

The Church of Christ

Col 4:7-18

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Background

"Never before, in the history of humanity, had a more diverse group of people gathered and been welcomed, loved, and accepted than the early Christian church." This quote comes from a recent episode of frequent *Christianity Today* contributor Russell Moore's podcast. Who said it? The answer may surprise you! Join us this Sunday for our final sermon in our series on Colossians; find out who spoke these words about the early Christian church and how they can become true of the modern Christian church as well.

Sermon Text: Col 4:7-18

⁷ Tychicus will tell you all the news about me. He is a dear brother, a faithful minister and fellow servant in the Lord. ⁸ I am sending him to you for the express purpose that you may know about our circumstances and that he may encourage your hearts. ⁹ He is coming with Onesimus, our faithful and dear brother, who is one of you. They will tell you everything that is happening here.

¹⁰ My fellow prisoner Aristarchus sends you his greetings, as does Mark, the cousin of Barnabas. (You have received instructions about him; if he comes to you, welcome him.) ¹¹ Jesus, who is called Justus, also sends greetings. These are the only Jews among my co-workers for the kingdom of God, and they have proved a comfort to me. ¹² Epaphras, who is one of you and a servant of Christ Jesus, sends greetings. He is always wrestling in prayer for you, that you may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured. ¹³ I vouch for him that he is working hard for you and for those at Laodicea and Hierapolis. ¹⁴ Our dear friend Luke, the doctor, and Demas send greetings. ¹⁵ Give my greetings to the brothers and sisters at Laodicea, and to Nympha and the church in her house.

¹⁶ After this letter has been read to you, see that it is also read in the church of the Laodiceans and that you in turn read the letter from Laodicea.

¹⁷ Tell Archippus: "See to it that you complete the ministry you have received in the Lord."

¹⁸ I, Paul, write this greeting in my own hand. Remember my chains. Grace be with you.

Discussion Questions

1. Preparation

- a. What is one thing you hoped to talk about today/tonight?
- b. What question(s) did you come away with from the sermon?
- c. What stands out to you the most from this sermon?

2. Sunday questions (pick 3?)

- a. What is your take-away after the financial update? Explain.
- b. Do you see unity within diversity at PBCC? Why or why not?
- c. To lean into this unity, Eugene said we need to first see ourselves like God sees us. So, do you see yourself the way God sees you? Why or why not?
- d. Here's another question for leaning into this unity - Do you show yourself the same forgiveness God is willing to show you in Christ? Why or why not?
- e. What is the biggest take-away for you from Eugene's walk through Colossians over the past two years? Explain.