

Fulfill Your Ministry Following in the Footsteps of Archippus

Lesson 1 • Colossians 4:17

► **Satisfaction is guaranteed** in your personal life when Christ is all **and** in all areas of your life.

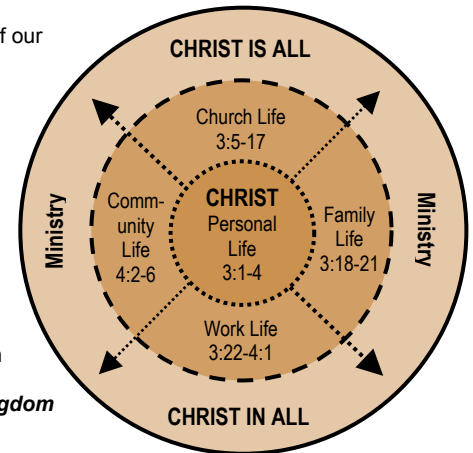
► **The Book of Colossians** is like a GPS (God's Positioning System) for finding our fulfillment in Christ as the Lord of all!

► **The Big Idea of Colossians** is that our relationship with Christ is the foundation and fountainhead of our ministry to others.

Philippians = **GO with CHRIST** through **Whole-hearted Partnership**
Ephesians = **SHOW Christ** through **Outstanding Membership**
Philemon = **GROW in Christ** through **Real Fellowship**
Colossians = **KNOW Christ** through a **Growing Relationship**

► **Colossians 4:7-18** mentions 12 people who set out to find their satisfaction in Christ as the Lord of all. One failed along the way. Another failed but was restored. Some are rich enough to own large homes and house slaves, while others are poor enough that they have to sell themselves as slaves. Some are well-trained professionals. Others are business people who do a lot of traveling. One is an apostle; others are pastors, home group leaders, and simple servants. They are called **beloved brothers, faithful ministers, fellow bond-servants, fellow prisoners, fellow workers for the kingdom of God, and servants of Christ Jesus**.

► **They made their mark for eternity by fulfilling the ministries the Lord had given each one of them.** We are going to **follow in their footsteps**, so we too can make our mark for eternity!



I. Make Your Mark for Eternity: Fulfill Your Ministry Like Archippus. 4:17

A Man Who Made His Mark: Archippus = "Master of Horses"

1. Mentioned **2 times** in Scripture: *Colossians 4:17; Philemon 2*

- Possibly the _____ of Philemon and Apphia.
- Probably the _____ of the Colossian church (or one of the several house churches in the city).
- Definitely a "fellow _____" in the gospel ministry with Paul and Timothy.

2. Archippus **needed encouragement** in light of the **relational tension** with Onesimus and the **doctrinal threat** of the false teachers to the believers at Colossae!

Ministry brings conflicts without and fears within! 2Corinthians 7:5-6

But we do not lose heart! 2Corinthians 4:1, 16

Tell Archippus: "See to it that you complete the ministry you have received in the Lord." NIV

And say to Archippus, "Be sure to carry out the ministry the Lord gave you." NLT

And tell Archippus, "Pay attention to the ministry you have received in the Lord, so that you can accomplish it." HCSB

Make Your Mark: _____ from the Lord!

1. Every Christ follower has the **opportunity** of ministry: _____ it!
"the ministry that you have received in the Lord"

2. Every Christ follower has the **responsibility** of ministry: _____ it!

"See to it (take heed)...that you may fulfill it"

➤ See to it that you **stay focused!**

- Archippus and Timothy were to stay focused to fulfill their ministry ~ Colossians 4:17; 2 Timothy 4:5

➤ See to it that you stay focused **to the finish!**

- Jesus stayed focused to fulfill his ministry **and** fulfilled it! *John 17:4*
- Paul stayed focused to fulfill his ministry **and** fulfilled it! *2 Timothy 4:7*

3. Every Christ follower has **accountability** in ministry: _____ it!

"And say to Archippus... which you have received in the Lord"

Three Levels of Accountability:

➤ _____ it on a **personal level** as a believer.

➤ _____ it on a **local level** as a church.

➤ _____ for it on an **eternal level** from the Lord Himself.

4. Every Christ follower has the **ability** for ministry: _____ it!

"...in the Lord" Colossians 1:9; 2:10; 4:17

Ministry is not something we do for God; it is something God does in and through us for others!

God wants to change you to use you for His glory and the good of others!

Our Response to His Ability:

➤ _____ in Christ alone!

➤ _____ find their fulfillment in Christ alone!

2. Make Your Mark for Eternity: Follow in the Footsteps of Those Who Made Their Mark by Fulfilling Their Ministry. 4:7-18

"Archippus...is commanded to take heed to his ministry that he might fulfill it. The examples of Paul's co-workers in the preceding verses would be a powerful incentive for him to do that. To fulfill our ministry is what the Lord expects of all of us." ~John MacArthur

➤ Twelve names: 11 men and 1 woman

➤ Each one left their mark for eternity—one for bad and the rest for good, but they all left their mark.

➤ Each one has a story to tell and a lesson to teach.

In the weeks to come we are going to learn how to fulfill our ministry and make our mark for eternity!
So that **God will be glorified in us** and **we will be satisfied in Him** and **others will be brought into God's Kingdom** for all eternity!

