Ministry is about PEOPLE

Colossians 4:7-13

Introduction
Relationships were important to Paul. He would write:

• “I thank God every time I remember you.”
• “I pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel.”
• “I have you in my heart.” Philippians 1:3-7
• And Paul would remember names.

Look at the people Paul mentions:

• Tychicus – a dear brother, a faithful minister and a fellow servant.
• Onesimus – a runaway slave who came to know Christ.
• Aristarchus – a fellow prisoner.
• Mark – who once deserted Paul, now restored and faithful, author of the second Gospel.
• Jesus called Justus.
• Luke – the doctor and author of the third Gospel.
• Nympha – who opened her home for a church to meet.

Ministry is a team effort.

We are partners in ministry. We are not consumers or spectators, but partners. That changes how we look at the church. Partners give of their time, money, gifts and prayers, because of their love for Christ and for one another.
When we share in the work, we share in the reward.
Matthew 10:40-42

Paul sent Tychicus to Colosse for two reasons:
- Communication – “that you may know about our circumstances.”
- Encouragement – “that he may encourage your hearts.”

When we hear what God is doing, it encourages us.
- Kari – works as a Bible Translator.
- Paul and Kathy – work with a closed people group.
- Guatemala – an open door for ministry.

When we hear the stories of what God is doing, it encourages us to pray, to give and to share in the work.

When we share in the work, we share in the reward.

II. Communication and encouragement.
Verse 8

III. Prayer.
Verse 12
Three times Paul has talked about prayer in this letter.
- Colossians 1:9-14 – this is what I am praying for you.
- Colossians 4:2-4 – this is what I'd like you to pray for me.
- Colossians 4:12 – Epaphras is always wrestling in prayer for you.

Do you pray like that?
Do you have others who pray for you?

“More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of.”
Alfred Lord Tennyson

“You do not have, because you do not ask God.”
James 4:2

“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.”
Matthew 7:7-8

Conclusion
Ministry is about PEOPLE – helping one another to grow in our relationship with Christ.
Ministry is a team effort.
It takes:

• Partners in ministry.
• Communication and Encouragement.
• Prayer – powerful, persistent, prayer.