



The Epistle to the Colossians

Col 4:7-9 – Paul’s Friends His Messengers

- *Col 4:7 - “Tychicus, a (the) beloved brother, faithful minister, and fellow servant in the Lord, will tell you all the news about me.”*
 - In the Interlinear – *“All my state shall Tychicus declare unto you who is a (the) beloved brother.....”*
 - Is ‘a’ vs. ‘the’ important here?
 - Tychicus appears to be an entrusted friend *adelphous* (Christian brother). He was also a faithful minister, *diakonos and fellow-servant, syndoulos* – literally fellow-bondslave.
 - To what do you think his being a *bondslave* related?
 - Who was *Tychicus*?
 - In total, 5 citations to Tychicus, whose name means ‘fortunate’ occur in scripture:
 - *Acts 20:4 – And Sopater of Berea accompanied him to Asia—also Aristarchus and Secundus of the Thessalonians, and Gaius of Derbe, and Timothy, and Tychicus and Trophimus of Asia.*



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- *Eph 6:21 - But that you also may know my affairs and how I am doing, **Tychicus**, a beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord, will make all things known to you;*
- *Tim 4:12 - And **Tychicus** I have sent to Ephesus*
- *Titus 3:12 - When I send Artemas to you, or **Tychicus**, be diligent to come to me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there*
- Wuest – Lightfoot says, “Tychicus was charged by Paul at the same time with a more extended mission. He was entrusted with copies of the circular letter, which he was enjoined to deliver in the principal churches of proconsular Asia. This mission would bring him to Laodicea, which was one of these great centers of Christianity, and, as Colossae was only a few miles distant, the apostle would naturally engage him to pay a visit to the Colossians.”
- So why did Paul send Tychicus with this letter?
 - Provide an update about himself, stuck in a Roman jail.
 - Encourage the Colossians.

• Col 4:8,9 - “I am sending him to you for this very purpose, that he may know your circumstances (estate)



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and comfort your hearts, with Onesimus, a faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you. They will make known to you all things which are happening here.”

- *Relate knowing their circumstances vs. comforting their hearts.*
 - *know (come to know) is ginoska – a more intense and experiential knowledge.*
 - *Wuest - comfort is parakaleō, "to encourage," here by his tidings and exhortations.*
 - *How does this relate to the body of Christ today?*
- *Who was Onesimus?*
 - *He was from Phrygia and formerly a slave in the house of Philemon; and had been led to the Lord by Paul while in Rome and is now stated to be a beloved brother to Paul.*
 - *Phm 1:10-13, 16 - appeal to you for my son **Onesimus**, whom I have begotten while in my chains, who once was unprofitable to you, but now is profitable to you and to me. I am sending him back. You therefore receive*



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him, that is, my own heart, whom I wished to keep with me, that on your behalf he might minister to me in my chains for the gospel..... no longer as a slave but more than a slave—a beloved brother, especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

- » McCalley - Onesimus is going to Colossae under a different set of circumstances than Tychicus. The book of Philemon provides the details.
- » There is no mention of his offense; there is no call to confess it to the church. Sin’s guilt has been forgiven by God; the rest was a personal matter between him and Philemon.

- What does *one of you* indicate?
 - Simply a brother in the Lord, a former bonds slave or what?
- Describe what a *faithful and beloved brother*.
- *What was happening* where?
- Why the details here and in the verses that follow?
 - How do verses 7-9 relate to what has preceded this?