

The Early Day Saints

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Colossians 4:7-18.

B. In the Bible, we have an unbroken record of the early day saints.

II. Tychicus and Onesimus delivered the letter of the Colossians. Paul calls Tychicus...

A. A dear brother. This expresses the ties of love between Paul and these men.

B. A faithful minister.

1. This is the chief characteristic of the Christian.

2. God values this most.

C. A fellow servant.

1. The workers were equals.

2. Paul did not demand respect; he earned it. (Matthew 23)

III. Onesimus was likely sent back to be a minister to the slaves.

A. The gospel penetrated all classes of society under the Lordship of Christ.

B. Jesus' task is to place people where He wants them to be.

IV. Mark has been restored to Paul in Rome.

V. Epaphras brought the gospel to many cities, but he also had a pastor's heart to meet the needs of these cities.

A. He agonized in prayer over the Colossians that they would stand firm, grow up in maturity and become assured of their relationship with the Lord Jesus.

B. Prayer is a marvelous provision to meet needs and open doors.

C. One must persevere in prayer.

VI. House churches.

A. When they met, they read the Scriptures.

B. They studied the Bible in depth.

C. The leaders were to equip the saints to do the work of the ministry.

D. The church meets to worship and learn in order to prepare all the individuals for ministry.

VII. We ought to remember the chains of the Apostle Paul to reflect on the cost of the Christian life.

Application questions:

1. Who stands out to you as an outstanding model of faithfulness in your life?

2. How has the church failed to equip the church at every level?

3. Who are you praying for? What can you do to make prayer for individuals a consistent part of your life?
