

Tychicus, a beloved brother, faithful minister, and fellow servant in the Lord, will tell you all the news about me. I am sending him to you for this very purpose, that he may know your circumstances and comfort your hearts, with Onesimus, a faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you. They will make known to you all things which are happening here. Aristarchus my fellow prisoner greets you, with Mark the cousin of Barnabas (about whom you received instructions: if he comes to you, welcome him), and Jesus who is called Justus. These are my only fellow workers for the kingdom of God who are of the circumcision; they have proved to be a comfort to me.

Colossians 4:7-11

This passage names a few of Paul's fellow workers in the church. There are many who were fellow workers in the church, but we know the names of just a few. Most of our names will not be known after our generation is past, but our influence will continue.

**Tychicus:** Acts 20:4; Ephesians 6:21; Colossians 4:7; 2 Timothy 4:12; Titus 3:12.

Minister- *diakonos*. Tychicus was a faithful minister. Minister is the same word for deacon of 1 Timothy 3. There the deacon met specific qualifications and had certain local work to do. Tychicus, though, is one who served with Paul and aided him in many locations. *Diakonos* describes Jesus (Romans 15:8). Paul was a *diakonos* (Ephesians 3:7; Colossians 1:25). Phoebe was a *diakonon*, not in the sense of those in 1 Timothy 3 but in the general sense of 'serve' (Romans 16:1).

Fellow servant – *sundoulos* is a compound word, *sun* and *doulos*. *Sun* is the preposition 'with' or 'fellow' and *doulos* is 'servant' or 'slave'. While *doulos* is more focused on the relation to the one served, *diakonos* centers on the serving (\*Trench, p. 32).

**Onesimus:** Colossians 4:9; Philemon 1:10. He had been a runaway servant but was converted by Paul in Rome. Paul sent him back to his master. Read Philemon for more details.

**Aristarchus:** Acts 19:29; 20:4; 27:2; Colossians 4:10; Philemon 1:24. He was from Thessalonica and traveled with

Paul. He was with Paul in Ephesus, and Troas and also journeyed with Paul on the ship to Rome.

**Mark:** Acts 12:12; 12:25; 15:37, 39; 2 Timothy 4:11. He was also known as John and was a cousin to Barnabas. His mother had a home in Jerusalem and the disciples were there praying for Peter as Peter was put in jail by Herod (Acts 12). John Mark went with Paul and Barnabas on Paul's first missionary journey but did not finish the trip. Later, that became a point of dispute between Paul and Barnabas. In the text above we see that the earlier separation was resolved and Mark became a fellow worker with Paul. Mark is the author of the gospel according to Mark.

**Jesus, called Justus:** Acts 1:23 Barsabas who was surnamed Justus. Acts 18:7 Justus of Corinth. Colossians 4:11 Jesus, called Justus. These three all carry the name Justus.

\*Richard C. Trench, Synonyms of the New Testament, Eerdmans Publishing Company, Grand Rapids, MI. 1976. A reprint of his work printed in 1880.