



SERIES: August / September Series “HE IS ENOUGH”

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Friday, 10/01/2021

Scripture: Colossians 4:14-16

TITLE: Companion or Competitor?

Which would you rather be? Companion or competitor? How about committed or deserter? Or what about encourager or disruptor? Paul knew all kinds of people. Each kind of person was in his closest group of friends...at least for a while.

In this life, we can be a companion to the body of Christ or a competitor. We can be committed to our faith or a deserter. We can be an encourager to each other or a disruptor. How can you remain or maybe become that committed companion and encourager? Let's listen to the Apostle Paul as he continues to close out his letter to the Colossian church for the answer. Colossians 4:14-16 (NLT).

“Luke, the beloved doctor, sends his greetings, and so does Demas. Please give my greetings to our brothers and sisters at Laodicea, and to Nympha and the church that meets in her house. After you have read this letter, pass it on to the church at Laodicea so they can read it, too. And you should read the letter I wrote to them.”

The physician Luke is a famous biblical person. He was a physician and a historian. He recorded the life of Christ in his Gospel. He recorded the expansion of the early church in the book of the Acts. Luke is mentioned only 3 times by name and all by Paul. Luke was no doubt a gifted man that helped Paul physically, mentally, and spiritually. He was a Gentile convert. And he was an encouragement to Paul.

You don't need to be a seminarian, a specialist, or any other special training to be used by God. You simply need to be willing to be faithful to the cause of Christ. But not everyone remains a faithful encourager.

Paul mentions Demas. There is no doubt that he was committed to God's work, at least for a time. He was with Paul during both imprisonments. But eventually, he would be a deserter. In 2 Timothy 4, he called on Timothy because Damas had deserted Paul and gone to Thessalonica. Why? According to Paul, “he loves the things of this life.” This is one of those seeds that Jesus talked about whose roots were shallow and became uprooted. He was a faithless disruptor.

And then Paul charges the Colossians to greet the church in Laodicea and Nympha. The Colossians were committed encouragers to the surrounding churches. Many churches and ministries today say they are companions, but they are actually competitors.

Now, sometimes that is good, for example, between a Bible-teaching church and a heretical or apostate church. We need to be on a rescue mission. But the majority of the time, we should rejoice and encourage our sister churches in our cities, counties, states, and world. We need to be faithful companions and encouragers.

So here's my challenge for you today. Be like Luke and the Colossian church. Find one way to encourage a fellow brother or sister in Christ today. How can you serve them to show them you care? Find one way. Also, is there a way to encourage a neighboring church or a member of the body? It's not a competition. It's teamwork.

Now that you have your challenge go win the day.