

THE BOOK OF COLOSSIANS

“Apostolic Partners”

Colossians 4:7-9

Introduction

1. God chooses the “nobodies” to be “somebodies.” Whatever all is by God’s infinite grace. Take the Spirit’s word to the Corinthians as support (1 Cor. 1:26-29).

2. The modern illustrations of the biblical order are too numerous to question the reality. The name of the boot-maker’s errand boy, Dwight Lyman Moody, is clear. Moreover, the fame of the poor working class Mary Slessor of Scotland who buried herself in Calabar (Nigeria) is another. Blessed be God for His “Amazing Grace.”

3. The present text provides the name of one who shared in the life of Paul the Apostle. He was his associate and partner. This man teaches a significant lesson. Mark his unique place as a “somebody.”

TYCHICHUS -- A MAN WITH A MESSAGE

Note: The name means “chance.” Paul knew Tychichus for about 12 years. He was from Asia. He was with Paul and others en route from Macedonia to Troas (Acts 20:4, 5). He was sent by Paul with the letters of Ephesians and Colossians (Eph. 5:21, Col. 4:7). Paul proposed to send him to Crete (Titus 3:12). Later he was dispatched to Ephesus (2 Tim. 4:12). Hence, five times this “nobody” is listed in Scripture as a “somebody.” In fact, the name Tychichus is found on some ancient inscriptions and coins. Whether the same man is not the issue -- his name became known! So, what about Tychichus? -- Scripture reveals:-

a. What he will make known

1) Personal Pauline matters

This is the significance of “all my estate.” The prepositional phrase employed points to “all things” relating to the Apostle. This might well have included his ministry, the Gospel of Grace to the Gentiles, and his personal well being.

2) Practical Pauline information

The accusative from of the verb in the future tense suggests Tychichus would reveal everything to the Colossians. The fullness of Paul’s affairs would be on the table!

b. What he will make evident

1. Re: Christian community

This is what “beloved brother” signifies. The definite article “the” shows that TYCHICHUS was well known (see above). As one referred to as “beloved” it is clear here is a man dear to Paul’s heart. Such filial relationship is to be noticeable amongst those in the Body of Christ (cf. 1 Cor. 15:20, 24). So the word about TYCHICHUS is Paul’s affection for him.

2. Re: missionary service

The adjective “faithful” connotes trustworthiness and steadfastness. This must have been one of the outstanding characteristics of Tychichus. But more so, he was a ministering servant to Paul. That is the root meaning of “minister.” The word “deacon” is derived from this term. What a man of servanthood and dependability he was! No wonder Tychichus is given approbation (for approval) by Paul. Power was not the issue, but humbleness. Where do we find people like this today?!

3. Re: Christian slavery

Paul believed Tychichus to be of the same bondage as himself -- a “fellow (with) slave.” They both were chained to the same Master. This is an incredible testimony concerning Tychichus. Of eight words used for the idea of service in the N.T., two are used of Tychichus here! This final statement of what Tychichus make evident is his association (cf. affection, approbation above).

Note: All of these comments about Tychichus are “in the Lord.” Let’s be up front. What is “in the Lord” is all that’s worth anything -- not what any of us do or say.

c. What he will make sure

1) His mission

The sending of Tychichus with this letter is to look the believers at Colosse directly in the face (prepositional phrase unto you). His mission was for a specific contact.

2) His intention

This is two-fold:

a) To know Colossian affairs

Tychichus would tell about Paul. But he also was to be reciprocated with information about the Colossian believers.

b) To comfort Colossian hearts

The purpose clause introduced by “that” is extended in the subjunctive verb “comfort.” This verb is the root for “paraclete,” a noun referring to the Holy Spirit. The significance of the term is three-fold: 1. To admonish, exhort (cf. 2 Tim. 4:2). 2. To beseech, beg (cf. Mk 1:40). 3. To console, encourage (cf. 2 Cor. 1:6).

Conclusion: Face it from Scripture. Tychichus was a man sent by God to labor with Paul significantly. He was a man with a message and an espoused goal. Are we to be different? Decidedly not. We also are sent to be partners with men “in the Lord.” What is our message? What is our goal? Oh friend -- surely there is something for eternity rather than the hum-drum of some earthly pursuit. What is it for you?