

# **PAUL'S PRAISEWORTHY PALS**

## **Acts 19:29**

**We should praise Christian workers  
who faithfully serve others.**

### **I. ARISTARCHUS: AN ENDURING ASSISTANT**

#### **A. RIOT ENDURANCE - Acts 19:21-20:4**

1. Demetrius stirs up a disturbance against Paul (19:23-28)
2. A confused mob capture two of Paul's assistants (19:29)
3. The City Clerk intervenes (19:35-41)
4. Aristarchus stays committed to the next mission (20:4)

#### **B. DELAY ENDURANCE - Acts 21:15-24:27**

1. Aristarchus goes with Paul to Jerusalem for the relief effort (21:15)
2. Paul is arrested there (21:27)
3. Aristarchus likely ministers to Paul at this time (24:23)
4. Paul is imprisoned here for two years (24:27)

#### **C. SHIPWRECK ENDURANCE - Acts 25:1-28:10**

1. Paul appeals to Caesar (Acts 25:7-12)
2. Paul is sent to Rome via ship and Aristarchus accompanies him (27:1-2)
3. The voyage is marked by shipwreck and near death (27:13-20)

#### **D. IMPRISONMENT ENDURANCE - Col.4:10 and Philemon 23**

1. Aristarchus is imprisoned with Paul - Col. 4:10
2. Paul acknowledges Aristarchus as a fellow worker - Philemon 23

### **II. EPAPHRAS: A COMMITTED MINISTER** - Col.1:7-8 and 4:12-13

#### **A. A COMMITTED PREACHER - 1:7-8**

1. The founding pastor (7a)
2. A devoted man (7b)
3. One working on Paul's behalf (7c)
4. Informing Paul about his church's growth (8)

#### B. A COMMITTED PRAYER - 4:12-13

1. Epaphras' contact with Paul in jail (12a)
2. He labors fervently in prayer (12b)
  - Literally: He agonizes with intense effort
3. He is focused on the spiritual maturity of his congregation (12c)
4. His intense desire was obvious to Paul (13a)
5. He was concerned about nearby churches as well (13b)

### III. STEPHANAS: A DEVOTED SERVANT - I Corin.16:15-18

#### A. THE HOUSEHOLD

1. These are those who are well known to the congregation
2. These had been baptized by Paul, probably in Athens - cf. 1:16

#### B. THEIR HABITS

1. They devote themselves to ministry (15)
2. Voluntary and systematic ministry
3. They were others oriented

#### C. THEIR HONOR

1. Submit to such (16)
2. Acknowledge such (18)

### CONCLUSION:

#### **Might we praise and be proud of those who serve others.**

- This week send a note and encourage someone who serves well

#### **Might we serve in such a way as to be praiseworthy.**

- Enduring like Aristarchus
- Committed like Epaphras
- Devoted like Stephanas

#### **Ultimately might each of us make it our goal to be to the praise of His glory**

... also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will, to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ would be to the praise of His glory. - Ephesians 1:11-12

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