

“5 Guys”

Philemon 23-25

November 8, 2020

Philemon 23-25

23 Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, greets you,
24 as do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, Luke, my fellow workers.
25 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

Epaphras

Mark

Aristarchus

Demas

Luke

Philemon 23-25

23 **Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, greets you,**
24 as do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, Luke, my fellow workers.
25 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

Epaphras –

• **Came to Christ through Paul.**

• **Pastored 3 churches: Colossae, Laodicea, Hierapolis.**

Col 1:7

7 just as you learned it from Epaphras, our beloved fellow bond-servant, who is a faithful servant of Christ on our behalf,

Col 4:12, 13

12 Epaphras, who is one of your number, a bondslave of Jesus Christ, sends you his greetings, always laboring earnestly for you in his prayers, that you may stand perfect and fully assured in all the will of God.

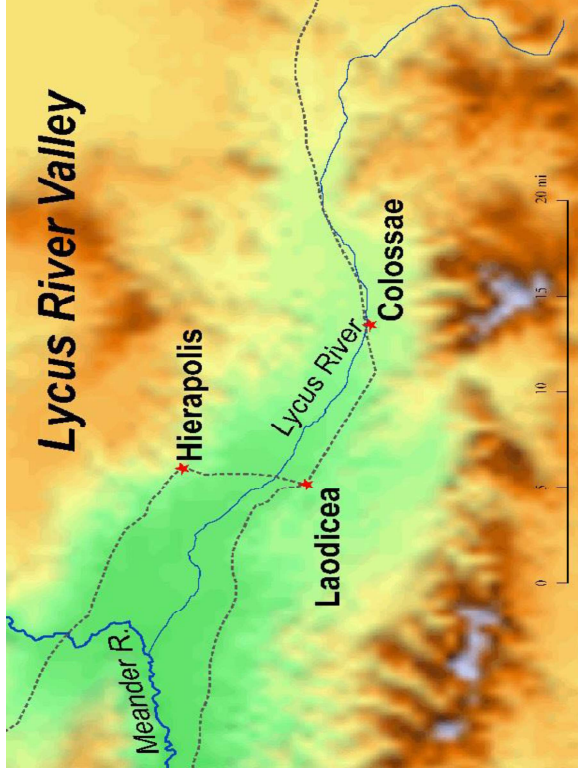
13 For I testify for him that he has a deep concern for you and for those who are in Laodicea and Hierapolis.

Col 4:10

10 Aristarchus, my fellow prisoner, sends you his greetings;

Philemon 23

23 Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, greets you,



Qualities:

1. Bonds slave.
2. Faithful.
3. Hard worker.
4. Devoted to prayer .
5. Doctrinally sound.
6. Understood biblical priorities.

Bottom Line: Outstanding pastor.

Philemon 23-25

- 23 Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, greets you,
 24 **as do Mark**, Aristarchus, Demas, Luke, my fellow workers.
 25 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

Mark –

- **Had a mother named Mary. Raised in a Christian home.**

Acts 12:12

12 And when he realized this, he went to the house of Mary, the mother of John who was also called Mark, where many were gathered together and were praying.

- **Came to Christ through Peter.**

1 Peter 5:13

13 She who is in Babylon, chosen together with you, sends you greetings, and so does my son, Mark.

- **He was a cousin of Barnabas.**

Col 4:10

10 Aristarchus, my fellow prisoner, sends you his greetings; and also Barnabas's cousin Mark (about whom you received instructions; if he comes to you, welcome him);

- **Dropped out.**

Acts 12:21

25 And Barnabas and Saul returned from Jerusalem when they had fulfilled their mission, taking along with them John, who was also called Mark.

Acts 15:36-41

36 After some days Paul said to Barnabas, "Let us return and visit the brethren in every city in which we proclaimed the word of the Lord, and see how they are."

37 Barnabas wanted to take John, called Mark, along with them also.

38 But Paul kept insisting that they should not take him along who had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not gone with them to the work.

39 And there occurred such a sharp disagreement that they separated from one another, and Barnabas took Mark with him and sailed away to Cyprus.

40 But Paul chose Silas and left, being committed by the brethren to the grace of the Lord.

41 And he was traveling through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.

- Grows in maturity.

2 Tim 4:11

11 Only Luke is with me. Pick up Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for service.

- Writes the gospel of Mark.

Qualities:

1. Has good background.
2. Grew from immaturity to maturity.
3. Ability to write a gospel with conciseness.

Bottom Line: God is the God of second chances.

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23 Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, greets you,
24 as do Mark, **Aristarchus**, Demas, Luke, my fellow workers.
25 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

Aristarchus –

- Came to Christ through the ministry of Paul in Thessalonica.

Acts 20:4

4 And he was accompanied by Sopater of Berea, the son of Pyrrhus, and by Aristarchus and Secundus of the Thessalonians,

- Often faced danger.

Acts 19:29

29 The city was filled with the confusion, and they rushed with one accord into the theater, dragging along Gaius and Aristarchus, Paul's traveling companions from Macedonia.

Acts 27:2

2 And embarking in an Adramyttian ship, which was about to sail to the regions along the coast of Asia, we put out to sea accompanied by Aristarchus, a Macedonian of Thessalonica.

Col 4:10

10 Aristarchus, my fellow prisoner, sends you his greetings;

Qualities –

1. Devoted friend.
2. Trustworthy.
3. Not afraid to “get his ministry hands dirty.”
4. Bold in the face of death.

Bottom Line: Faithful companion.

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24 as do Mark, Aristarchus, **Demas**, Luke, my fellow workers.
25 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

Demas –

- We know very little about the background of Demas.
- The most positive thing said about him is here in Philemon – “fellow worker”
- Otherwise he maybe is just a tag-along.

Col 4:14

14 Luke, the beloved physician, sends you his greetings, and also Demas.

- The one insight into his life is found here -

2 Tim 4:9-10

9 Make every effort to come to me soon;

10 for Demas, having loved this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica;

- Demas was a dropout.
- if you live a mediocre Christian life, it will be easy to be sidetracked.

Heb 2:1

1 For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away from it.

People in the Bible who loved money –

Achan – his love for money: disobeyed God; brought defeat on Israel's army; brought death to himself and his family.

Baalam – his love for money: violently sinned against God and cursed God's people.

Delilah – her love for money: she betrayed Samson: eventually resulted in the deaths of thousands.

Solomon – his love for money: tried to use it to find meaning in life but only found vanity and emptiness.

Zachaeus – his love for money: as a tax collector for Rome, he abused and oppressed people.

Rich young ruler - his love for money: refused to forfeit all that he had, which was temporary, to gain all that he did not have, which was eternal.

Annius & Sapphira – their love for money: lied to the church and the Holy Spirit; kept back some of the money pledged; were therefore hypocrites; both lost their lives.

Judas - his love for money: betrayed the Son of God; sold Jesus Christ for money; committed suicide.

Qualities –

1. Started out somewhat well.

Bottom Line: How you start makes little difference if you don't end. Better to end well than to start well.

Mark 4:18-20

18 "And others are the ones on whom seed was sown among the thorns; these are the ones who have heard the word, 19 but the worries of the world, and the **deceitfulness of riches**, and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.

“I have three great principles when it comes to money.

Principle number one, earn as much as you can; principle number two, save as much as you can; principle number three, in order that you may give to God as much as you can.” - John Wesley

“Where riches hold the dominion of the heart, God has lost His authority.” - John Calvin

1 Tim 6:9-10

9 But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction.

10 For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

1 John 2:15-17

15 Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.

17 The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.

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24 as do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, **Luke**, my fellow workers.

25 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

Luke –

- Gentle doctor.
- Wrote 2 books – Luke, Acts.
- Accompanied Paul on his 2nd trip.
- Like Aristarchus, he was hands on.

Col 4:13

14 Luke, the beloved physician, sends you his greetings.

2 Tim 4:9-11

9 Make every effort to come to me soon;

10 for Demas, having loved this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica; Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia.

11 Only Luke is with me.

Qualities –

1. A beloved friend.
2. Faithful.
3. Willing to sacrifice.
4. Stirling Christian character.
5. Valuable.

Bottom Line: *A man of ability, stability, and loyalty.*

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23 Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, greets you,

24 as do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, Luke, my fellow workers.

25 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

- “Grace” – is an enabling manifestation of the power of God.
- “Grace” to be grace must manifest itself.
- **“The spirit which has the grace of Christ with it can never be utterly solitary or desolate.”** - W. Graham Scroggie
- Think about what grace does.
- **“your”** is plural – Philemon, family, church.
- **“spirit”** – your spiritual dimension to your life.

Who are you?