

TYCHICUS—A MODEL MINISTER

Ephesians 6:21-22

1. A beloved brother (21)

- What qualities does someone have to earn the title ‘beloved brother’?
- Clearly Tychicus first loved others
- He was an example of John 13:34,35

Three levels of love

There are three levels of love in the New Testament—

- Love others as yourself (Mark 12:31)
- Love others more than yourself (Philippians 2:3,4)
- Love others as Christ loved (John 13:34)

2. A faithful minister

- Minister (*diakonos*) = servant/deacon
- Faithful = punctual, reliable, durable, upright, dependable.
- Doesn’t give up
- Is always there when needed

Tychicus travelled long distances and faced many dangers

- He accompanied Paul on many occasions Tychicus was one of Paul’s companions through Macedonia and Greece (Acts 20:4)
- He acted as a messenger for him
- He carried Paul’s letters from Rome to churches (Eph 6:21; Col 4:7). He was Paul’s messenger to Ephesus (2 Tim. 4:12). And possibly to Titus (Titus 3:12)
- Wesley Mission vision statement: ‘Leadership founded on servanthood.’

3. A Fellow slave

Colossians 4:7

- Fellow servant
- *Sundoulos* = ‘slave together’
- Eg two slaves in a galley or a quarry or a building project

Read Luke 17:7-10

Will any one of you who has a servant plowing or keeping sheep say to him when he has come in from the field, 'Come at once and sit down at table'? [8] Will he not rather say to him, 'Prepare supper for me, and dress properly, and serve me while I eat and drink, and afterward you will eat and drink'? [9] Does he thank the servant because he did what was commanded? [10] So you also, when you have done all that you were commanded, say, 'We are unworthy servants; we have only done what was our duty.' (ESV)

Slaves—

- The Master's needs comes first
- Work multiplies
- Expect no thanks for what they do
- Ever unworthy no matter how much they achieve
- Slaves only do their duty

This seems harsh and even unfair, but we are called to be slaves of the Lord and to serve him without complaint or grumbling. Roy Hession's timeless classic *Calvary Road* has a challenging chapter on this.

4. An encourager

Tychicus came to encourage their hearts. See also Col 4:8.

- Encouragement is vital
- Main purpose of prophecy is encouragement (Acts 15:32; 1 Corinthians 14:3)
- Not just minds, but hearts also
- The mind is for understanding; the heart is for believing

5. A Model Minister

- Tychicus is a model of what a church leader might be
- Leadership is a serious responsibility which places exceptional demands on those who lead
- A man's gift makes room for him and brings him before the great (Proverbs 18:16, ESV)

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

Read: Ephesians 6:21-22

1. Tychicus (pron. TY-kikus) is a model minister for us today. He is also mentioned in Act 20:4; Col 4:7; 2 Tim 4:12; Tit 3:12. He may also have been the brother referred to in 2 Cor 8:22. Read these passages to familiarise yourself with the background.

2. Paul was probably in prison in Rome when he wrote this letter. Why did Paul send Tychicus to Ephesus? (21, 22) How important was the message he carried? Why? (Remember that many of these Ephesians knew Paul personally.)
3. Tychicus is not called ‘a beloved brother’ but ‘*the* beloved brother.’ (21) What does this tell us about him?
4. Note how Paul clearly names Tychicus here. Is it a good idea to name people when we pay tribute to them? Why? (Or why not?)
5. Among the people you know, who would you see as ‘the beloved brother/sister’? Tell the group why you have chosen this person and what it is that makes them ‘beloved.’
6. Tychicus is also called a ‘faithful minister (servant)’. (21) Imagine you live alone and have been sick and unable to do much for yourself. What sort of things would someone do for you that would lead you to describe him/her as a ‘faithful servant’?
7. In Col 4:7, Tychicus is also referred to as Paul’s ‘fellow-servant.’ The Greek word used here is ‘*sundoulos*,’ which commonly means ‘fellow-slave.’ This is the kind of word you might use to describe two people working in the same quarry or galley. What kind of picture does this raise in your mind about Paul and Tychicus? Or about you and another believer?
8. What are some differences between being a servant and being a slave? What are the implications for us?
9. Paul sent Tychicus so he could encourage people’s hearts (see also Col 4:7). How would this be different from encouraging their minds? How do you think he might have done this? How can we encourage one another’s hearts today?

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