

Colossians 4:7-18

Paul's Friends!

Introduction:

No church ministry in this gospel age can survive without the help of fellow- Christians. No one man pastor can succeed in the gospel ministry handling all the demands of the ministry. So often we have heard of ministers, elders and pastors who are burned out leaving the ministry because they believed it was all up to them and that the congregation placed a wide responsibility of the whole ministry upon their shoulders. Paul knew the success of the gospel ministry did not rest completely upon his shoulders; he needed a lot of help from his friends. Unlike the Beatles song, "a little help from my friends. Paul's Biblical ministry summary is found in Ephesians 4:11-12, on the one hand great gifts are given to the church by our Savior when He ascended into heaven receiving His eternal glory and praise by angels and saints.

I. Not Alone

A. Biblical examples;

1. Israel defeating Amalek – Exodus 17:8-13
2. Moses' instruction to choose seventy elders who will provide counsel for the people Num. 16-17

B. Multiple servants:

1. Two are better than one – Eccl. 4:9-12
2. Iron sharpens iron – Prov. 27:17

II. Various Servants

A. Paul's dear friends

1. Tychicus – v. 7-8; (I Cor. 16:1-9; Eph. 6:21)
2. Onesimus – v. 9 (II Cor. 5:17)
3. Aristarchus – v. 10 (Acts 19:29; 20:4)
4. Mark – v.10 (II Tim. 4:11; I Pet. 3:13)
5. Justus – v.11
6. Epaphras – v.12, Turn to: I Corinthians 9:24-27
7. Luke – v.14 (Philem. 24; II Tim. 4:11)
8. Demas – 14
9. Nympha – 15
10. Archippus – v.17

B. Finally:

1. This epistle was written by Paul's own pen.
2. Paul's appropriate ending – "Grace be with you"

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