

**Series:** Colossians–The Supremacy of Christ

**Sermon:** Communal Perseverance

**Scripture:** Colossians 4:7-18

**Teacher:** Jeff Norris

**Date:** June 18, 2023

**Colossians 4:7-18 (ESV)**

<sup>7</sup> *Tychicus will tell you all about my activities. He is a beloved brother and faithful minister and fellow servant in the Lord.*

<sup>8</sup> *I have sent him to you for this very purpose, that you may know how we are and that he may encourage your hearts,*

<sup>9</sup> *and with him Onesimus, our faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you. They will tell you of everything that has taken place here.*

<sup>10</sup> *Aristarchus my fellow prisoner greets you, and Mark the cousin of Barnabas (concerning whom you have received instructions—if he comes to you, welcome him),*

<sup>11</sup> *and Jesus who is called Justus. These are the only men of the circumcision among my fellow workers for the kingdom of God, and they have been a comfort to me.*

<sup>12</sup> *Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ Jesus, greets you, always struggling on your behalf in his prayers, that you may stand mature and fully assured in all the will of God.*

<sup>13</sup> *For I bear him witness that he has worked hard for you and for those in Laodicea and in Hierapolis.*

<sup>14</sup> *Luke the beloved physician greets you, as does Demas.*

<sup>15</sup> *Give my greetings to the brothers at Laodicea, and to Nympha and the church in her house.*

<sup>16</sup> *And when this letter has been read among you, have it also read in the church of the Laodiceans; and see that you also read the letter from Laodicea.*

<sup>17</sup> *And say to Archippus, “See that you fulfill the ministry that you have received in the Lord.”*

<sup>18</sup> *I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. Remember my chains. Grace be with you.*

"The two prevailing cultural influences that I am beginning to see as wreaking havoc in so many circles in the church ... I refer to them as the two "I's" we need to gouge out—they are instant gratification and individualism." - Jen Wilkin, *Digging Deeper Podcast*, Episode 25.

**The persevering power of Christian fellowship, encouragement, and discipleship.**

**The undermining power of love for the world and spiritual uselessness.**

**2 Timothy 4:10 (ESV)**

*For Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica.*

**Revelation 3: 14-22 (ESV)**

*And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: ‘The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God's creation.*

*‘I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth. For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see. Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent. Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me. The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.’*

Heidelberg Catechism:

Q. What is your only comfort in life and death?

A. That I am not my own, but belong with body and soul, both in life and in death, to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from all the power of the devil. He also preserves me in such a way that without the will of my heavenly Father not a hair can fall from my head; indeed, all things must work together for my salvation. Therefore, by his Holy Spirit, he also assures me of eternal life and makes me heartily willing and ready from now on to live for him.

Q. What do you need to know in order to live and die in the joy of this comfort?

A. First, how great my sins and misery are; second, how I am delivered from all my sins and misery; third, how I am thankful to God for such deliverance.