

Reteaching/Study Guide from Lakeside's Online Worship
Sunday, November 15, 2020, Sermon by Dr. Greg Corbin, Senior Pastor
"People in Church" –Colossians 4:7-18

¹⁶ After this letter has been read at your gathering, have it read also in the church of the Laodiceans; and see that you also read the letter from Laodicea. ¹⁷ And tell Archippus, "Pay attention to the ministry you have received in the Lord, so that you can accomplish it."

*¹⁸ I, Paul, am writing this greeting with my own hand. Remember my chains. Grace be with you."
Colossians 4:16-18 Christian Standard Bible*

God's Church is truly amazing. He draws together people from a variety of backgrounds, passions, and abilities and unites them into the one Body of Christ, an unstoppable force empowered by the Holy Spirit and equipped with His grace in such a way that the gates of hell cannot stand against it. Under Christ's lordship, the church is a network of relationships connecting people into a community to carry the Gospel until He returns. People in the church have the wonderful privilege of being a part of something greater than themselves. They have the opportunity to glorify and serve God. They also have the joy of enriching one another's lives as they work together and minister to each other. **In the closing verses of Colossians, Paul reflected upon some of the people in the church who had served with him and ministered to him. Through his reflections, he highlighted three principles about people in the church.**

People in the church must be Loved Individually (vss. 7-15). The people Paul mentioned were all unique in their abilities, stories, and contributions to the church. Their lives created a mosaic of brilliantly varied colors that is probably representative of most any church today. Paul's comments marked his love for each of them and his appreciation for their unique contributions to the church's ministry. We must love people in the church as God gives them to us, as fellow servants, as brothers and sisters in Christ. As the Family of God, we must appreciate each person's unique contribution.

Tychicus – the faithful servant over the long haul (vss. 7-8).

Onesimus – growing believer with a powerful testimony (vs. 9).

Aristarchus – the one who is willing to do the hard things (vs. 10).

Mark – the forgiven brother (vs. 10).

Jesus Justus – the fellow worker (vs. 11).

Epaphras – the faithful pastor (vs. 12-13).

Luke – the well-known leader/scholar (vs. 14).

Demas – faithful now / AWOL later (vs. 14; 2 Timothy 4:9-10).

Nymphas (or Nympha in some translations) – the generous giver (vs. 15).

People in the church must be Linked Cooperatively (vss. 7-15). The underlying factor which united all the individuals Paul mentioned was their commitment and contribution to Christ and His

mission. That factor, however, made them more than a collection of random individuals and their efforts more than isolated acts. Their lives, gifts, and work were linked cooperatively within the Body of Christ. That connection magnified and gave meaning to the impact of their efforts and defined their value and the value of their contributions. They were **invested and engaged** in the life and ministry of the church, committed to a purpose bigger than themselves. Small or great, seen or unseen, their ministry mattered. “If we have a bunch of people here at Lakeside who are committed to doing the smallest things for Christ – He will do BIG things among us. He will do BIG things among us when we are linked cooperatively” (Greg Corbin).

People in the church must be Led Courageously (vss. 16-18). Over the last two-thousand years, the Church has faced many challenges. By His grace and with God-given leaders to encourage and spur them on, God’s people have risen to the challenge. As difficult and uncertain as the year 2020 has been, God’s words through Paul still hold us accountable: *“Pay attention to the ministry you have received in the Lord, so that you can accomplish it” (vs. 17)*. Undeterred by any challenge, we must stay on mission as the unstoppable force God created us to be and complete the task entrusted to us. We must pray, serve, give, invite, and witness like never before.

To reflect further about people in the church, read 1 Corinthians 12-13, Romans 12:1-8, Ephesians 4:1-16, and 1 Peter 4:7-11.

Questions/Actions for Reflection/Discussion/Application

-Who are some of the people in the church who have contributed to your life and spiritual growth? Name them and their unique contributions and pray for them personally. Make the opportunity this week to tell them what they mean to you.

-Thank God for the opportunity He has given you to serve in His church.

-If you’re uncertain about where/how to get involved in serving, the Bible gives us four clear places to start. First, begin praying for your church and for God to show you how to serve. Second, ask how you can help. God uses people in the church to clarify our callings. Third, get involved, act where you see a need. As you serve in any area, God clarifies the heart of your giftedness and passion. Fourth, tell someone about Jesus this week and invite someone to church. God has given that command to all of us.

You’re in My Prayers,

Stacey