

A	<p><u>An Ordinary Commendation and Blessing?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paul’s commendations and blessing, illuminated by the Holy Spirit, can nurture our faith and enlighten our understanding: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Evangelization as a collaborative venture within the Church The Church needs female leaders and evangelists The imperative of following the Church’s teachings to counter cults and division. 	<p>4:2-18</p> <p>CCSS 240</p> <p>Acts 18, 1Cor 3:6, SN1</p>
B	<p><u>Evangelization: Prayers, Making the Most of the Opportunity, Gracious Words</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> “Persevere in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving” – note the importance of “persevere” and being “watchful”. Paul also needs prayers in his work of evangelization, “ God may open a door to us for the word, to speak of the mystery of Christ”, that is, God’s secret, now divulged, that the Messiah is for Gentiles, too. He claims that he is “in prison” or “bound”. When evangelize, one must conduct themselves “wisely” and make “the most of the opportunity”, so as to achieve the best results. In addition, “let your speech always be gracious”, Christians are to present the good news gracefully and attractively, and be ready to “respond to each one”. Remember: only God can open the door of evangelization, not by our own accord. 	<p>4:2-6</p> <p>4:2, SN2</p> <p>4:3-6, 1:26-27 CCSS</p> <p>1Peter 3:15 SN3</p>
C	<p><u>Introduction of the Letter Bearers</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tychicus is one of the two letter bearers, a companion of Paul on his mission in Jerusalem with the collection from among the Gentile churches, as well, he has been sent to Ephesus to deliver Paul’s letter. He “will tell you all the news of me ... that he may encourage your hearts”. The other letter bearer is Onesimus, “a trustworthy and beloved brother”, the slave mentioned in Paul’s letter to Philemon. He lived in Colossae, is “one of you”; everyone is God’s children in Christ. 	<p>4:7-9</p> <p>CCSS, Acts 20: 4,17 2Tim 4:12</p> <p>CCSS, CSB</p>

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<p>D</p>	<p><u>Greetings from the Three Jewish Christians</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paul called Aristarchus as “my fellow prisoner”. He may not have been imprisoned with Paul literally, rather, as metaphorically imprisonment for the faith as being taken captive in the eschatological battle against evil. He was also a Thessalonian, was with Paul in Ephesus during the riots (Acts 19:29). Together with Timothy and Tychicus, he was one of the seven on a mission in Jerusalem with collection from the churches. • “Mark the cousin of Barnabas” is commonly considered the same Mark listed in Philemon (Ph 24), the author of the Gospel; identifies as <i>John Mark</i> in Acts 12:25, 15:37. • Both individuals have received instructions from Jesus “who is called Justus, who are of the circumcision”, i.e., Jewish Christians, companions of Paul. Paul mentioned them to encourage the Jewish Christians who were the minority in the Colossian church. 	<p>4:10-11</p> <p>CCSS</p> <p>CCSS, CSB</p> <p>CCSS</p>
<p>E</p>	<p><u>Greetings from Your Founder and Two Other Gentiles</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Epaphras is referred to as Paul’s “beloved fellow slave”, serving God together; he was the founder of the Colossian church (1:7). Paul’s usage of the chiasmic structure in verses 12-13, emphasizing the hard work of Epaphras, aims at encouraging the Colossian church, “that [they] may be perfect and fully assured in all the will of God”. • Paul also added greetings to two other believers: “Luke the beloved physician” (author of the Gospel and Acts of the Apostles) and Demas. Paul writes in 1Tim 4:9-11 that Demas, “has deserted me and gone to Thesalonica ... Only Luke is with me”. 	<p>4:12-14</p> <p>CCSS, SN4</p> <p>CCSS</p>
<p>F</p>	<p><u>Commendation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Give greetings to Nympha and to the church in her house” => the importance of female leadership in the early church. • “And when this letter is read”, so that contemporary readers may understand that these letters are public documents written for public reading to the whole community. “The greeting is in my own hand, Paul’s” = signature, affirming Paul’s authorship. 	<p>4:15-18, CCSS</p> <p>CSB</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Remember my chains” – this statement marks this document as a Prison Letter. We can be sure that Paul’s plea is not an expression of self-pity, but his conviction in the strength of suffering for Christ. 	2019-20 BSP#1 A2, SN1
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Special Notes:

1. Evangelization is ecclesial. “Evangelization is for no one an individual act; it is one that is deeply ecclesial...his action is certainly attached to the evangelizing activity of the whole Church by institutional relationships, but also by profound invisible links in the order of grace.
 [People] are certainly misguided in their attitude – continually claiming to love Christ but without the Church, to listen to Christ but not the Church, to belong to Christ but outside the Church.
 (Paul VI, *Evangelii Nuntiandi*, 60, 16)

 “Wrong to see [evangelization] as a heroic individual undertaking...God asks everything of us, yet at the same time he offers everything to us” (Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium*, n.12).
2. “Paul realizes that continuing in prayer can frequently produce restlessness. Therefore he writes, ‘watching’, that is, be sober, avoid wandering. For the devil knows, yes he knows, how great a good prayer is. Hence he presses heavily on us as we pray. And Paul also knows how careless many are when they pray. Thus he says ‘continue’ in prayer, as something that takes hard work, ‘watching therein with thanksgiving’”. (St. John Chrysostom, *Homilies on Colossians*10, quoted in ACCS 9:54.)
3. “The word remains ever relevant, especially when it is the bearer of the power of God. This is why St. Paul’s axiom, ‘Faith comes from what is heard,’ also retains its relevance: it is the Word that is heard which leads to belief (Rom 10:17). (Paul VI, *Evangelii Nuntiandi*, 42)
4. “He is ... always striving for you in his prayers” (4:12a)
 ⇒ So that you may be perfect and fully assured in the will of God (4:12b)

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⇒ For I can testify that he works very hard for you and for those in Laodicea and those in Hierapolis (4:13)