**“The Body of Christ in Action”**

Going deeper in Colossians 4:10-18

**INTRODUCTION**

In the passage prior to this the Apostle Paul has shared about who is delivering this letter – Tychius and Onesimus. The story behind Onesimus is one of grace, forgiveness and courage in action. Paul moves on to share about who else is working with him and to extend personal greetings and encouragement to particular people in Colossae.

**READ** – *Read (passage) aloud. Read it several times. Listen for what the Spirit of God is saying, don’t just think about it.* 10 Aristarchus, who is also in jail here, sends greetings; as well as Mark the cousin of Barnabas (you received a letter regarding him; if he shows up, welcome him); 11 and also Jesus who is called Justus. These are the only Jewish believers among my fellow workers for the kingdom of God. They have been a source of comfort and encouragement to me. 12 Epaphras, who is one of you and a servant Christ Jesus sends greetings. He is always working and praying for you, praying that you will stand whole and complete in everything that God wants to do. 13 I have seen how hard he has worked for you and those in Laodicea and Hierapolis. 14 Luke, our dear friend, the doctor and Demas both send their greetings. 15 Send our greetings to the brethren in Laodicea; also, to Nympha and the church that meets in her house. 16 After this letter has been read to you, make sure it gets read also in the church in Laodicea. 17 And tell Archippus, “See to it that you complete the work you have received in the Lord.” 18 I, Paul am signing off in my own handwriting. Remember to pray for me in this jail. Grace be with you. Amen.

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

1. As you look at the different people mentioned in this passage what are the roles that each are playing? What might this suggest about the things that churches should focus on?

2. Read Acts 15:36-41. Scholarly consensus is that this is the same Mark that is mentioned in verse 10. What had happened between Mark, Barnabas, and Paul? Mark is now a co-worker with Paul. What needed to take place to make that happen? How might that be related to the special instructions the church is given about welcoming Mark?

3. What was the hard work that Epaphras did for the church in Colossae, Laodicea, and Hierapolis?

4. What is happening at Nympha’s house? What role does she seem to be playing?

5. Like Archippus what is the work that you have received from the Lord? What do you need to complete it?

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

\*Paul wrote most of his letters to churches from prison. Ask the Lord to work in and through the situation you are in regardless of any apparent limitations.

\*Give thanks and pray for those you serve with.

\*Ask the Lord Jesus to show you what role He has called you to play in the Body of Christ.

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

In this passage there are stories of people being reconciled, providing encouragement & comfort, planting new churches, leading churches, working together, praying together, and some accountability. All the characteristics of the Body of Christ in action. What part is the Lord Jesus calling you to play in His church? Will you?