

GULFSHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sermon by Ray Reynolds

The Unsung Heroes of the New Testament: Epaphras FORGOTTEN SERVANTS OF GOD

Introduction :

1. Paul often spoke of the men that encouraged him and spoke of their servanthood (Luke, Timothy, Barnabas, and John Mark – we have studied).
2. But he also spoke about others that we have not studied, even though they were equally profitable to Paul's ministry.
3. They were genuine servants of God and their characteristics teach us some very valuable lessons.
4. Please open your Bible and let's study about one of those unsung heroes
5. EPAPHRAS – ***Colossians 1:7-8, 4:12-13, Philemon 23***
6. While you're finding our text let me read an excerpt about him. . . .

Discussion :

I. Epaphras Was A Faithful LEADER (1:7, 4:12)

- A. He was a leader in the church there in Colosse.
- B. He may have been an elder in addition to being a preacher.
- C. It also may be possible that the church was meeting in his home.

II. Epaphras Was A Faithful MINISTER (1:7-8)

- A. Words cannot describe all the work that a minister does for the church.
- B. One proof of his ministry and work is when he talks about the congregation to others in the church and to the community.
- C. A faithful minister works hard and speaks highly of his congregation.

III. Epaphras Was A Faithful FRIEND (4:12)

- A. He was willing to follow Paul, even if that meant he had to be in chains.
- B. He was also an inspiration to the church back home in Colosse.

IV. Epaphras Was A Faithful WORKER (4:13)

- A. Paul speaks of his work in the kingdom.
- B. He also mentions his exemplary prayer life.
- C. Now Paul didn't mention the prayer life of too many of his friends, but he even mentioned things that he prayed for each day.
- D. He was zealous for the church wherever he went (missionaries).
- E. Other congregations loved and appreciated him too.

Conclusion :

1. We desperately need Christian servants today that are willing to work and serve, but not for praise, glory, or honor from men.
2. We need Christians that will practice these characteristics.
3. We need people that are humble.

4. We need to study more of the “unsung heroes” of the Bible.