
Book of Colossians

— Lesson 10 - Paul's Companions —

Colossians 4:7-18

Steve Lewis

www.SpiritAndTruth.org



Colossians 4:7-8

Tychicus

- **Beloved brother** (*agapētos adelphos*) ~ dear and precious believer.
- **Faithful servant** (*pistos diakonos*) ~ trustworthy minister.
- **Fellow bondservant** (*sundoulos*) ~ servant of the same Lord.

To communicate:

- Circumstances and events that Paul has experienced in Rome.
- **Encourage** (*parakaleō*) ~ “call alongside to strengthen & comfort.”

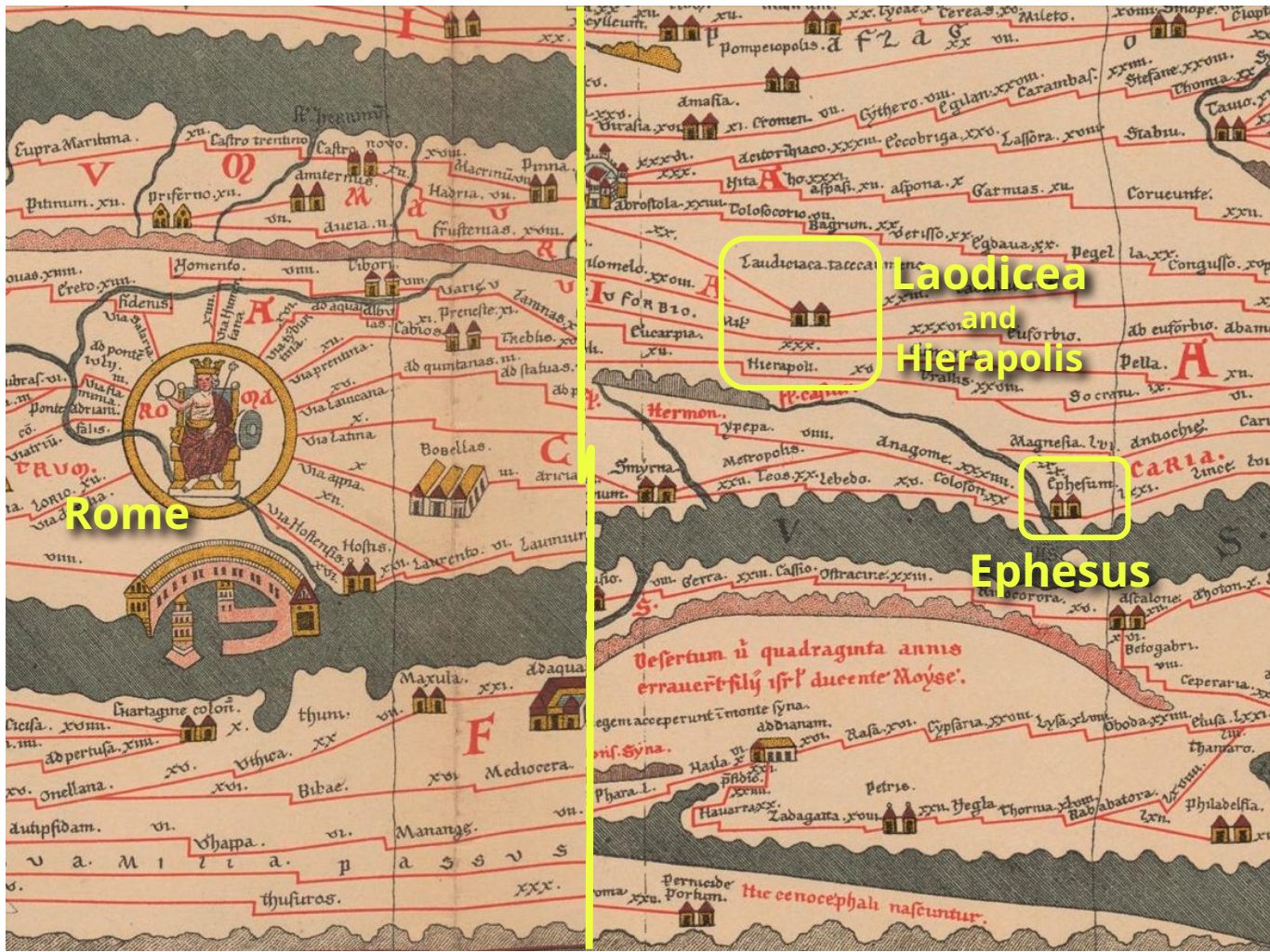
Commissioned for the long journey to carry important correspondence between Rome and Asia Minor.





Journey of almost 1,000 miles

- by land across Italy
- by sea across the Ionian
- by land across Greece
- by sea across the Aegean
- by land across Phrygia



TABULA PEUTINGERIANA

Only surviving map of the Roman *cursus publicus*, the state-run road network.

- Only government or military mail allowed.
- Those not allowed to use the *cursus publicus* would send their mail by servants or acquaintances.

Colossians 4:9

Onesimus

- Runaway slave from the household of Philemon.
- Philemon ~ committed believer; church in his house (Philemon 1:1-2).
- Unknown what brought Onesimus and Paul together in Rome.
- Paul led Onesimus to Christ ~ “my child Onesimus, whom I have begotten in my imprisonment” (Philemon 1:10).
- “Our faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you.”
- Both Tychicus & Onesimus “will inform you about the whole situation here” ~ both are messengers from Paul.



Colossians 4:10

Aristarchus

- One of Paul's constant companions, especially during difficult times.
- Originally from Thessalonica (Acts 20:4); probably became a believer during Paul's second missionary journey about ten years prior.
- Assisted Paul and shared in his imprisonment.

Mark

- Writer of the *Gospel of Mark*; active in ministry since the time of Paul's first missionary journey almost 15 years before.
- A trustworthy, proven minister at this time in Church history.



Colossians 4:11

Jesus Justus

- **Justus** = “just” (*Latin origin*); only New Testament reference to him.

Comfort of Jewish believers

- Aristarchus, Mark, & Jesus Justus ~ the only Jewish believers with Paul.
- Share a common heritage; suffered similar persecutions for their faith in Christ from their countrymen, the Jews.
- **Fellow workers for the kingdom of God** ~ consistent with how he used *kingdom* previously (Col 1:13); legal standing of believers as members of Christ’s future kingdom.
- They proved to be a great encouragement to Paul.



Colossians 4:12-13

Epaphras

- A Colossian himself; fellow-bondsman of Christ; remained in Rome.
- **Labored earnestly** (*agōnizomai*) in prayer for his charges in the faith.
- **Concern** (*ponos*) ~ “anguish or intense desire.”

Epaphras' Prayer (Col 4:12)	Paul's Desire and Prayer
stand (<i>histēmi</i>) = established perfect (<i>teleios</i>) = complete, mature	Col 1:23 - “ firmly established in the faith” Col 1:28 - “present every man complete in Christ”
fully assured (<i>plērophoreō</i>) = “filled to overflowing; to be fully convinced or persuaded.”	Col 2:2 - “the wealth that comes from the full assurance of understanding” Col 2:10 - “in Him you have been made complete ”
in all God's will (<i>thelēma</i>) = “God's wishes as contained in His Word.”	Col 1:9 - “filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding”



Colossians 4:14-15

Luke

- Writer of the *Gospel of Luke* and *Book of Acts*.
- Beloved companion of Paul from his 2nd missionary journey onward.

Demas

- Fellow laborer (Philemon 1:24); eventually deserted Paul (2 Tim 4:10).

Nympha & Laodicea

- No dedicated church buildings; fellowships meet in member's homes.
- Churches in the Lycus Valley may have shared teaching pastors.



Colossians 4:16-18

Circulating letters

- Publicly share the letter, then send it to Laodicea.
- Read and study the letter coming from Laodicea (probably *Ephesians*).

Archippus

- **Fellow soldier** (*sustratiōtēs*) for the cause of Christ (Philemon 1:2).
- **Take heed to the ministry** ~ “keep on filling it full” (*plēroō*).

Paul’s signature

- “Remember my chains” ~ his claim to apostolic authority.
- God’s grace provides the bookends for the entire letter.

