**Sermon Title: The Priority of Christ in Teamwork**

**Colossians 4:7-18**

**Sermon Purpose: To call all members to the teamwork of Gospel ministry.**

**Sermon Proposition: There are 3 eternal principles of teamwork in the church.**

**Introduction:** Paul concludes this letter with personal information and instructions, in order to bond his readers together in the Body of Christ and the local church, from which they were in danger of separating themselves because of the influence of false teachers. He does this by providing a group photo of the teamwork necessary to proclaim the Gospel, perform to the Gospel, and to reflect the purity of the Gospel.

**I. The qualities of the team members. V.7**

**II. The quest of the team members. V.8**

**III. The quality of the team members. V.9**

**I. The qualities of the team members. V.7**

 Tychicus means “fortuitous” or “fortunate.” He is the primary carrier of the letters of Colossians, Philemon, and Ephesians.

 **Ephesians 6:21-22** But that you also may know my affairs *and* how I am doing, Tychicus, a beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord, will make all things known to you; **22** whom I have sent to you for this very purpose, that you may know our affairs, and *that* he may comfort your hearts.

 He is first mentioned as Paul’s companions in (**Acts 20:4**),

 **Acts 20:4** And Sopater of Berea accompanied him to Asia-- also Aristarchus and Secundus of the Thessalonians, and Gaius of Derbe, and Timothy, and Tychicus and Trophimus of Asia.

 Tychicus was from the Roman province of Asia (this is modern day Turkey) and appears to have been one of Paul’s more trusted representatives toward the end of Paul’s ministry.

 **2 Timothy 4:12** And Tychicus I have sent to Ephesus.

 **Titus 3:12** When I send Artemas to you, or Tychicus, be diligent to come to me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there.

 He was a Gentile convert, Paul took with him to the Jerusalem Church as a representative of the Gentile churches. He was a man with a servant’s heart. There are several qualities summarized in this verse.

 A. The qualities of a **beloved** brother in the Lord. V.7a

 He was a reliable Christian brother in the Lord, and a capable leader, since he was considered as a replacement for Titus and Timothy on several separate occasions. This demonstrates he was a member of the Christian family and a participant in the Christian work.

 **Luke 8:19-21** Then His mother and brothers came to Him, and could not approach Him because of the crowd. **20** And it was told Him *by some*, who said, "Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside, desiring to see You." **21** But He answered and said to them, "My mother and My brothers are these who hear the word of God and do it."

 B. The qualities of a **faithful** minister in the Lord. V.7b

 While he never achieved the notoriety of a Paul, he served in an important capacity as Paul’s ministry team member to the churches. He was a faithful household steward (**1 Timothy 3:15**) of his ministry responsibilities and assignments.

 **1 Timothy 3:15** but if I am delayed, *I write* so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

 This is a high commendation for any steward who serves. This reflects the qualities of:

 1. Dependability (Joshua, Aaron and Hur, the Apostles, etc.)

 2. Responsibility

 3. Availability

 4. Humility

 5. Lovability

 6. Skill

 7. Spirit-enablement

 **Matthew 9:37-38** Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly *is* plentiful, but the laborers *are* few. **38** "Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."

 C. The qualities of a **fellow** servant in the Lord. V.7c

 He was a diakonos (servant) in relationship to Paul, but a sundoulos (fellow bondservant) with Paul in relationship to the Lord.

**II. The quest of the team members. V.8**

 Tychicus and the team delivers Paul’s letter to the Colossians, but also brings to the church information about Paul’s affairs and updated information about his personal circumstances. Such as his health, hopes, and future prospects.

 The goal was to provide encouragement and comfort to the believer’s hearts, as well as a personal word of encouragement about what was written in the letters, and answering questions about Paul’s circumstances.

**III. The quality of the team members. V.9**

 Onesimus was a runaway slave whom Paul was returning to his master Philemon, with a letter from Paul. Philemon was one of the leaders of the Colossian Church, and likely the church met in his home. Onesimus had been a slave in Philemon’s household until he met the Apostle Paul, and received the Lord Jesus Christ as his Savior and Lord.

 A. The quality of a faithful **brother**. V.9a

 When a person comes to faith in Christ, the past is no longer the issue.

 **2 Corinthians 5:17** Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

 They are now a testimony to the power of God to change a life. (**Acts 9** – Paul)

 **Matthew 9:10-13** Now it happened, as Jesus sat at the table in the house, *that* behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat down with Him and His disciples. **11** And when the Pharisees saw *it*, they said to His disciples, "Why does your Teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" **12** When Jesus heard *that*, He said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. **13** "But go and learn what *this* means:`I desire mercy and not sacrifice1.' For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance2."

 **Matthew 11:28-30** "Come to Me, all *you* who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. **29** "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. **30** "For My yoke *is* easy and My burden is light."

 B. The quality of a **transformed** brother. V.9b