

Sunday, December 5, 2021— Colossians 4:7-8 Tychicus: Beloved Brother, Faithful Minister, & Fellowservant

Colossians 4:7-8

- **7) All my state shall Tychicus declare unto you, who is a beloved brother, and a faithful minister and fellowservant in the Lord:**
- **8) Whom I have sent unto you for the same purpose, that he might know your estate, and comfort your hearts;**
- Beginning in verse 7, Paul mentions 10 individuals who were needful for him in the ministry. There is a temptation to view these verses as uninteresting salutations as Paul closes the epistle. That is not case. Many valuable details can be gleaned from these verses.
- Who Is Tychicus? He was one of Paul's travel companions on his Apostolic Journeys during the book of Acts.
 - Acts 20:4
 - Ephesians 6:21-22—he helped Paul by running errands for him while he was imprisoned in Rome.
 - II Timothy 4:12
 - Titus 3:12
- Notice in verse seven that Paul uses three terms to describe his feelings and relationship with Tychicus:
- **Beloved Brother**—the word beloved means esteemed, dear, favorite.
 - Romans 12:19
 - Romans 16:5
- Bullinger in his Lexicon defines the word as follows, it denotes the deliberative exercise of the judgment; the giving of a decided preference to one object or person out of many. It frequently implies regard and satisfaction, rather than affection. Denotes strength of feeling, as between brethren in blood.
- **Faithful Minister**—the word faithful carries the following meanings: one who is worthy of trust, one that can be relied upon, the word is used of a person who has shown themselves faith in the transaction of business, the execution of commands, or the discharge of official duties.
 - Romans 16:1
 - I Corinthians 3:5
 - Ephesians 3:7

- Colossians 1:7, 23, 25
- I Timothy 3:8, 12, 4:6
- **Fellowservant**—is one who serves the same master with another, to associate of a servant, one who serves and ministers to a king, a college of one who is Christ’s servant in publishing the Gospel.

Our Need for Fellowlabourers

- Philemon 1—notice the similarities between the way Paul address Philemon and how he describes Tychicus in Colossians 4.
- Paul calls Philemon a fellowlabourer. It come from the Greek word “*soonergos*” which means a co-laborer, companion in labor, or helper
- Philemon was a helper of Paul, he helped him carry on the work on the ministry. Paul was in prison in Rom and viewed the work that Philemon was doing as essential and benefiting the ministry.
- Paul needed people who were willing and able to help him in his ministry.
- Romans 16:3—“helpers” comes from the same Greek word that occurs in Philemon.
- Romans 16:3-22—in this one passage alone Paul mentions 31 people who have helped him in his ministry.
- I found every occurrence of the Greek word that is translated “fellowlabour,” or helper and counted the number of names that were mentioned in connection with it. There are a least 45 people Paul mentions as being fellowlabours or partners in his ministry. This number does not count all of the people Paul had contacts with and never mentions.
- Paul’s ministry was a success for three reasons
 1. He had a purpose—to have all men be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth and see the fellowship of the mystery.
 2. He has a strategy—he established independent churches in centers of population.
 3. He had fellowlabours—without men like Tychius and Philemon or women like Phebe, Paul would not have been able to fulfill his mission as the Apostle of Gentiles. These folks embraced Paul’s purpose and strategy as their own and worked to help Paul build the Body of Christ.
- The work of the ministry is not just about the pastor and his ability to teach and preach but it’s about what can be accomplished as a body of believers.