



# *The Epistle to the Colossians*

## *Col 4:10-14 - Paul's Greetings from Companions*

*•Col 4:10-14 - “Aristarchus my fellow prisoner greets you, with Mark the cousin of Barnabas (about whom you received instructions: if he comes to you, welcome him), 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 bondservant 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. Luke the beloved physician and Demas greet you.”*

– Who are all of these guys anyway?



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- *Aristarchus*
  - Macedonian from Thessalonica (*Acts 19:29; 20:4; 27:2*)
  - Travel companion of Paul and accompanied him to Rome (*Acts 19:29; 20:4; 27:2*)
  - Fellow prisoner with Paul (*Col 4:10*)
    - » Evidence questionable, may have been only temporary confinement (Lightfoot).
  - Circumcised as was John Mark and Justus (*Col 4:11*)
  - Fellow laborer with Paul (*Phm 1:24*)
  - Seized in Ephesus with Gaius (*Acts 19:29*)
- *Mark*
  - *Cousin of Barnabas (Col 4:10)*; really, his sister was John Mark's mother.
  - John Mark, author of the Gospel of Mark.
    - » Wuest - "Paul may have feared that Mark's defection from him, which led to the sharp quarrel between him and Barnabas, might prejudice the Colossians against him. The mention of his relationship to Barnabas was probably intended as a recommendation to their kindness. He seems to have been unknown to the Colossians."
  - Desertion from Paul (*Acts 15: 37-40*) but no grudges from Paul.



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» *2 Tim 4:11 - Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for ministry.*

- *Barnabas*
  - Levite from Cyprus (*Acts 4:36*)
  - Sought out and traveled with Saul (Paul) after his conversion (*Acts 11-15*)
  - Accompanied Paul to Galatia, accompanied by James, Cephas and John (*Gal 2:1-13*)
- *Jesus (Justus)*
  - Translated from Hebrew as Joshua; from Greek, Jesus; from Rome, Justus
    - » Lightfoot says, is "a common name or surname of Jews and proselytes, denoting obedience and devotion to the law."
  - As noted, *these are my only fellow workers for the kingdom of God who are of the circumcision;*
    - » Were these among the few?
  - He and Aristarchus *proved to be a comfort to Paul.*
- *Epaphras*
  - Native of Colossae.
  - Described as a *bondservant (doulos)* of Paul a relationship only noted for one other, Timothy (*Phil 1:1*).



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– Faithful minister (*Col 1:7*) who is one of you, a bondservant of Christ and warrior who has great zeal for you, and those who are in Laodicea, and those in Hierapolis (*Col 4:12,13*)

– Fellow prisoner with Paul (*Phm 1:23*), like Aristarchus?  
» At different times, locations, and durations?

- Luke

– Beloved physician (*Col 4:14*)  
» The term *beloved* also indicates he was a physician to Paul.  
– Traveling companion with Paul.  
– Author the Gospel of Luke and the book of Acts.

- Demas

– No details in *Col 4:14*  
– Fellow laborer (*Phm 1:24*)  
– Had forsaken Paul, having loved this present world, and has departed for Thessalonica (*2 Tim 4:10*)

• ***Col 4:10 - "Aristarchus my fellow prisoner greets you, with Mark the cousin of Barnabas (about whom you***



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*received instructions: if he comes to you, welcome him),”*

–What does this *welcoming* or *receiving* (*imperative*) look like?

- Can be interpreted to simply open your door or hand, or with hospitality.

- *Heb 11:31 - By faith the harlot Rahab did not perish with those who did not believe, when she had received the spies with peace.*

***•Col 4:11 - 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.***

–Jews and Gentile believers were often not on the same page.

- Do you think this comfort to Paul was similar among them?

***•Col 4:12 -“Epaphras, who is one of you, a bondservant of Christ, greets you, always laboring fervently for you***



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*in prayers, that you may stand perfect and complete (fully assured) in all the will of God.”*

- *laboring fervently - agōnizomai*
  - Wrestling, striving, dealing with adversary
- Is this the way we pray for the brethren?
  - *Luke 22:44 - And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.*
- What does Paul mean by *standing prefect and complete (fully persuaded) in all the will of God?*
  - *Rom 15:14 - Now I myself am confident concerning you, my brethren, that you also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another.*

**•Col 4:13 – “For I bear him witness that he has a great zeal (concern) for you, and those who are in Laodicea, and those in Hierapolis.”**



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- Laodicea and Hierapolis were located near Colosse and likely churches there were also founded by Epaphras.
- What does this *great zeal* look like?
  - Remember, it's not what you do but who you are!
    - *Col 2:4 - Now this I say lest anyone should deceive you with persuasive words.*

### ***•Col 4:14 - -“Luke the beloved physician and Demas greet you.”***

- McCalley claims Luke was with Paul in prison, do you agree?
  - Did he provide Paul with medical advice?
- No modifiers in terms of Paul's experience with *Demas*.
- This was almost certainly before Demas was distracted by the ways of the world.
  - Note, the epistle to the *Colossians* was written at least 20 years *before 2 Timothy*.