**“Facing The Past to Find God’s Future”**

Going deeper in Colossians 4:7-9

**INTRODUCTION**

Paul just finished giving the church guidance and encouragement when it comes to prayer and relationships with those who don’t know Jesus. In this passage he begins to share about who is part of his team and what each is doing. When you read between the lines there are some powerful stories about how the Spirit of God works in our lives.

**READ** – *Read (passage) aloud. Read it several times. Listen for what the Spirit of God is saying, don’t just think about it.* 7 Tychicus, a deeply loved brother, faithful minister, and fellow servant in the Lord will tell you all the news about me. 8 I’ve sent him to you so that you would know how things are with us and so he can encourage your hearts. 9 I have sent Onesimus with him who is our faithful and deeply loved brother who is one of you. They will tell you everything that is happening here.

**ENGAGE** – *Questions for going deeper. God is speaking… to you.*

1. What are the characteristics of Tychicus? What does this tell you about what the Apostle Paul thinks of him?

2. When Paul refers to Tychicus as a faithful minister it is the same phrase, he used to describe himself (Colossians 1:7). What does this suggest about Paul’s approach to working as a team?

3. Onesimus is a runaway slave that has stolen money from his master Philemon who is part of the church in Colossae. The entire church most likely knew his story. What do you think their reaction was when they read what Paul wrote about Onesimus?

4. Read the book of Philemon. What do you think it was like for Onesimus to deliver this letter to Philemon? Paul refers to Onesimus not only as a faithful brother but that he is also like a son to him. Most in Rome considered a slave as a piece of property. What effect might Paul’s words about Onesimus being a brother and a son have had on Philemon?

**PRAY** – *God has spoken. So, reply.*

\*Thank the Lord for the people who have been important to you in your journey of faith.

\*Pray for those that you currently serve with.

\*Ask the Lord if there are things in your past that He wants you to face with His power.

**LIVE** – *This is where the rubber hits the road.*

Onesimus’ life has been changed by the Lord Jesus working through people like the Apostle Paul. Because of this change there are things in his past that He chooses to courageously face with the Lord’s strength. Are there things you need to courageously face with the Lord’s strength?