Part #13 PARTICIPATING IN THE MISSION OF JESUS

Scripture Song: Rejoice always – 1 Thess. 5:16-18, Phil. 4:6

Welcome to Hope Sabbath School—an in-depth interactive study of the Word of God. We are concluding our series on Inspired Letters from Prison. Today's topic from Colossians: PARTICIPATING IN THE MISSION OF JESUS

1) Mission through multiplication

a. Where was the Apostle Paul located when writing this inspired letter to Christians in Colossae? Colossians 4:3, Acts 28:16,30-31
b. Colossians 4:7-9 How did the impact of Paul's ministry continue to expand even during his time in prison? (see also Philippians 1:12-14)
c. What do you know about the individuals the Apostle Paul sent to deliver his letter to Christians in Colossae?
   i) Who was Tychicus? Acts 20:2-4, Ephesians 6:21
   ii) Who was Onesimus? Philemon 10-16

2) Fellowship with other followers of Jesus

a. Colossians 4:10-11 Who were some other followers of Jesus supporting the Apostle Paul during his imprisonment in Rome?
b. What additional information do we know about Aristarchus, a fellow prisoner with the Apostle Paul? Acts 19:29, 27:2
c. What additional information do we know about Jesus called Justus? Is this the same Justus mentioned in Acts 18:7
d. What lesson can we learn from the life experience of John Mark, the cousin of Barnabas? Acts 13:4-5,12, 15:36-39, 2 Timothy 4:11
e. Colossians 4:14 What lessons can we learn from Luke, the beloved physician who traveled with the Apostle Paul?
f. What sad lesson can we learn from the life of Demas? 2 Timothy 4:10, 1 John 2:15-17

3) The testimony of Epaphras

a. Who was Epaphras? Colossians 4:12a, 1:3-8
b. What are your thoughts about his prayer for his fellow believers in Colossae? Colossians 4:12b
c. What can we learn from Epaphras about our mission assignment? Colossians 4:13, Acts 1:8
d. How is God impressing you to expand your mission impact beyond your immediate circle of influence?

4) A message for Laodicea

a. What instruction did the Apostle Paul give regarding the sharing of his letter to Christians in Colossae? Colossians 4:16
b. What was the content of Paul's letter to Laodicea? (Colossians 2:1-3, related to Revelation 3:17-21)
c. What admonition did Paul give to Archippus, a church leader in Laodicea? Colossians 4:17
d. How does this admonition relate to our lives today?