

PIECING LIFE TOGETHER: *It's All about the Others*

Colossians 4:7-18

- i. One stitch leaves us vulnerable.
- ii. Many stitches make us all stronger.

IT IS ALL ABOUT THE OTHERS FOR THE FOLLOWING 4 REASONS ...

- I. THE GOOD NEWS NEWSING IN THIS STORY IS BIGGER THAN AN EXCEPTIONAL NATION-STATE ...
 - a. It is bigger than Jew or Greek.
 - b. Three names are Jewish (Aristarchus, Mark, Justus) and three names are Greek (Epaphras, Luke, Demas.) The good news knows no political boundary.
 - c. The USA and _____.
 - d. In Christ, there is neither Jew nor Greek, male or female, slave or free, for in Christ we are all one in Christ Jesus—Gal 3:28
 - e. Christ is the firstborn over all creation Col.1:15
- II. THE GOOD NEWS NEWSING IN THIS STORY INCLUDES WOMEN AND THE EMERGING GENERATIONS ...
 - a. Nympha-Hosted a church in her Laodicean home.
 - b. Archippus- probably the son of Philemon and Apphia.
 - c. Why? Because Christ is the creator of all things-Col 1:16
- III. THE GOOD NEWS NEWSING IN THIS STORY IS THE REMOVAL OF LEGAL, CRIMINAL AND RACIAL WALLS ...
 - a. Onesimus (useful) was a runaway slave and a thief-both are capital crimes and the subject would be branded on the forehead.
 - b. Returning to you-the name of useful who was useless to you is returning useful.
 - c. Receive him on level playing field and Paul will repay any and all debts.
 - d. Why? Because Christ is the sustainer of creation—Col 1:17
- IV. THE GOOD NEWS NEWSING IN THIS STORY IS THAT IT INCLUDES EVERY. SINGLE. ONE. OF. US. ...
 - a. Tychicus is mentioned five times in the Bible (here, Acts 20:4, Ephesians 6:21, 2 Tim. 4:12 and Titus 3:12). He was a Fed-Ex carrier.
 - b. In Christ, the smallest becomes great.
 - c. I have always struggled with choosing sides for pick-up games—like pond hockey, whiffle-ball and football.
 - d. Why? Because Christ is the goal of all creation—Col 1:16

The Call to Action: Who is the other that you need to create room for in your life and stitch up to?