

## **“TYCHICUS”**

**Colossian 4:7-9**

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**INTRO** – The Body of Christ – the Church – is made up of all sorts of people w/ all sorts of jobs, responsibilities, & gifts. Some of those giftings lend themselves to more public, upfront kinds of ministries & work – church staff positions, teachers, & other leadership positions w/in the Church. We need those folks in those more public ministry positions.

There’s another group of people that we need to talk about. It’s a group that every church has. Every church has its “behind the scenes” workers. We’ve got them here at CWBC & they are SO important! They serve the Lord & His Church faithfully, quietly, & cheerfully. They don’t want recognition or notoriety. Just want to serve the Lord b/c it’s the right thing to do. It brings joy to their lives & to the lives of others. It gives them purpose & meaning & direction. And the church – THIS church – would be in trouble without folks like that. You know some of those that I’m thinking about right now, don’t you? Why don’t you make a point to seek them out & tell them how much you appreciate them?

Tychicus was one of those people. He’s another one of the “Notable Nobodies” that we are going to look at in this series of sermons. These are people who are named in the Word of God, who don’t have a lot written about them, but from whom we can learn much about different aspects of the Christian life.

**EXPLANATION** – Open your Bibles to Colossians 4:7-9 (page **985** in pew Bible).

Sometimes when you read about Paul’s work & ministry in the book of Acts & in the letters he wrote to various churches, you can get the feeling that he’s sort of like the Lone Ranger, doing ministry w/ a rugged individualism. But when you get to the end of his letters, you start to realize what we all know, & that is that the work of the Church is a TEAM EFFORT! And Tychicus was on Paul’s team.

It’s obvious from the few times that Tychicus is mentioned in the Bible that he was one of Paul’s good friends & travelled w/ him a lot.

- He was first mentioned as a travelling companion in Acts 20:4 along w/ 6 other men.

- He's mentioned in Eph. 6:21-22 as a bringer of encouragement to the believers there at Ephesus.
- **He accompanied Onesimus, a runaway slave that we are going to look at in a few weeks.**
- Paul mentioned sending him to Titus, & he was also w/ Paul at the end of his life, as we see in 2 Timothy 4:12.

Tychicus was one of those "behind the scenes" guys who was just "THERE." He was always available to Paul to be used by him to do whatever needed to be done. He may have even served in sort of an interim pastor capacity in some churches, stepping in to do whatever was necessary at the time to support & encourage his brothers in the Lord, & to ensure that the work of the Church & the progress of the Gospel continued.

Oh, how we need those people in the Church today! Faithful people – committed people – selfless people – servant-hearted people – people who love God & love His Church – People like Tychicus.

## **4 things we see about this faithful Christian named Tychicus:**

### **A Faithful Man – "beloved brother" – v. 7b**

First & foremost, he was simply a faithful man, loved by God & loved by Paul. He was not just a casual acquaintance, or some fringe person in the church. He was a beloved brother, a dear friend, a solid Christian man who understood the importance of true friendship.

What does it take to be a beloved Christian brother or sister to someone?

- **Be there.**
- Be intentional w/ your touches.
- **Be careful w/ your words.**
- Be unwavering in your support.
  - o In 1967, Stu Webber was in the U.S. Army Ranger School at Fort Benning, Georgia. It was brutal training for brutal times. The war with Vietnam was the backdrop for the young men trying to survive the heat, humidity, and the rigors of the camp.

Now a pastor and author, Webber writes of the day the raspy voice of the drill sergeant barked out his first, passionate speech. "We are here to save your lives," he told the young men headed for combat. "First, we're going to see to it that you overcome all your natural fears. ... And second, we are going to show you just how

much incredible stress the human mind and body can endure. And when we're finished with you, you will be the U.S. Army's best! America's best. You will be confident. You will survive, even in combat. And you will accomplish your mission!"

Before he dismissed the formation, the sergeant gave Webber and his fellow recruits their first assignment. These guys were ready for anything. They had mentally prepared for a 10-mile run in full battle gear. They'd already envisioned rappelling down a sheer cliff. So what would be the tough guy's first tough order?

"Find yourself a Ranger buddy," he growled. "You will stick together. You will never leave each other. You will encourage each other, and, as necessary, you will carry each other."

It was the army's way of saying, difficult assignments require a friend. Together is better. (Stu Weber, *Locking Arms*, Sisters, Ore: Multnomah Books, 1995, 77-78).

That was Tychicus – a faithful man who was a solid friend that Paul could count on.

### **A Faithful Minister – “faithful minister” – v. 7b**

So many churches suffer from the 80/20 rule – 20% of the church members do 80% of the work of the Church while the other 80% of the members attend, enjoy the services, & leave without ever truly getting involved in ministry

w/in the Church. What a tragedy! Not only is it sad, but it's also sinful that a person would get saved, but never invest their lives back into the Church.

Tychicus wasn't like that. He sets an example for us as a faithful minister, but not a minister as you may think – paid by the church to do all the work of the church. He wasn't one of those folks who says, “That's what we pay you for, Preacher.” No, he was a layman who ministered faithfully, using the gifts that God had given to him. Although it doesn't say that he was a deacon in the sense that we think about deacons, the word for “minister” is the Greek word *diakonos*, which means “deacon, servant, minister.”

So, don't check out on me & think, “Oh, well, this doesn't apply to me since I'm not an ordained deacon.” Wrong! It definitely applies to all of us w/in the church, as we are all called to serve God & serve others as an outgrowth of our maturity in Christ.

“So, where can I serve in the church?” Glad you asked! Stand up if you're involved in these ministries as I call them out:

- **Greeters at doors & at coffee bar** – Need a new welcome center at other end of church, but don't have volunteers to man it right now.
- Security/Safety team
- **Preschool/Nursery**
- Children's Ministry
- **Youth Ministry**
- Worship/Music Ministry
- **Adult Life Group teachers: Need to start some new adult Life Groups – need teachers**
- Maybe you'd be willing to start a Life Group in your home that would meet during the week – Is that YOU? If God has blessed you w/ a home, why not use it for Him?
- **Missions – Mission Byram, Lunch 4 Christ, Delta mission trips**
- VBS coming up July 12-13

We need faithful ministers in the church – laypeople who are ready to serve the Lord b/c they realize how awesome it is that Jesus saved them, & they want to give back to Him! They want to help our church grow spiritually & numerically. Ryan Loveing – “You don't finish well back accident.” You finish well by serving the Lord!

**A Faithful Messenger – “I have sent him to you” (v. 8) – He “will tell you all about my activities” (v. 7a)**

Tychicus & Onesimus were sent to tell others what God was doing in Paul's life & ministry. They were the mailmen for the church, travelling hundreds of miles to bring the news of God's work to the people at Colossae. They were bragging on God & on His Church & His servant.

There's little doubt in my mind that, not only did Tychicus tell others about what God was doing in Paul's life, but I'm sure that he was telling others what God had done & was doing in HIS life, too! You know what you call that? WITNESSING!

- FAITH
- Swinging Bridge Festival this coming Fri & Sat.
- **Mission Byram**
- Lunch 4 Christ
- **Mission trips**
- Evangelism bracelets

How long has it been since YOU bragged on God? Since you bragged on His Church here at CWBC? Since you bragged on the servants of the Lord here at CWBC?

Paul sent Tychicus to tell others about what God was doing through him. And Jesus has sent you & me out to tell others about what God is going & will do in their lives! What a joy & privilege! Tell someone THIS WEEK about Him! Tell someone THIS WEEK about your Church! Tell someone THIS WEEK about a servant of the Lord who has encouraged you & ministered to you!

### **A Faithful Motivator – “encourage” – v. 8b**

If there’s anything that is needed within the church & in our world today, it’s ENCOURAGEMENT! People are scared, broken, discouraged, & hopeless. Paul sent Tychicus as a faithful motivator to speak life & courage into the lives of the people at Colossae. They had been battling against false teachers & needed to be picked up & challenged to stay focused & faithful. He came into their lives to help them summon the strength that God had given them, to persuade them not to give up, & to instill excitement back into their lives – excitement about the Gospel, excitement about Jesus, excitement about the Church, excitement about the possibilities & potential that was theirs.