

“Staying Faithful in Valuable Service”
Colossians 4:7-17

I. Your Ordinary Church Service Is Significant.

- A. Paul writes of ordinary people serving in ordinary ways.
- B. Yet the Spirit ensured their names were found in His word.
- C. No act of service is too small to be noted; no servant of the church is insignificant.

II. Your Past Success in Church Service Is Not a Guarantee of Future Faithfulness.

- A. Demas, commended in Colossians 4:14 and Philemon 24, later abandoned Paul:

2 Timothy 4:9–10 - ⁹ Do your best to come to me soon. ¹⁰ For Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica.

- B. He left because he preferred a life of ease rather than Christian service.

III. Your Past Failings in Church Service Do Not Necessarily Define Your Ministry Legacy.

- A. Mark’s service to Christ and his people did not start off well:

Mark 14:51–52 - ⁵¹ And a young man followed him, with nothing but a linen cloth about his body. And they seized him, ⁵² but he left the linen cloth and ran away naked.

Acts 15:37–39 - ³⁷ Now Barnabas wanted to take with them John called Mark. ³⁸ But Paul thought best not to take with them one who had withdrawn from them in Pamphylia and had not gone with them to the work. ³⁹ And there arose a sharp disagreement, so that they separated from each other. Barnabas took Mark with him and sailed away to Cyprus

- B. Yet, by God’s grace, such failures were not the end of Mark’s story:

2 Timothy 4:11 - Luke alone is with me [Paul]. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is very useful to me for ministry.

1 Peter 5:13 - She who is at Babylon, who is likewise chosen, sends you greetings, and so does Mark, my son.

Conclusion: *1 Corinthians 15:58* - Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.