



Pointers and questions on Paul's letter to the
COLOSSIANS

Session **10**

4:7-18

The Personal Touch

Summary

- 4:7-9** Paul commends to the Colossians the two men—Tychicus and Onesimus—who will carry his letter to them.
- 4:10-14** He conveys greetings to the Colossians from some of his fellow-workers.
- 4:15-18** He sends greetings to some individuals in Colossae, along with instructions on the distribution of his letter and a final note in his own handwriting.

Questions to get you thinking

1. It was said of Karl Marx that he had a deep concern for humankind as a whole but couldn't get on with anyone individually. According to this passage, how far would that be true of Paul?
2. Talk about the words Paul uses to describe the two carriers of his letter, Tychicus and Onesimus (v7-9). Note also what he doesn't say: no mention of their gifts, their being good preachers etc. What does this tell us about priorities in our assessment of one another?
3. Look at v11. This tells us that Paul, as a Jew, ended up working chiefly with Gentile 'foreigners'. In today's multicultural, shrinking world we may well have to do the same. Are there any vestiges of national prejudice in your own links with other Christians?
4. What does the word 'wrestling' (v12) tell us about Epaphras's personal prayer-life? Does your own praying ever approach that degree of intensity?
5. Note the things Epaphras prayed for. Is it fair to say that much of our own praying is for things that are more material? Could we benefit by following Epaphras's example?
6. What are the benefits of a church meeting in someone's house, as in v15, rather than in a special building? And the disadvantages?
7. Look at Paul's personal message to Archippus in v17. What does it imply? Would a similar message to you touch a sore spot?
8. Note the last sentence in this letter. What does Paul wish for the Colossians? What exactly does it mean?
9. Look at some of Paul's other letters and see if any end (and begin) with a similar expression.

