From Their Jewish Brethren & Families!
 - As Paul “Felt Keenly His Alienation From His Countrymen,” So Did They!
 - Paul Even Said In Romans 9:1-2 - “That I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart. / For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh!”
 - I’m Sure Jesus Justus, Along With Mark & Aristarchus Felt The Same Way!
 - But They Also Had:
- A Mutual Effort:
 - In The Work Of The Lord!
 - Paul Continues To Describe These 3 Jewish Brothers In Christ - In 4:11:
 - “These only are my fellowworkers unto the kingdom of God!”
 - This Means - That Of The Jews:
 - And Jewish Believers There In Rome:
 - And There Might Not Have Been All That Many!
 - These Three - Including Jesus Justus - Were “Fellow-Workers!”
 - They Served The Lord Together!
 - What A Sweet History This Is:
 - For Fellow-Christians!
 - To Be Able To Look Back And Remember All The Ways That You Served Together!
 - But - That Service:
 - Is Not Always Easy! Sometimes It Can Be Quite Hard!
 - And That’s Why This History Also Needs To Include:
- A Mutual Encouragement!
 - Paul Adds In 4:11 - “Which Have Been A Comfort To Me!”
 - Remember - Paul Was Imprisoned!
 - Even Though The Word Of God Was Not Bound – He Still Was!
 - And He Needed Comfort & Encouragement:
 - Like The Rest Of Us!

- And So - The Lord Provided These Three:
 - Empathetic & Encouraging Jewish Brothers & Friends!
- Sweet Is The Memory:
 - Of Brothers & Sisters In Christ:
 - Serving Together & Even Suffering Together!
 - Do You Have This Kind Of History:
 - With The People Of God?
 - Think About Those Three Jews:
 - In Babylon - Shadrach, Meshach & Abednego:
 - Think About Their History Together!
 - Not Merely In The Trenches For The Lord, But In The Burning, Fiery Furnace!
 - But Think Of The Special Bond They Must Have Had Together:
 - After The Lord's Deliverance!
 - This Is The Special Relationship That Believers Can Have & Ought To Have!
 - We Need To Build This History:
 - Of Empathy & Effort & Encouragement:
 - In Our Worship & Service For The Lord!
- Fellow Christians Should Be Special To Us!

* We Also See In These Verses:

4. A Special Honor Of Each Other!

- Like The Honor Epaphras Had For The People Of God!
 - In 4:12-13 - "Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ, saluteth you, always labouring fervently for you in prayers, that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God. / For I bear him record, that he hath a great zeal for you, and them that are in Laodicea, and them in Hierapolis!"
 - Epaphras Was Most Likely The Founding Pastor Of The Church There In The City Of Colosse!
 - And So - He Had A Special Affection For Them! He Had Left Them - To Go To Paul In Rome For A Time - And He Wanted To Send His Greeting Too!
 - But Paul Wanted To Add His Own Commendation:
 - Of Their Faithful Pastor - So That They Knew:
 - He Hadn't Forgotten Them!
 - Epaphras Still Honored Them:
- With A Fervent Love!
 - He Is Described Here As - "One Of You, A Servant Of Christ!"
 - He Had A Special Love & Commitment:
 - For Them & For The Lord!
 - He Also Still Honored Them:
- With A Fervent Labor!
 - Paul Adds In 4:12 - How Ephaphras Was:
 - "Always Labouring Fervently For Them In Prayers!"
 - It Seems That This Man Was Known For His Prayers!
 - And - Even Though He Was Absent - Many Miles Away:
 - It Was No Different!
 - He Still Prayed For Them!
 - And He Did So Fervently & Passionately!
 - And What This Shows Us Is That:
 - You Don't Necessarily Have To Be Present With Each Other:
 - To Serve Each Other!
 - Because Praying Is Still Serving!
 - If & When You Are Providentially Hindered:
 - From Worshiping & Serving Together:
 - You Can & Should Still Labor Together:
 - In Prayer!
 - And He Prayed:
- With A Fervent Longing!
 - The Substance Of His Prayer Was:
 - 4:12 - "That Ye May Stand Perfect And Complete In All The Will Of God!"
 - That They Might Grow In The Grace & Knowledge Of The Lord In A Way That Is:

- Both Deep & Wide!
 - Perfect & Complete!
 - Mature & Full!
- So That They Would Neither Wander Nor Fall! (Eadie)
- This Is The Kind Of Honor:
 - That Their Founder & Pastor Had For Them!
 - And This Is The Kind Of Special Honor:
 - That We Should Have For Each Other!
 - **IE:** “Today We Honor” - WW2 Cemetery In Florence!
 - We Need To Esteem & Honor God’s People:
 - Because They Are The Ones:
 - “For Whom Christ Died!”
 - In Fact - The Honor Of Epaphras:
 - Extended To All The Churches In The Lycus Valley - Who Also Knew Him!
 - And His Love & Labor & Longing For Them Was Done With Great Zeal & Passion & Fervency!
 - Do You Honor The Lord & His People Enough:
 - To Love Each Other As Christ Loves Us!
 - To Labor For Each Other – Especially In Prayer – As Christ Has Labored For Us!
 - And To Long For Each Other As Christ Still Longs For Us & Our Growth In Him!
- We Need To Esteem & Honor Each Other:
 - In This Special Way!

* But Then - We Also Need To Have:

5. *A Special Helpfulness To Each Other!*

- As We See In 4:14 - Through These Two Men:
 - Luke & Demas - “Luke, the beloved physician, and Demas, greet you!”
 - Though Briefly Mentioned - These Two Men Also Send Their Greetings!
 - Greetings Of Tenderness, Thoughtfulness, And Togetherness!
 - Of Course - Luke Was Paul’s Companion:
 - On Many Occasions - Which We Find In The Book Of Acts - Which He Wrote!
 - And Here - Paul Describes Luke As:
- Dear To Him!
 - He Was “Dear” & “Beloved” To Him!
 - There Was A Special Bond & Relationship Between Them!
 - We Still Need These Kinds Of Bonds & Relationships Within The Body Of Christ!
 - Because - These Kinds Of Friends Will Always Be A Help To Us!
 - But Paul Also Describes Luke As A:
 - Doctor To Him!
 - This Is The Only Place Where We Learn About Luke’s Profession As A “Physician!”
 - God Had Gifted Luke - Not Only To Be A Doctor Of People’s Souls:
 - But - Also Of People’s Bodies!
 - And Paul Would Have Needed The Help & Care Of A Real Doctor Many Times On His Journeys!
 - So - God Provided Luke:
 - To Help Paul With His Many Ailments & Injuries!
 - Perhaps By Mentioning This - Luke’s Services Were Also Available To The Believers There In Colosse!
 - For Care & For Advice!
 - You See - As Christians:
 - We Still Need Help & Care:
 - Physically As Well As Spiritually!
 - And God - In His Providence - Has Gifted Some To Be Physicians Of Both Bodies & Souls!
 - And Luke Sought To Use His Abilities As A Doctor In His Service To The Lord & To His People!
 - **IE:** Doctor’s Visit In Illinois - Never Sent A Bill!
 - And - The Last Man Mentioned - To Send His Greeting To The Colossian Church:

- Is Demas - Who At This Point In His Life:
 - Still Had A:
- Desire For Him – For Paul!
 - In Philemon - Written About The Same Time:
 - Demas Is Also Called Paul’s Fellow-Laborer!
 - But - Later In 2 Timothy 4:10 - “For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world,!”
 - Now - Even Though The Future Of Demas:
 - Is One Of Failure - That Is Not The Case Yet!
 - Here - He Still Has A Desire:
 - To Help & Serve Paul In The Ministry Of The Lord!
- And Through The Greetings Of Both Luke & Demas:
 - We See A Special Willingness To Help Each Other:
 - And To Aid Each Other:
 - In Our Christian Lives!
 - Not Just Spiritually, But Physically As Well! In Any Way We Can!

Conclusion:

1. This Is The Kind Of Relationship:
 - We Can See & Hear:
 - In The Personal Greetings Of These Companions:
 - Of Paul - There In Rome!
 - A Special:
 - Heart For Each Other!
 - Harmony With Each Other!
 - History With Each Other!
 - Honor Of Each Other!
 - And Helpfulness To Each Other!
2. Is This The Kind Of Relationship:
 - You Are Pursuing With Your Brothers & Sisters:
 - In Christ This Morning?
 - Fellow Christians Ought To Be Special To You:
 - Because They Are Special To The Lord!
 - By God’s Grace:
 - Let Us Strive To Have These Kinds Of Relationships:
 - With Each Other!

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