

Tychicus the Faithful Minister

(Compiled by Paul R Blake)

I. WHO IS TYCHICUS?:

- A. Tychicus, a native Christian from Asia who with Trophimus accompanied the Apostle Paul on part of his journey from Macedonia to Jerusalem. He also appeared to be with Paul in Rome, where the apostle sent him to Ephesus to build up and encourage the church there.
 - 1. Tychicus is from the Greek Tychikos, meaning chance or fortuitous.
 - 2. He was highly regarded by Paul, who referred to him as a "beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord"
 - 3. About his conversion nothing is known. He shared the Apostle's first Roman captivity and was sent to Asia as the bearer of letters to the Colossians and Ephesians.
- B. In the New Testament, he is mentioned five times: Acts 20:4; Eph. 6:21-22; Col. 4:7-9; Titus 3:12; 2Tim. 4:12
 - 1. Acts 20:4 states that Tychicus was from the Roman province of Asia. Some manuscripts indicate he was an Ephesian.
 - 2. In Ephesians 6:21, Paul calls Tychicus a "dear brother and faithful servant in the Lord"
 - 3. In Colossians, Paul says he is "a dear brother, a faithful minister and fellow servant in the Lord." In both Ephesians and Colossians, Paul indicates that he is sending Tychicus to the Christians to whom he is writing, in order to encourage them (he may have been the courier).
 - 4. The passages in the Epistle to Titus (Titus 3:12) and to Timothy show that Tychicus was again with Paul after the emperor released him. The passage in Titus refers to the interval between Paul's first and second Roman imprisonments while he was engaged in missionary journeys.
 - a. The apostle writes to Titus, who was in Crete preaching to the churches there, that he intended to send either Artemas or Tychicus to him to do the work of preaching the gospel so that Titus might be free to come to be with the apostle at Nicopolis.
 - 5. The last passage where Tychicus is mentioned occurs in 2Timothy, written in Rome not long before Paul's execution. Though it would have comforting to have his friends beside him, he sends these friends to do the work.
 - a. "Tychicus I sent to Ephesus" (2Tim. 4:12). Timothy was preaching in Ephesus (1Tim. 1:3), and the coming of Tychicus would allow him to join Paul at Rome - 2Tim. 4:9, 21

II. WHAT KIND OF MAN WAS TYCHICUS?

- A. "Beloved brother and faithful minister and fellow servant in the Lord"
 - 1. Beloved brother - He was the kind of person who, motivated by sincere love of the brethren, endeared himself to other Christians
 - a. It gives assurance that we are saved - 1John 3:14
 - b. It gives protection from falling into sin - 1John 2:10

- c. It makes preaching credible - John 13:34-35
- 2. Faithful minister - He was loyal to the Lord and trustworthy with the word of God
 - a. By diakonos (minister), Paul probably refers to the personal role that Tychicus performed on the apostle's behalf as his delegate or representative; he had proved himself faithful over the years that Paul had known him.
- 3. Fellow servant - He was capable of working harmoniously with other disciples and willingly accepted the role of a subordinate
 - a. By sundoulos, Paul describes both of them as slaves of a common Master.
 - b. Tychicus served Paul, but Paul was not his master. Because he loved Christ and desired to serve him, he also lovingly served Paul. Love for his Master led him to be faithful to other servants.
- B. Why would Paul choose Tychicus to carry the letters to Ephesus and Colosse and to preach in places where Timothy and Titus were working?
 - 1. He was from Ephesus; he would be familiar with the people there
 - 2. He was with Paul when the church at Colossae began
 - 3. Paul believed there would be no loss of quality of work and preaching in places where Timothy and Titus had been preaching
 - 4. Paul had confidence that Tychicus could encourage the Christians
 - a. Rom. 15:5-7; 2Cor. 1:3-6; 1Thes. 5:11, 14
 - 5. Paul was certain Tychicus could work with Onesimus, a runaway slave.
 - 6. Paul trusted Tychicus to tell the truth about him and his work. How much confidence does it take to feel certain he will not color the truth or promote himself or undermine Paul?
 - 7. Paul never exaggerated the accomplishments of anyone

III. WHAT IS TYCHICUS' EXAMPLE TEACHING US TODAY?

- A. It was not a popular thing to be a Christian in the first century. To be a Christian was not fashionable. To be friend of a man in jail for preaching the gospel was not very safe position to take. Tychicus was willing to take the risk and pay the price.
- B. Tychicus was steady, solid, stable and faithful. He did not deem it beneath him to run errands for Paul. It takes a big man to do the little jobs with honor. He did them day in and day out. No one patted him on the head and told him how great he was. No one interviewed him for a publication.
- C. That being servants of the Lord means we are servants of each other
 - 1. Philemon 21; Gal. 5:13; 1Cor. 9:19; Gal. 6:2