

Colossians - Chapter 4
“Learning to Work With Others – Part 2”
Colossians 4:10-11

Verse 10

- The second person mentioned is Marcus.
 - This is the same young man who went with Paul and Barnabas on their first missionary journey, but was unfaithful and quit on the team.
 - When it came time for their second journey, Paul refused to take Mark again, but Barnabas was insistent on giving him another chance. Paul and Barnabas split up over the issue of Mark. Acts 15:36-40
 - We learn in this verse why Barnabas was a little more patient and compassionate towards this young man. Barnabas was Mark’s uncle.
 - Yet many years later, here is Mark serving as a personal representative and assistant to the apostle Paul. He had overcome his past failure, and proven himself faithful and profitable to the cause of Christ. 2 Timothy 4:11
 - Paul had apparently already gotten word to the Colossians that Mark was coming (“*touching whom ye received commandments*”), and admonished them to receive him as Paul’s representative.
 - God would later use Mark to write the second book of the New Testament – The Gospel According to Mark.
 - Mark stands out in the Word of God as a great encouragement to anybody who has tried to serve the Lord, but failed. Life isn’t over just because we failed once and let people down. We can be restored. We can rebuild our testimony. We need to learn and grow from our mistakes, get up, dust ourselves off, and continue forward for Christ!

Verse 11

1. Next, Paul mentions “*Jesus.*” Of course, this isn’t our Savior, Jesus Christ. Jesus was a common name among the Jews. This man also had a surname. People called him Justus.
 - This also was very common in that day - Saul/Paul, John/Mark, Jesus/Justus.
 - They used their Jewish names when in the Jewish culture, but their surnames were used when dealing with Gentiles in the Roman culture.
2. It appears from the text that Aristarchus, Marcus, and Jesus Justus were Paul’s kinsmen after the flesh. That is, they were Jews like Paul. Paul says they are “*of the circumcision,*” which simply means that they were Jewish.
3. When Paul says, “*these only are my fellow-workers,*” he meant that these three men were the only ones of the Jews that were working with and helping Paul at that time. Paul had other helpers (which we will read about), but they were Gentiles.

4. These three men were Paul's fellowhelpers "*unto the kingdom of God.*"
 - This could be a reference to the fact that these men focused the majority of their efforts on reaching Israel with the good news of Christ, the Messiah. Israel's good news from the time of Christ centered on a coming King and kingdom that was prophesied all throughout Israel's Old Testament law and prophets.
5. These men had been a comfort to Paul. This is so precious. Paul was a human being with the need for comfort just like everybody else. Paul had been through a lot, and, as he is in prison, God used these three men to comfort Paul.
 - How did they comfort Paul? It was most likely by visiting him, conferring with him, praying for him, communicating with him, and doing things in the ministry for Paul that he couldn't do because of his confinement.
 - While our missionaries today are probably not in prison, they also are in great need of comfort. They deal with struggles every day on the mission field.
 - Did you know that God can use you to encourage and comfort missionaries today? How? Visit them on the field, pray for them, communicate with them, help to provide needs for them that they cannot provide for themselves on the field, etc.
6. One final thought about this man that Paul mentions called Jesus Justus: This man is a great example of faithful believers who do their part to advance the cause of Christ, but their deeds are never mentioned or publicly acclaimed.
 - This man was a fellow-worker with Paul. That is all we know about him, but Christ keeps a record.
 - One day, every faithful person will be rewarded accordingly from the hands of Christ! 1 Corinthians 3:11-14; 2 Timothy 4:8