

April 17, 2024 – Wednesday

Men's Breakfast – Saturday
 Pastor Zach Archer
 Classes 9:45

Grace-empowered Forgiveness

Colossians 4:7-8 NKJ

⁷*Tychicus, a beloved brother, faithful minister, and fellow servant in the Lord, will tell you all the news about me.*

⁸*I am sending him to you for this very purpose, that he may know your circumstances and comfort your hearts,*

Colossians 4:9a NKJ

with Onesimus, a faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you. . .

Philemon 1:8b-21 NLT

⁸ . . . *I am boldly asking a favor of you. I could demand it in the name of Christ because it is the right thing for you to do.*

⁹ *But because of our love, I prefer simply to ask you. Consider this as a request from me—Paul, an old man and now also a prisoner for the sake of Christ Jesus.*

¹⁰ *I appeal to you to show kindness to my child, Onesimus. I became his father in the faith while here in prison.*

¹¹ *Onesimus hasn't been of much use to you in the past, but now he is very useful to both of us. ¹² I am sending him back to you, and with him comes my own heart.*

¹³ *I wanted to keep him here with me while I am in these chains for preaching the Good News, and he would have helped me on your behalf.*

¹⁴ *But I didn't want to do anything without your consent. I wanted you to help because you were willing, not because you were forced.*

¹⁵ *It seems you lost Onesimus for a little while so that you could have him back forever.*

¹⁶ *He is no longer like a slave to you. He is more than a slave, for he is a beloved brother, especially to me. Now he will mean much more to you, both as a man and as a brother in the Lord.*

¹⁷ *So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me.*

¹⁸ *If he has wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge it to me.*

¹⁹ **I, PAUL, WRITE THIS WITH MY OWN HAND: I WILL REPAY IT. AND I WON'T MENTION THAT YOU OWE ME YOUR VERY SOUL!**

²⁰ *Yes, my brother, please do me this favor for the Lord's sake. Give me this encouragement in Christ.*

²¹ *I am confident as I write this letter that you will do what I ask and even more!*

1. Forgiveness Comes by the _____ of Jesus in Us

Philemon 1:6 NKJ

that the sharing of your faith may become effective by the acknowledgment [recognition] of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus.

Romans 7:18a NKJ

For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; . . .

Colossians 4:9-11 NLT

⁹ *I am also sending Onesimus, a faithful and beloved brother, one of your own people. He and Tychicus will tell you everything that's happening here.*

¹⁰ *Aristarchus, who is in prison with me, sends you his greetings, and so does Mark, Barnabas's cousin. As you were instructed before, make Mark welcome if he comes your way.*

¹¹ *Jesus (the one we call Justus) also sends his greetings. These are the only Jewish believers among my co-workers; they are working with me here for the Kingdom of God. And what a comfort they have been!*

2. Forgiveness _____ while Allowing God to Change Others

Acts 13:5 NLT

There, in the town of Salamis, they went to the Jewish synagogues and preached the word of God. (John Mark went with them as their assistant.)

Acts 13:13 NLT

*Now Paul and those with him left Paphos by ship for Pamphylia, * landing at the port town of Perga. There John Mark left them and returned to Jerusalem.*

Acts 15:36-40 NLT

³⁶ *After some time Paul said to Barnabas, "Let's return to each city where we previously preached the word of the Lord, to see how the new believers are getting along."*

³⁷ *Barnabas agreed and wanted to take along John Mark.*

³⁸ *But Paul disagreed strongly, since John Mark had deserted [withdrew, shun, flee from] them in Pamphylia and had not continued with them in their work.*

³⁹ *Their disagreement [contention, dispute] was so sharp that they separated [divided]. Barnabas took John Mark with him and sailed for Cyprus.*

⁴⁰ *Paul chose Silas, and as he left, the believers entrusted him to the Lord's gracious care.*

Colossians 4:10 NKJ

Aristarchus my fellow prisoner greets you, with Mark the cousin of Barnabas (about whom you received instructions: if he comes to you, welcome him),

2 Timothy 4:11 NKJ

Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for ministry.

Colossians 4:12 NKJ

¹² *Epaphras, who is one of you, a bondservant of Christ, greets you, always laboring fervently for you in prayers, that you may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.*

Colossians 4:13 NKJ

For I bear him witness that he has a great zeal for you, and those who are in Laodicea, and those in Hierapolis.

Colossians 4:14 NKJ

Luke the beloved physician and Demas greet you.

Philemon 1:24 NKJ

as do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, Luke, my fellow laborers.

3. Forgiveness enables us to release those who go back, while we continue to move ourselves!

2 Timothy 4:10 NKJ

for Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world, and has departed for Thessalonica—Crescens for Galatia, Titus for Dalmatia.

1 John 2:15 NKJ

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

2 Timothy 4:10 CEV

Demas loves the things of this world so much that he left me and went to Thessalonica...

Colossians 4:15-16 NLT

¹⁵*Please give my greetings to our brothers and sisters^[a] at Laodicea, and to Nympha and the church that meets in her house.*

¹⁶*After you have read this letter, pass it on to the church at Laodicea so they can read it, too. And you should read the letter I wrote to them.*

Colossians 4:17 NKJ

And say to Archippus, "Take heed to the ministry which you have received in the Lord, that you may fulfill it."

Colossians 4:18 NKJ

This salutation by my own hand—Paul. Remember my chains. Grace be with you. Amen.