



**CHRIST THE KING**  
**ALL THINGS HOLD TOGETHER IN HIM**



## **Part of Something Bigger: King & Kingdom**

Colossians 4.7-18

### Main Idea

All those that are in Christ Jesus are part of a Kingdom who has as its treasure a King that is the satisfaction to our longing of being part of something bigger than ourselves.

### Overview

#### **I. Take heart & be encouraged! The Kingdom employs and advances throughout the world, even now!**

- The Colossian church had been pressed in by false teaching
  - So much so that it apparently warranted Epaphras, the church's founding pastor (1.7) to go and get help to bring clarity and encouragement
  - This letter is the answer to Epaphras' prayers for them (4.12)
- The intention of this conclusion has as its heart the purpose of bringing encouragement to their hearts through the hearing of the work going on abroad and the greetings of the brothers there with Paul (4.7-8)
  - Tychicus: Also delivers letter to Ephesians (Eph 6.21-22) and is tasked with sharing what is going on there in Rome for the purpose of encouragement to these Colossians
  - Onesimus: Former slave in the Colossian community (Philemon 1-2, 15-16) who is now to be received as a brother
  - Aristarchus: Fellow traveling companion of Paul, was caught up in riots at Ephesus (Acts 19.29)
  - Mark: Cousin of the well known Barnabas, author of the Gospel bearing his name
  - Jesus, called Justus: Possible ties to the following texts > Acts 1.23, 18.7
  - Epaphras: the Colossian (and likely Laodicean and Hieropolis) church planter was:
    - Struggling in prayer for their maturity (4.12)
    - He has worked hard for them and the other churches (4.13)
  - Luke: the historian/physician is the author of both the Gospel bearing his name (Comes to us by tradition...book itself leaves it unnamed) and Acts (note the "we" sections of Acts 16.10-17, 20.5-21.18, 27.1-28.16)
  - Demas: Later abandons Paul for the world (2 Tim. 4.10)
- All of the above leaders and workers bring greetings to the church in Colossae to let them know they are not alone and forgotten in the economy of Gods Kingdom
- Paul encourages leaders (Nympha: 4.15 & Archippus 4.17)
- Makes known he wrote the letter with his own hand so as to tell them, he cares for them, he is mindful of them...in short, they matter
- "Remember my chains" is a way to remind them to be in prayer for him

## Questions

Discussion Starter: *Name some things we all get excited about that are “bigger than ourselves”...begin to ask the question ‘why’ this is the case for many people.*

1. What is it about earthly “kings” and “kingdoms” around the world that seem to inspire people? What is it about these things that taps into our created purpose?
2. Read Colossians 4:7-18. Look at the people Paul names. How would these have served to encourage the church at Colossae? How does this text serve to encourage us in God’s global work?
3. When we hear stories of Gods work around the world, how does that (or should that) encourage your heart? And why is it important?
4. How do these things help us gain a bigger vision for our lives and its connection to the Kingdom?
5. Discuss how these ideas can help in the midst of discouragement.
6. Look at verse 12-13. Why does Ephaphras (the founding pastor) pray specifically for maturity and assurance? How does stability and maturity draw us into encouragement?

Accountability Question: *Where are you finding more joy in earthly kings and kingdoms than you are the Heavenly King and His Kingdom?*