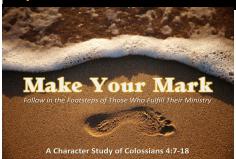
Experience NEW LIFE > Discovering Truth to Apply in Life & Reach Out in Love!



Be Missional! Following in the Footsteps of Epaphras • Part 1

Lesson 8 • Colossians 4:12-13

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!

Where Are You on the Path to Becoming a Fully Devoted Christ Follower?

- □ I KNOW CHRIST in a personal and real way—as a follower and not a fan.
- □ I am **GROWING in CHRIST** through being in community with other Christ followers.
- □ I am **SHOWING CHRIST** by loving, serving, and forgiving others in the church and community.
- □ I am **GOING with CHRIST** by sharing the gospel locally and globally.

What Does a Christ Follower Do When Others Have Done So Much for Them?

Follow in the Footsteps of Epaphras ~ Colossians 4:12-13

Be _____: Do for Others What Has Been Done for You in Christ!

A Man Who Made His Mark: Epaphras = Short form of Epaphroditus = "Belonging to Venus"

Epaphras is mentioned *three times* in the Bible, though there is another man with a similar name in the NT. Colossians 1:6-8; 4:12-13; Philemon 23

> Epaphras was from Colossae (like Onesimus) and was used of God to plant the churches in the Lycus Valley.

- Epaphras is mentioned by Paul at the beginning and end of this letter. Colossians 1:6-8; 4:12-13
- Epaphras was a whole-hearted and well-balanced Christ follower.
- Epaphras is praised by Paul in ways that only a few others were.

Like *Tychicus*, he is a *trust-worthy* Christ follower—Paul uses the same 4 descriptions of both men! *Colossians* 1:7; 4:7, 12 Like *Aristarchus*, he *freely surrendered his rights* to serve Christ as a "fellow-prisoner" with Paul. *Colossians* 4:7; *Philemon* 23 Like *Paul and Timothy*, he is a "slave of Christ Jesus." *Galatians* 1:10; *Romans* 1:1; *Philippians* 1:1; *Titus* 1:1

How Did Epaphras Make His Mark When He Was Raised in Such a Pagan Culture? He did ______ what had been done for him in Christ!

Make Your Mark: Do for Others What Has Been Done for You in Christ!

1. Be Missional: Know Christ and Help Others to Know Him. Colossians 1:3-8

"But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it." 2 Timothy 3:14

- Evangelism is sharing the good news about who Christ is and what He has done, is doing, and will do for sinners like us!
- We need to _____ Christ with others just as someone shared Christ with us! Acts 1:8; Matthew 28:18-19; 2 Corinthians 5:18-20

"Where are you in your spiritual journey?"

"If you died right now, do you know for sure that you would wake up in heaven? What do you base your confidence on?"

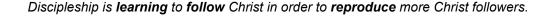
"When did your relationship with Christ become personal?"

"Has any one ever shown you from a Bible how you can know God in a personal and life-changing way?"

"I sense you are searching for answers to life's struggles. I have something I would like for you to read. Would you be willing to read it? It will only take you a few minutes and then if you have any questions we can talk about it."

2. Be Missional: Grow in Christ and Help Others to Grow in Him. Colossians 1:7-9

Discipleship is sharing the good news about *who* we are in Christ and *what* we are to do for Christ with those who are saved like us!





3. Be Missional: Show Christ and Help Others to Show Him. Colossians 1:7-8; 4:12-13

"He is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf and has made known to us your love in the Spirit." Colossians 1:7-8

Ministry is loving, serving, and forgiving others just as others have loved, served, and forgiven us in Christ.

1) Ministry is about ______ others and not ourselves. Colossians 1:7; 4:13

2) Ministry is about ______ our rights to serve others. Colossians 1:7; 4:12; Philemon 23

3) Ministry is about ______ our agenda to advance the cause of Christ. Colossians 1:7; 4:12; Philemon 23

 We need to help others _ church and community.

"You should check out my ministry team sometime!" "Would help me (fill-in-blank)?" "I can see you have a passion for (fill-in-blank) you should try serving in (fill-in-blank)." "Have I ever told you about my first time to try serving others in ministry?" "Have you started praying about where you are going to serve in our church?"

4. Go with Christ and Help Others to Go with Him to All Peoples. Colossians 1:7; 4:12-13

"For I bear him witness that he has worked hard for you and for those in Laodicea and in Hierapolis." Colossians 4:13

> Missions is partnering with God and others to *plant*, *establish*, and *multiply local churches* among all peoples!

▶ We need to help others go with Christ ______ just as someone came to us with Christ locally!

"What do you think of when you hear the word 'missions'?" "Have you ever traveled outside of the country?" "Have I ever told you about the first time I ministered in another country/culture?" "Have you ever personally met a missionary?" "What is your greatest obstacle or fear about praying or giving or going on missions?" "Would you come with me to our World Outreach Celebration October 24-28?"

Make Your Mark: Follow in the Footsteps of Epaphras and Be Missional! Be unashamed to do for others what has been done for you in Christ!



Get INFORMED! 🗺 Be IMPACTED! 🇺 Get INVOLVED!

"I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is God's power for salvation to EVERYONE who believes..." Romans 1:16