

People, Personality, And God's Work

Colossians 4:7-18

Intro:

- A. People are involved in God's work.
 - 1. We cannot do what He has reserved for Himself.
 - 2. We can do what He has reserved for us.
 - 3. Our role is described by our titles and other words, bishop, elder, servant, slave, laborer, steward.
 - 4. We are never a part of planning.
- B. People have personality.
 - 1. God uses us in spite of it.
 - 2. God uses us because of it.
 - 3. As we grow in grace and mature we develop spiritual personality traits.
 - 4. These are "new man" characteristics.

I. The Colossian Nine.

- A. Tychicus, A Comforter. Vs. 7-8
 - 1. He would tell them of Paul's "State".
 - 2. His character, "beloved brother", "faithful", "minister" = διακονος, and "fellow servant" = συνδουλος.
 - 3. "Comfort" = παρακαλεω = "Call alongside".
- B. Onesimus, Trustworthy. Vs. 9
 - 1. He was an Asian.
 - 2. He was a prophet in his own country.
 - 3. "Faithful" = πιστω = "trusted", "relied upon".
 - 4. He had fled from Philemon but having been born again, he is now, "trusted".
- C. Aristarchus, Close companion. Vs. 10
 - 1. He was a traveling companion. Acts 19:29
 - 2. He was a fellow worker. Phile 24
 - 3. He was a "fellow prisoner of war" = συναιχμαλωτος.
 - 4. He was a Jew.
- D. Mark, Restored Servant. Vs. 10
 - 1. He defected on the first missionary journey at Perga and returned to Jerusalem. Acts 13:13
 - 2. At this writing of Paul he was with him in Rome. Phile 24. He was a Jew.
 - 3. They were to "receive" Mark.

- E. Justus, A Worker. Vs. 11
1. "Worker" = ΣΥΝΕΡΓΟΣ = (synergy)
 2. He was a Jew.
- F. Epaphras, Intense. Vs. 12-13
1. He was a servant of Christ.
 2. "Labouring fervently" = αγωνιζομενος = "struggling", "contending", "agonizing".
 3. He agonized for them to "stand perfect":
 - a. "stand" = "to stand fast", "not to fall", "stand still".
 - b. "perfect" = τελειος = "that which has come to its end".
 4. "Complete" = πληροφορεω = "to give fully", "to give full assurance", "persuade fully".
 5. "Zeal" = Πονος = "labor", "strenuous labor", A labor that does not stop short of demanding the soul strength of a man, exertion to the uttermost.
- G. Luke, The professional. Vs. 14
1. He was a "healer".
 2. He was a fellow worker. Phile 24
 3. He stood with Paul. II Tim. 4:11 "Luke only is with me"
- H. Demas, Repentant.
1. He was a fellow laborer. Phile 24
 2. He let Paul down. II Tim. 4:10
 3. "Forsaken" = εγκατελιπεν = "to let down".
 4. He loved this present world.
 5. He has (if this is the same person) repented and is again useful to God's work.
- I. Nymphas, Hospitable. Vs. 15
1. He gave his home as a place of assembly.
 2. A totally unselfish act.
- J. Archippus, A fellow soldier. Vs. 17
1. Paul encouraged him. Phile 2
 2. They served the Lord together.
 3. "Fulfil" = πληρωω = "complete".
 4. "Take heed" = βλεπω = "to look", "to see".