

Present for Duty: Qualities of Real Servants of God

Colossians 4:7-9

NKJ ⁷ Tychicus, a beloved brother, faithful minister, and fellow servant in the Lord, will tell you all the news about me. ⁸ I am sending him to you for this very purpose, that he may know your circumstances and comfort your hearts, ⁹ with Onesimus, a faithful and beloved brother, who is *one* of you. They will make known to you all things which *are happening here*.

BGT ⁷ Τὰ κατ' ἐμὲ πάντα γνωρίσει ὑμῖν Τύχικος ὁ ἀγαπητὸς ἀδελφὸς καὶ πιστὸς διάκονος καὶ σύνδουλος ἐν κυρίῳ, ⁸ ὃν ἔπεμψα πρὸς ὑμᾶς εἰς αὐτὸ τοῦτο, ἵνα γνῶτε τὰ περὶ ἡμῶν καὶ παρακαλέση τὰς καρδίας ὑμῶν, ⁹ σὺν Ὀνησίμῳ τῷ πιστῷ καὶ ἀγαπητῷ ἀδελφῷ, ὅς ἐστιν ἐξ ὑμῶν· πάντα ὑμῖν γνωρίσουσιν τὰ ὡδε.

At first glance, the closing remarks of Colossians and other epistles seems to be just random closing chatter. However, God did put these verses in for a reason. A closer look at what is said or who is mentioned can yield some valuable truths. Our passage this morning yields information about spiritual maturity and ministry philosophy.

I. Tychicus – An Example of Maturity and Service

A. Who is Tychicus?

1. His name means “fateful, accidental, undesigned.” Based upon his work, maybe “available” would be a good extension. Tychicus made himself undersigned or unscheduled, ready for whatever may come up.
2. He was from Asia (Acts 20:4)

B. How is He Described?

1. As a beloved brother – he understood family relationship
 - Believers are related.
 - Believers are close.
2. As a faithful servant – he understood faithful service
 - Believers are to serve – *Are you available?*
 - Believers are to serve faithfully – *Are you reliable?*
3. As a fellow slave – he understood divine ownership
 - Believers are slaves of God. *Who calls your shots?*
 - Believers are not caught up in personal importance.

C. What Did He Do? Tychicus was Paul’s “Go-To” Man

1. He was a reliable helper to Paul, performing assignments by Paul that usually required traveling, and then to perform some responsibility upon arrival.
2. He was sent ahead of Paul to Toas and Assos (Acts 20:5,13)
3. He was sent by Paul to:
 - a. Colossae (Col 4:7)
 - b. Ephesus (Eph 6:21; 2 Tim 4:12)
 - c. Possibly to Titus (Titus 3:12)

II. Onesimus – A Testimony of Grace and Sanctification

A. Who is Onesimus?

1. His name means “useful.”
2. He was a runaway slave. (His story is found in Philemon.)

B. How is He Described?

1. Faithful and beloved brother.
2. One of the Colossians.

C. What Did He Do?

1. He was saved after running away from Philemon.
2. He became a faithful helper to Paul.
3. He returned to Philemon.
4. He reported with Tychicus. He was now serving!

III. Observations of Ministry Philosophy

1. Responsibility goes with Faithfulness.
2. Delegation is involved in Effective Ministry.
3. Ministry is Best Accomplished by Teamwork.
4. Communication is Important on Many Levels.
5. Information is Valuable, and Even Comforting.

Are you a “real” servant of the Lord? What can you learn from Tychicus and Onesimus?