

Quarter One: Uniting Heaven & Earth: Christ in Philippians & Colossians

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Lesson 13—Standing in All the Will of God

Sunday: Lessons on Outreach

March 22, 2026

- **Last Week:** “Living with Each Other”
 - Col 3:18 – 4:6
 - Biblical principles for how to live with each other: in the family, church, workplace
- **This Week:** “Standing in All the Will of God” (from SQ’s lesson)
 - End of Philippians & now Colossians:
 - Last lesson: last section, Col 4:7 – 18
 - Paul = the apostle to the Gentiles
 - Great missionary & apostle for Jesus Christ
 - One of the most influential leaders in the early Christian Church
 - **Paul’s mission strategy:**
 - Preaching focus:
 - Christ & Him crucified
 - Saved by grace thru faith – also sanctified by Christ
 - Christian growth & how to walk / live as a Christian
 - Evangelism focus:
 - Traveled & preached in the major centers of the Roman Empire
 - 3 missionary journeys – covered 13,400 miles
 - Spent time in centers of trade (Corinth & Ephesus) from which the message could be spread to other towns
 - Most of that was on foot; & some of his years were in prison
 - Trained lay workers to reach other cities & towns
 - Timothy & Titus; Silvanus
 - Priscilla & Aquilla
 - Multiple women mentioned
 - Writing focus:
 - Wrote 14 epistles to the church / believers (Hebrews by Paul)
 - Even when in prison, wrote encouragement & exhortation
 - Loved those under his care
 - Church focus:
 - Sought to strengthen churches in Christ
 - Warned against false teachings: be true to the gospel preached
 - Encouraged working together:
 - Jews & Gentile Christians
 - Men & women believers

Memory Text: “In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you” (1 Thess 5:18, NKJV).

The week in brief:

- 1. **Sunday:** Lessons on Outreach (Jill)
 - Col 4:7 – 9 – Paul’s care & concern for the early Christian churches; Tychicus’ role in assisting Paul & communicating Paul’s messages to the churches
- 2. **Monday:** Church Connectivity (James)
 - Col 4:10, 11 – unity in the early Christian church – Jewish & Gentile believers with Paul; John Mark & Paul’s reconciliation / healing
- 3. **Tuesday:** Standing Perfect & Complete (SQ)
 - Col 4:12, 13 – Paul’s prayer for the believers
- 4. **Wednesday:** Living in This World but Not of It (John D)
 - Col 4:14, 15 – biblical counsel for those awaiting the 2nd coming of Jesus
- 5. **Thursday:** A Message for Laodicea (Ryan)
 - Col 4:16 – 18 – counsel for Laodicea & how God will eventually settle & put to rest the Great Controversy questions caused by Satan & bring unity to His people again

Sunday: Lessons on Outreach

Col 4:7 – 9; Eph 6:21; Acts 20:4; 2 Tim 4:12; Titus 3:12

- When is it better to put something in writing vs sharing in person?
 - In writing:
 - Someone needs to remember it
 - Chance you might forget or need a reminder
 - Contract or agreement
 - In person:
 - Something that might be misunderstood
 - Something private that you don’t want to fall into the wrong hands
 - Heavy news: accident or death
 - Share joy or good news
- Col 4:7 – “Tychicus, a beloved brother, faithful minister, and fellow servant in the Lord, will tell you all the news about me.”
 - Tychicus would share in person the details about Paul’s imprisonment
 - Paul didn’t put all that in writing
- Col 4:8 – “I am sending him (Tychicus) to you for this very purpose, that he may know your circumstances and comfort your hearts,”
 - Communication was to work both ways: sharing about Paul & sharing about how the believers were in Colossae
- Col 4:9 – “with Onesimus, a faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you. They will make known to you all things which are happening here.”
 - Philemon was a believer who lived in Colossae (was Onesimus’ master)
 - Paul had addressed letter to Philemon (another prison epistle focused on reconciliation between Philemon & Onesimus)
 - Counsel: receive Onesimus as a brother in the Lord

- Tychicus & Onesimus were to hand-carry Paul's epistle to the Colossians
 - Share news about Paul
 - Receive news about the believers to share with Paul
- **Who was Tychicus?**
 - **1. Trusted emissary**
 - He also hand-carried Paul's wishes & epistle to the Ephesians
 - Eph 6:21, 22 – “But that you also may know my affairs and how I am doing, Tychicus, a beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord, will make all things known to you; (22) whom I have sent to you for this very purpose, that you may know our affairs, and that he may comfort your hearts.”
 - He was honest to communicate both Paul's circumstances & relay the church's condition back to Paul
 - Sometimes, people share what they think you want to hear
 - Shade the truth
 - Add to the truth
 - Cover the truth
 - **2. Trusted to encourage the believers**
 - Col 4:8 – he would “comfort your hearts”
 - Believers in Colossae
 - Eph 6:22 – that he may “comfort your hearts”
 - Believers in Ephesus
 - He possessed the gift of comfort & encouragement
 - 2 Cor 1:4 – God comforts us so we can extend comfort to someone else
 - Does this mean Tychicus had seen hardship?
 - Some people bring drama
 - Some bring criticism or make your question yourself
 - Tychicus brought comfort
 - **3. Trusted as fellow believer / brother in the body of Christ**
 - Col 4:7 - “Tychicus, a beloved **brother**, faithful **minister**, and fellow **servant** in the Lord...”
 - Brother – used in the Gk to indicate a family / physical relationship
 - Also used of “brothers” in Christ
 - Minister – *dee-ak'-on-os* = means “deacon, minister, servant”
 - Lit to wait at tables (like a server)
 - Servant – fellow “slave” for Christ
 - Tychicus was proven in service for Jesus Christ
 - **4. Trusted as a leader in the church**
 - Acts 20:4 – Tychicus was chosen as one of 2 men to represent the delegation from Asia
 - They accommodated Paul on his journey with the collection for needy believers in Jerusalem

- *Today: GC session: representatives from different parts of the world
- **5. Trusted as consistent companion of Paul**
 - Titus 3:12 – “When I send Artemas to you, or Tychicus, be diligent to come to me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there.”
 - Titus was written between 1st & 2nd imprisonment at Rome
 - 2 Tim 4:12 – “And Tychicus I have sent to Ephesus.”
 - Paul’s last epistle (2nd imprisonment in Rome)
 - Tychicus was with Paul again
 - Paul sent him out on another mission to communicate with one of the churches / believers

Who was Tychicus?

- 1. Trusted emissary
- 2. Trusted to encourage the believers
- 3. Trusted as fellow believer / brother in the body of Christ
- 4. Trusted as a leader in the church
- 5. Trusted as consistent companion of Paul