

Col 4_7-17 **Unsung Heroes Of Colossians 7**

TEXT: Col 4:7-17 *Tychicus will tell you all the news about me. He is a dear brother, a faithful minister and fellow servant in the Lord. 8 I am sending him to you for the express purpose that you may know about our circumstances and that he may encourage your hearts. 9 He is coming with Onesimus, our faithful and dear brother, who is one of you. They will tell you everything that is happening here. 10 My fellow prisoner Aristarchus sends you his greetings, as does Mark, the cousin of Barnabas. (You have received instructions about him; if he comes to you, welcome him.) 11 Jesus, who is called Justus, also sends greetings. These are the only Jews among my fellow workers for the kingdom of God, and they have proved a comfort to me. 12 Epaphras, who is one of you and a servant of Christ Jesus, sends greetings. He is always wrestling in prayer for you, that you may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured. 13 I vouch for him that he is working hard for you and for those at Laodicea and Hierapolis. 14 Our dear friend Luke, the doctor, and Demas send greetings. 15 Give my greetings to the brothers at Laodicea, and to Nympha and the church in her house. 16 After this letter has been read to you, see that it is also read in the church of the Laodiceans and that you in turn read the letter from Laodicea. 17 Tell Archippus: "See to it that you complete the work you have received in the Lord." 18 I, Paul, write this greeting in my own hand. Remember my chains. Grace be with you. Colossians 4:1-18*

INTRODUCTION

In chapter four of Colossians Paul lists eight less-familiar names from the early church. Even though these mentioned are brief, they contain life-long lessons for us today.

The occasion was the arrival of Epaphras (1:8) with news about heretical teaching at Colosse.

Paul's companion Tychicus is in Rome with Paul during his imprisonment. By this time four years have passed since Tychicus joined Paul in Ephesus.

Tychicus, along with Onesimus delivered news about Paul, as well as Paul's letters to the people in Colosse. and Ephesians and 2 Timothy.

I. Tychicus –“fortunate.[Col 4:7-8] *Tychicus, our dearly loved brother,(ho agapetos adelphos) faithful servant,(pistos diakonos) and fellow slave [soondoulos] in the Lord, will tell you all the news about me. I have sent him to you for this very purpose, so that you may know how we are and so that he may encourage your hearts.*

Gnosticism The problem.

(1) It was Jewish, stressing the need for observing Old Testament laws and ceremonies. (2) It was philosophical, laying emphasis on some special or deeper knowledge (gnosis). (3) It involved the worship of angels as mediators to God (2:18). (4) It was exclusivistic, stressing the special privilege and “perfection” of those select few who belonged to this philosophical elite. (5) It was also Christological it denied the deity of Christ. (1:15-16;2:9).—Bible Knowledge Commentary

The letter to the Colossians was the inspired answer to their heresy.

No pastor, evangelist, or missionary can do the Lord's work alone. “*We are laborers together with God*” (1 Cor. 3:9).

1. Tychicus: The Person [v.7] One who encourages.

- A. "A dear brother" (*ho agapetos adelphos*) [A spiritual family member].
- B. “A faithful minister” (*pistos diakonos*) He was with Paul through his second imprisonment serving him.
- C. “And fellow servant” (*syndoulos*) He as a slave to Christ and Paul.
- D. “In the Lord” (Kurios)

Tychicus and Paul shows the gospel brought together Jews and gentiles and made them brothers, sisters and fellow servants.

2. Tychicus: The Assignment. [8] *I am sending him to you for the express purpose that you may know about our circumstances and that he may encourage your hearts.*

A. Bring Information About Paul's Affairs

Not only will Tychicus deliver the letter of Colossians, he will also **bring information** about Paul's **affairs** and update them on his **circumstances**. That would include Paul's health, his hopes, and his future prospects.

B. Personally encourage the Colossians

He would encourage them when answering their queries about Paul's condition.

3. Tychicus: The Example To Follow.

III. ~ When you called, sent a card or visited me you were “*a beloved friend.*”

~ If God led you to do this, you became a “*faithful minister.*”

~If the Holy Spirit worked through you, you became a “*faithful vessel*” through whom God’s blessings flowed to me.

III. Remember Henry Blackaby said...

“God pursues a continuing love relationship with you that is real and personal.

God is always at work around you.

God invites you to become involved with Him and His work.’

How God Works Through Us.

Jesus’ Example`

Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. John 14:10

He gives us the will to serve. “*for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.*” Phil 2:13

He provides the power to serve. *To this end I labor, struggling with all **His energy**, which so powerfully works in me. Col 1:29*

It is His purpose for us to do good works. *For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. Eph 2:10*

Faith releases His power in us. *I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. Gal 2:20*

Barriers to Service.

Unbelief.

*See to it, brothers, that none of you has a sinful, **unbelieving** heart that turns away from the living God. Heb 3:12*

Disobedience

*Just as you who were at one time disobedient to God have now received mercy as a result of their [Jews] **disobedience**, Romans 11:30*

The opportunity of Service

For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building.

1 Cor. 3:9

being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. Phil.1:6

EXAMPLE. Encourage one another by your friendship and caring ministry to each other.

“It is a great comfort under the troubles and difficulties of life, to have fellow Christians caring for us.”—Matthew Henry

You do not have to be an adult to minister to others. Just days before going to the hospital for treatment Loren and Cynthia came to meet with me. Cynthia presented me with a card she made. It read,

Get well soon Pastor Baylot

We love you, We care about you, We are praying for you

To: Pastor Lawrence

From: Cynthia

Tychicus was martyred in Paphos.

May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, 21 equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen. Hebrews 13:20-21