

Col. 4:7-18 - Study Guide

Written by Tim Black

Wednesday, 15 August 2007 12:22 - Last Updated Wednesday, 15 August 2007 12:26

Colossians 4:7-18 - “Christian Greetings”

Study Guide

Passage Outline - “What should I do when I greet fellow believers?”

1.

Messengers vv. 7-9

1.

Tychichus (commend a brother, minister, servant)

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,

1.

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Onesimus (promote reconciliation and restoration)

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9 and with him Onesimus, our faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you.

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Purpose (convey news and encouragement)

They will tell you of everything that has taken place here.

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Greetings vv. 10-17

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From Jews vv. 10-11

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Aristarchus (thanks for sacrificial service)

10 Aristarchus my fellow prisoner greets you,

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1.

Mark (promote restoration and welcome)

and Mark the cousin of Barnabas (concerning whom you have received instructions- if he comes to you, welcome him),

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Jesus, called Justus (unknown; greet without expecting greeting in return)

11 and Jesus who is called Justus.

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Comment: These are the only Jews (express joy in fellow-workers)

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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.

1.

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From Greeks vv. 12-14

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Epaphras (inform of prayer for recipients' sanctification)

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.

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Luke (express concern for body and soul)

14 Luke the beloved physician greets you,

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Demas (eventually deserted Paul)

as does Demas.

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From Paul vv. 15-17

1.

To Laodicea: The neighboring church (promote fellowship and hospitality)

15 Give my greetings to the brothers at Laodicea, and to Nympha and the church in her house.

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Instruction: Exchange letters with Laodicea (promote biblical edification)

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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.

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- 1.
- 1.

Exhortation to Archippus (encourage church leaders)

17 And say to Archippus, "See that you fulfill the ministry that you have received in the Lord."

- 1.

Signature, Postscript (request prayer), Benediction (bless with God's grace) v. 18

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

For Discussion

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1.

What are some opportunities we have to greet the believers in our congregation?

2.

What are some opportunities we have to greet the believers in our Presbytery, our denomination, and in other churches?

3.

What Christian activities (other than just greeting them!) do we engage in with believers outside our local congregation? How are greetings connected to these activities?

4.

What Christian purposes did Paul have for sending the greetings in this passage?

5.

What are some ways of speaking to believers that would run contrary to some of these purposes?

6.

Are any of Paul's purposes ones you don't normally carry out when you greet a brother in Christ? Which one would you like to do more?

7.

Commit to greeting another believer in the church in a godly way this Sunday!

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