

## 4:7-4:18 Discussion Questions

### Discussion Questions

**This week Pastor Mike led us as a congregation to reflect on two application questions. Please make some time to discuss and pray for one another regarding these in your group.**

- a. In what ways have you been deceived to think your gifts are an insignificant part of the church?**
  
- b. How has comparison robbed you of the joy of seeing others around you flourish?**

Read 4:7-4:18

1. In vv. 7-9 Paul talks about the messengers that he has sent to bring this letter to the Colossians. We find both of these men referred to in other letters of Paul. Tychius was a companion of Paul's. Onesimus was a slave from Colossae who was serving alongside Paul (see Philemon).

- a. Why does Paul say that he sent Tychius to them?
  
- b. Paul was already sending a letter full of encouragement and instruction. The fact that he felt it was valuable to send Tychius as well to offer additional encouragement and instruction reveals something about how the kingdom advances: God doesn't send his message apart from a messenger. He doesn't tell us to simply send people copies of the Bible (though He can and does certainly use the Bible alone). Instead, He tells us to go and make disciples by teaching (Mt. 28:18-20); in other words, we bring Bibles and explain it to people. Discipleship is a relational thing.

(1) How has God used His messengers in your life to help you understand His message?

(2) To whom is God sending you as His messenger?

(3) Do you feel capable of encouraging and instructing others in biblical truth? Why or why not?

(4) If not, how can you be better prepared?

2. In the next section, vv. 10-16, Paul sends his greetings from his fellow co-workers.

a. Those that he lists break up into two groups: Jews and Gentiles.

(1) Why do you think that he organizes them into these two groups? What does his comment, "These are the only men of the circumcision among my fellow workers for the kingdom of God," reveal about how he feels about how few Jewish fellow workers he has?

(2) What demographic or people group has God given you a burden for?

(3) How might you be more intentional about ministering to that group?

b. What stands out to you about the various people he has mentioned so far?

c. Why would Paul spend time highlighting the different people in his groups to a church that doesn't even know him? Why does he add the details that does?

d. What does the diversity of Paul's ministry team reveal about each of our role in the advancement of the kingdom?

e. Take some time to talk about where you feel that God has called you to serve and how you have seen God working. (This is a great way to encourage one another).

f. If you are not currently being intentional about serving others in Jesus' names in order to make disciples, then how can you start? What do you feel that God is calling you to do right now?

3. Why does Paul end his epistle with the phrase "remember my chains"? (Hint: where else in this letter has Paul mentioned his suffering? What did he say there about the purpose of his suffering?)

- a. What does this reveal about Paul's heart for the church?
- b. Why has it become so popular to "love Jesus but dislike (or even hate) the church"?
- c. How do you think God views this?