

“The Affairs of the Apostle Paul”

Colossians 4:7–18

I. What are the daily affairs of an Apostle?

A. Charging the faithful to carry encouraging testimonies to believers.

Colossians 4:7–9 — ⁷ *As to all my affairs, Tychicus, our beloved brother and faithful servant and fellow bond-servant in the Lord, will bring you information.* ⁸ *For I have sent him to you for this very purpose, that you may know about our circumstances and that he may encourage your hearts;* ⁹ *and with him Onesimus, our faithful and beloved brother, who is one of your number. They will inform you about the whole situation here.”*

1. To encourage the hearts of believers.

B. Promoting peaceful unity within the churches –

v10 *“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);”* **v11** *“and also Jesus who is called Justus; these are the only fellow workers for the kingdom of God who are from the circumcision, and they have proved to be an encouragement to me.”*

1. By highlighting their effectiveness -

C. Lifting the champions of prayer for others to emulate –

v12 *“Epaphras, who is one of your number, a bonds slave 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.*

1. How do you think Paul knows that Epaphras prays always and earnestly? (v12a)
2. What about Epaphras’ prayer can we emulate as we pray for others? (v12b)
3. What does v13 reveal about the true meaning of a deep concern for someone else?

D. Giving recognition to the behind-the-scenes workers of the Lord –

v14 *“Luke, the beloved physician, sends you his greetings, and also Demas.”*

1. Luke attended to Paul and recorded ministry progress of the Gospel through Paul.
2. Demas was a fellow worker - **Philemon 24 ; 2 Timothy 4:9–10**

E. Encourage cooperation and sharing with other churches nearby -

v15 *“Greet the brethren who are in Laodicea and also Nympha and the church that is in her house. ¹⁶ When this letter is read among you, have it also read in the church of the Laodiceans; and you, for your part read my letter that is coming from Laodicea.”*

F. Last, Encouragement of the faint -

v17 *“Say to Archippus, “Take heed to the ministry which you have received in the Lord, that you may fulfill it.” ¹⁸ I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. Remember my imprisonment. Grace be with you.”*

1. Who is Archippus?
2. Problem: