



Surrender Your Rights! Following in the Footsteps of Aristarchus

Lesson 4 • Colossians 4:10-11

Colossians 4:7-18 reminds us that our ministry to others is the overflow of our relationship with Christ. 12 people are mentioned by name. Each one sought to **make their mark for eternity**. We are **following in the footsteps of those who fulfilled their ministries**, so we too can make our mark for eternity!

ARCHIPPUS: Fulfill Your Ministry! *We are saved to serve others and everyone is given a ministry by their Master to fulfill!*

TYCHICUS: Become Trust-worthy! *Stay on track as Christ follower and over time you will build a track record of trust-worthiness!*

ONESIMUS: Be Reconciled with Your Past! *Risk being reconciled with your past to be set free from your baggage & become useful to the Lord!*

Follow in the Footsteps of Aristarchus ~ Colossians 4:10-11

I. A Man Who Made His Mark: Aristarchus = "Best Ruler", "The Best of Rulers"

- Aristarchus is mentioned **only 5 times** in the Bible: *Acts 19:29; 20:4; 27:2; Colossians 4:10; Philemon 24*
- It estimated that Paul served **with as many as 41 people** from the time he became a Christ follower to his martyrdom.
- The only co-workers who spent **more time** with Paul than Aristarchus were Timothy, Titus, and Luke!

► _____ in the midst of severe persecution in Thessalonica. *Acts 17:1-15; 1 Thessalonians 1:1-2:3*

Acts 17:2 And Paul went in, as was his custom, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, **3** explaining and proving that it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead, and saying, "This Jesus, whom I proclaim to you, is the Christ." **4 AND SOME OF THEM WERE PERSUADED AND JOINED PAUL AND SILAS, AS DID A GREAT MANY OF THE DEVOUT GREEKS AND NOT A FEW OF THE LEADING WOMEN.** **5** But the Jews were jealous, and taking some wicked men of the rabble, they formed a mob, set the city in an uproar, and attacked the house of Jason, seeking to bring them out to the crowd.

13 But when the Jews from Thessalonica learned that the word of God was proclaimed by Paul at Berea also, they came there too, agitating and stirring up the crowds.

1Thessalonians 1:6 And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, **FOR YOU RECEIVED THE WORD IN MUCH AFFLICTION, WITH THE JOY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT,** **7** so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia.

9 For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and **HOW YOU TURNED TO GOD FROM IDOLS TO SERVE THE LIVING AND TRUE GOD,** **10 AND TO WAIT FOR HIS SON FROM HEAVEN, WHOM HE RAISED FROM THE DEAD, JESUS WHO DELIVERS US FROM THE WRATH TO COME.**

2:2 we had boldness in our God to declare to you the gospel of God **IN THE MIDST OF MUCH CONFLICT.**

► _____ an out-of-control mob in Ephesus. *Acts 19:1-41*

Acts 19:29 So the city was filled with the confusion, and they rushed together into the theater, **DRAGGING WITH THEM GAIUS AND ARISTARCHUS,** Macedonians who were Paul's companions in travel.

► _____ to represent the Thessalonian church in Jerusalem. *Acts 20:3-6*

Acts 20:3 There he spent three months, and when a plot was made against him by the Jews as he was about to set sail for Syria, he decided to return through Macedonia. **4** Sopater the Berean, son of Pyrrhus, accompanied him; and of the Thessalonians, **ARISTARCHUS AND SECUNDUS;** and Gaius of Derbe, and Timothy; and the Asians, Tychicus and Trophimus. **5** These went on ahead and were waiting for us at Troas, **6** but we sailed away from Philippi after the days of Unleavened Bread, and in five days we came to them at Troas, where we stayed for seven days.

► _____ by storms at sea and stranded on the island of Malta. *Acts 27:1-28:14*

- **Storm** at sea where there was no sun for 14 days. *Acts 27:27, 37*
- **Shipwrecked** and nearly put to death by the sailors on the ship. *Acts 27:42-44*
- **Stranded** on the island for 3 months. *Acts 28:11*

➤ _____ with Paul under house arrest in Rome. *Acts 28:16, 20, 30; Colossians 4:10-11; Philemon 24*

Colossians 4:10-11 Aristarchus my fellow prisoner greets you...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.

Philemon 23-24 Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, sends greetings to you, and so do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke, my fellow workers.

Was Aristarchus a Literal Prisoner in Chains or a Spiritual Captive of Christ or Both?

- 1) Ministry is the result of becoming and living as a _____ of the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - Becoming Christ's slave/servant/soldier **always** means voluntarily losing one's rights in order to serve Christ and His church.
- 2) Prison should only be the result of becoming and living as a _____ of the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - Being Christ's slave/servant/soldier **sometimes** means involuntarily losing one's rights by serving Christ and His church.

➤ _____ by Emperor Nero in Rome?

How Did Aristarchus Make His Mark in spite of So Much Suffering and So Many Sacrifices?

A _____ will empower you to endure suffering in serving the Lord and others!

2. Make Your Mark: _____ to Endure Suffering in Serving the Lord and Others!

- See salvation as a _____ of yourself to the Lord Jesus Christ, not as **just** a one-time event in the past or a two-stage process where surrender to the Lord is optional. *1 Thessalonians 1:9-10*
- See suffering as a _____ of salvation and service this side of the Kingdom of God. *1 Thessalonians 1:6; 2:1-2; Acts 14:22; 2 Timothy 3:12*
- See the storms of life as _____ to prove God's sovereign care and as tests to stay on track. *Acts 27:21-26; Romans 8:28*
- See surrendering your rights to the Lord Jesus Christ as _____ and empowering. *Philippians 2; Hebrews 12:2-3; Romans 12:1-2;*
 - 1) Like Christ, surrendering your rights will set you free to **submit to God and others**.
 - 2) Like Christ, surrendering your rights will set you free to **serve God and others**.
 - 3) Like Christ, surrendering your rights will set you free to **seek the salvation of all peoples**.
 - 4) Like Christ, surrendering your rights will set you free to **see the success of God's kingdom**.

Make Your Mark: Follow in the Footsteps of Aristarchus and Surrender Your Rights!

In Christ you are set you free to serve without reservation, suffer without retreat, and sacrifice without regret!

- Surrender your rights, so you will **never hold anything in reserve** as you serve the Lord and others.
- Surrender your rights, so you will **never retreat** from fulfilling your ministry from the Lord in the face of suffering.
- Surrender your rights, so you will **never regret** sacrificing what is temporary to gain what is eternal.

