

“Love Lifted Me Recovery Ministries”

Colossians Bible Study — Colossians 4:10-18 Lesson #18

**INSTRUCTIONS: Read the entire section of Scripture in Colossians before starting to look up the other Scripture verses and filling in the blanks. Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to give you understanding as you read God's word.
(Most Scriptures used are from the New King James Version)

- 10 **Aristarchus my fellow prisoner** greets you, **with Mark the cousin of Barnabas** (about whom you received instructions: if he comes to you, welcome him),
- **Acts 19:29** “So the whole city was filled with confusion, and rushed into the theater with one accord, having seized Gaius and _____, Macedonians, _____ travel _____.”
 - **Acts 12:12** “So, when he had considered this, he came to the _____ of Mary, _____ of _____ whose surname was _____, where many were gathered together praying.”

Definition: “MARK the cousin of Barnabas” – It’s very interesting, and also encouraging, to follow the story of Mark (also called Marcus or John Mark) through the New Testament. **It is a story of one who was a FAILURE and yet later made up for it, and did WELL in serving God.** Mark was a very young man who made a mistake early on in his ministry with the Apostle Paul. **He had ABANDONED Paul and Barnabas on one of their missionary trips, and had just wanted to go back home.** Paul was not willing to give him a second chance at that time, but Barnabas was. Paul and Barnabas even got into an argument over Mark, and split up what had been their ministry together. Barnabas took Mark on several missionary trips with himself, and we see how Mark matured and grew in his faith, and overcame his earlier mistake. **Later, Paul mentions Mark as being “useful to me for the ministry”**, so obviously Paul had forgiven him by then. Mark later wrote the gospel of Mark, probably with the help of Peter.

- **Acts 12:25** “And _____ and Saul (Paul) returned from Jerusalem when they had fulfilled their ministry, and they also _____ with _____ John whose surname was _____.”
- **Acts 15:36-40** “Then after some days _____ said to _____, ‘Let us now go back and _____ our _____ in every city where we have preached the word of the Lord, and see how they are doing.’ Now _____ was _____ to take with them John called _____. But Paul _____ that they should _____ take with them the _____ who had _____ from them in Pamphylia, and had not gone with them to the work. Then the contention became so sharp that they parted from one another. And so _____ took _____ and sailed to Cyprus; but _____ chose _____ and departed, being commended by the brethren to the grace of God.”
- **II Timothy 4:11** “Only _____ is with me. Get _____ and bring him with you, for he is _____ to _____ for _____.”

11-13 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. Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ, greets you, **always LABORING FERVENTLY for you in prayers**, that you may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God. For I bear him witness that he has a great zeal for you, and those who are in Laodicea, and those in Hierapolis.

- **Acts 11:2** “And when Peter came to Jerusalem, those of the _____ contended with him.”
- **James 5:16** “_____ your trespasses to one _____, and

_____ for one another, that you may be _____. The effective,
_____ prayer of a righteous man _____ much."

•**Colossians 1:7-8** "As you also learned from _____, our _____
fellow _____, who is a faithful _____ of _____ on your
behalf, who also declared to us your love in the Spirit."

Definition: "My only FELLOW WORKERS for the kingdom of God who are of the CIRCUMCISION"
- This phrase "of the circumcision" means they were Jewish believers in Christ. Later, when Paul says,
"Epaphras, **who is one of you**", he means Epaphras is a Gentile believer, like the Colossians to whom
he is writing. In general, in the word of God, "**Circumcision**" refers to the Jews -- circumcision was
the "sign" of their covenant with God. "**Gentiles**" or "**Uncircumcision**" means non-Jews.

•**Ephesians 2:11** "Therefore remember that you, who were once _____ in the
flesh -- who are called _____ by those who are called the _____,
in the flesh, made by _____ hands."

•**Colossians 2:11-13** "In Him you were also _____ with the circumcision
made _____, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh,
by the circumcision of _____, buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were
_____ with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.
And you, being _____ in your trespasses (sins) and the uncircumcision of your flesh,
He has made _____ together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses (sins)."

Definition: "Always LABORING FERVENTLY for you in prayers" - The word "fervent" or
"fervently" means burning, glowing, intensely devoted, earnest or passionate. **This kind of prayer is
HARD WORK.** That is why **Paul calls it "laboring", because it is hard labor** to continue in this kind
of prayer for others.

•**Romans 15:30** "Now I _____ you, _____, through the Lord Jesus
Christ, and through the _____ of the _____, that you _____
together with _____ in your _____ to God for me."

•**Colossians 4:2** "Continue _____ in _____, being
_____ in it with _____."

•**I Timothy 2:1** "Therefore I exhort first of all that _____,
_____ intercessions and _____ of _____, be made on
behalf of all men."

•**Philippians 4:6-7** "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by _____ and
_____, with _____, let your _____ be made
known to God; and the _____ of _____, which surpasses all understanding, will
_____ your _____ and minds through Christ Jesus."

•**Matthew 26:41** "_____ and _____, lest you enter into temptation.
The spirit indeed is willing, but the _____ is _____."

•**John 16:23-24** "And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you,
whatever you _____ the _____ in _____, He will give you.
Until now, you have asked nothing in My name: ask, and you will _____, that your
joy may be full."

•**Matthew 7:7-8 & 11** "_____, and it will be _____ to you; _____,
and you will find; _____, and it will be opened to you: for every one who asks
_____, and he who _____ finds, and to him who _____ it
will be opened." (Verse 11) "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your
children, how much more shall your _____ who is in _____ give
_____ things to those who _____ Him?"

Definition: "The EFFECTIVE, FERVENT PRAYER of a righteous man AVAILS MUCH" – The word "fervent" means burning, glowing, intensely devoted, earnest or passionate. "Avails" means to be worthwhile, effective, helpful, or accomplishing an end. **Effective prayer means prayer that gets answered, that gets the job done.** According to I John 1:9, God says, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and **to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**" Therefore, because God says He will cleanse us from ALL unrighteousness when we confess our sins, **we now stand in the place of that "righteous man" of James 5:16**, whose prayers are effective! What a blessing to have your prayers become truly effective, because those sins or unforgiveness towards others are no longer a hindrance to prayer. **Refusing to REPENT of SIN in your life**, holding onto sin of any kind, and refusing to repent and give it up, will greatly hinder your prayers. In Psalm 66:18, it says "If I regard wickedness in my heart", which means if I "CHERISH" or hold onto a favorite sin, and am not willing to give it up to God, He will not hear me. Also, **harboring resentment and bitterness in your heart is a sin**, and your prayers will be hindered until you FORGIVE whoever has hurt or offended you!

• **Mark 11:25** "And whenever you stand _____, if you have anything _____ anyone, _____ him, that your Father in heaven may also _____ you your trespasses."

• **Psalm 66:18** "If I _____ iniquity (sin, wickedness) in my _____, the Lord will not _____; but certainly God has _____ me; He has attended to the voice of my _____."

• **I John 3:22** "And whatever we _____, we _____ from Him, because we _____ His _____, and _____ those things that are _____ in His _____."

• **I Peter 3:12** "For the eyes of the Lord are on the _____, and His _____ are open to their _____; but the face of the Lord is _____ those who do evil."

• **Psalm 34:17** "The righteous _____ out, and the Lord _____, and delivers them out of all their _____."

14-15 **LUKE the BELOVED PHYSICIAN** and Demas greet you. Greet the brethren who are in Laodicia, and Nymphas and the **CHURCH that is in his HOUSE.**

• **Colossians 2:1** "For I want you to know what a great _____ I have for you and those in _____, and for as many as have not seen my face in the flesh."

• **Philemon 23-24** "Epaphras, my _____ in Christ Jesus, greets you, as do Mark, _____, Demas, _____, my fellow _____."

Definition: "LUKE the BELOVED PHYSICIAN" – History tells us that **Luke was a physician (medical doctor)**, which of course is not anything like a medical doctor today, but he was learned in the medical science of his day. **Luke was the writer of the Gospel of Luke and the book of Acts.** Possibly because of being a doctor, he was interested in details, and he included details in his books that the other gospel writers did not. He was also the traveling companion of Paul, as Paul mentions him in several of his letters. Remember, whether it is Mark writing the Gospel of Mark, or Luke writing Luke and Acts, they wrote them by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit (see II Peter 1:20-21).

• **II Timothy 4:11** "Only _____ is with me. Get _____ and bring him with you, for he is _____ to _____ for _____."

• **II Peter 1:20-21** "Knowing this first, that _____ prophecy of _____ is of any _____ interpretation, for prophecy never came by the _____ of _____, but holy _____ of God _____ as they were _____ by the _____"

_____.”

Definition: “The CHURCH that is in his HOUSE” – In the early days of the Christian church, people did not meet in “church buildings” like the ones we see today, or the great cathedrals of the Middle Ages in Europe. **They mostly met in people’s homes**, and when persecution arose later in Rome, they had to hide, and met underground in the “catacombs” (tunnels underground used for burying people).

•**Romans 16:5** “Likewise greet the _____ that is in their _____.
Greet my beloved Epaenetus, who is the firstfruits of Achaia to Christ.”

16-17 Now **when this EPISTLE is READ AMONG YOU**, see that it is read also in the church of the Laodicians, and that you **likewise read the epistle from Laodicia**. And say to Archippus, ‘Take heed to **the ministry which you have received in the Lord**, that you may fulfill it.’

•**I Thessalonians 5:27** “I charge (command) you _____ the _____ that this _____ be _____ to _____ the holy _____.”

•**Colossians 4:13** “For I bear him witness that he has a great zeal for you, and those who are in _____, and those in Hierapolis.”

•**II Timothy 4:5** “But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the _____ of an evangelist, _____ your _____.”

Definition: “Take heed to the MINISTRY which you have RECEIVED in the LORD, that you may FULFILL IT” – Paul was speaking particularly to Archippus about the ministry which God had given him, but actually, **we EACH have a ministry from God**. II Corinthians 5:18 tells us that **God has given to each one of us “the ministry of reconciliation”**, which means telling people about Jesus so that they can be reconciled to God. It can also mean helping people to be reconciled to each other - a ministry of forgiveness and recovery. That means each and every one of us as Christians has a ministry from God. We need to “take heed” (pay attention) and **walk closely with God so that we may FULFILL our ministry**. RECONCILIATION means to **restore** to friendship or harmony; to **BRING TOGETHER that which was separated**. God and man were in perfect harmony and fellowship before Adam sinned, but SIN brought division, death and separation, so that now we **MUST be RECONCILED** to God.

•**II Corinthians 5:18-20** “Now all things are of _____, who has _____ us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has _____ the _____ of _____, that is, that God was in Christ _____ the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has _____ to _____ the word of _____. Therefore we are _____ for Christ, as though God were pleading _____; we implore you on Christ’s behalf, be reconciled to God.”

Definition: “Likewise read the epistle from Laodicia” – The church in the city of Laodicia is one of the Seven Churches of Asia mentioned in the book of Revelation. Paul refers here to an epistle written to them, but we have no record of that epistle. Maybe the Lord did not think it was necessary to be in the word of God, so we can’t really guess at what it contained. **The important thing is the record we do have**, and that is all of Paul’s epistles (letters), the four gospel accounts, and the other books of the New Testament that God has kept for us, and which He tells us is His word and Holy Scripture.

•**Revelation 3:14** “And to the angel of the _____ of the _____ write, ‘These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God.’”

18 This salutation **by my own hand** – **Paul. Remember my chains.** Grace be with you. Amen.

•**Titus 3:15** “All who are with me greet you. Greet those who love us in the faith. _____ be with _____ all. Amen.”

- **Hebrews 13:3** “_____ the prisoners as if _____ with them, and those who are mistreated
- **Hebrews 13:25** “_____ be with _____ all. Amen.”
- **I Corinthians 16:21** “The _____ with my own _____ – Paul.”