

(9) Tychicus

The next person found in our list of the thirty-four names mentioned in Paul's last three epistles is **Tychicus**, a man we have discussed much about before. {Review pages 1189-1197 of these notes.} He is mentioned twice in Paul's final three epistles, once here in TITUS 3:12, and again in 2 TIMOTHY 4:12. **Tychicus** is mentioned by name five different times in scripture all together starting chronologically back in ACTS 20:4 as part of the so called faithful seven who traveled with Paul from Asia to Jerusalem on Paul's final visit to Jerusalem. In ACTS 20:5 **Tychicus** was noted as being of Asia, meaning that he probably was among those Paul ministered unto in Ephesus, and continued faithfully following Paul until the end of his life. However we found that nothing more was written concerning **Tychicus** until Paul was in prison in Rome. **Tychicus** was one of the ten we know who took the time to travel to Rome, and diligently seek out Paul until he found him. From his cell in Rome Paul wrote his high water mark epistle unto the Ephesians, where he writes the following concerning **Tychicus**: EPHESIANS 6:21 *But that ye also may know my affairs, and how I do, Tychicus, a beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord, shall make known to you all things: 22 Whom I have sent unto you for the same purpose, that ye might know our affairs, and that he might comfort your hearts.* Paul entrusted the safe delivery of the EPHESIANS letter in the hands of **Tychicus** knowing that **Tychicus** would be able to make known Paul's current state of affairs, and how he was doing while being held prisoner in Rome. Further Paul noted that **Tychicus** would also be able to comfort the hearts of those at Ephesus concerning his current state. Thus we noted how close a confidant to Paul, **Tychicus** was in order to know about all of Paul's affairs, and how Paul was really doing while being held a prisoner in Rome. We also found that while in prison at Rome Paul wrote of **Tychicus** again in COLOSSIANS 4:7, where we find Paul saying that **Tychicus** *...is a beloved brother, and a faithful minister and fellowservant in the Lord:...* . We here find that Paul and **Tychicus** were like-minded faithful ministers, and fellowservants in the Lord. Paul also sent **Tychicus** to Colosse with Paul's letter written unto them. Perhaps **Tychicus** also carried with him Paul's writings to the Laodiceans, however scripture doesn't specifically tell us this. We do know from COLOSSIANS 4 that **Tychicus** didn't go to these places alone. COLOSSIANS 4:7 *All my state shall Tychicus declare unto you, who is a beloved brother, and a faithful minister and fellowservant in the Lord: 8 Whom I have sent unto you for the same purpose, that he might know your estate, and comfort your hearts; 9 With Onesimus, a faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you. They shall make known unto you all things which are done here.* We find here that Paul sent **Tychicus** to Ephesus, and Colosse with this new brother in the Lord, Onesimus, whom **Tychicus** could continue to encourage, and minister to, and fellowship with in the Lord as they made this lengthy journey from Rome to Paul's Asia. The Lord saw to it that **Tychicus**, this *...faithful minister in the Lord...* always had someone to minister unto; to fellowship with; to encourage in the Lord. On the journey to Ephesus and Colosse **Tychicus**' traveling companion was Onesimus, who was also a show-and-tell evidence (especially to those of Colosse) as to the current state of Paul's ministry. Furthermore at the same time Onesimus was carrying a letter from Paul to Philemon, and no doubt **Tychicus** was with Onesimus when he delivered this letter, which would explain why **Tychicus**' name isn't found in PHILEMON.

Think about these epistles of EPHESIANS, COLOSSIANS, and PHILEMON for a moment. How do you suppose **Tychicus** and Onesimus delivered them? Probably not like we think. The letter to the EPHESIANS was written to Saints Paul knew. **Tychicus** (we think) was from Ephesus, so he too knew these very same people. Perhaps **Tychicus** and Onesimus both also knew those in Colosse. We know that Onesimus well knew Philemon, his master. **Tychicus** and Onesimus didn't just drop off these letters like a piece of mail, and then move on. Note how Paul wanted these epistles to be read in COLOSSIANS 4:16 *And when this epistle is read among you, cause that it be read also in the church of the Laodiceans; and that ye likewise read the epistle from Laodicea.* This means that these letters were to be read publicly. **Tychicus** was *...a faithful minister and*

fellowservant in the Lord... and I am certain that he personally read these epistles unto these assemblies. It would be hard to just read these letters without further expounding, and thus preaching from them. A Saint from Ephesus for example would recognize Paul's language, and Paul's teaching here, and with these lofty thoughts written down for them, certainly they would all want their own copy of Paul's "letter." Thus we get a better picture of just how it was that **Tychicus** was *...a faithful minister and fellowservant in the Lord...* . He was more than a mail man. He was familiar with the contents of these letters, and knew how to further expound Paul's teaching, and with the help and power of the Holy Ghost he could emphasize the lofty thoughts Paul had written unto these Saints. **Tychicus** could relay the many hours of conversations that he and Paul had discussing these very same topics that Paul had now written down in his letters to the EPHESIANS, and to the COLOSSIANS. PHILEMON was a personal letter written unto one man, Philemon. This letter was treasured so much by PHILEMON that it was shared, and preserved for us today. A changed Onesimus was further evidence of the profound effect that the Lord has in the life of a Holy Spirit filled believer, which change was greatly appreciated, and enjoyed by Philemon. The point of noting all of this is to shed more light on the statement we read in COLOSSIANS 4:7 *All my state shall Tychicus declare unto you, who is a beloved brother, and a faithful minister and fellowservant in the Lord:...* . Obviously **Tychicus** was well grounded in the truth that Paul taught and preached in order to properly and publicly declare the contents of these epistles he was given to deliver.

Both portions of scripture we read above from EPHESIANS 6:22 and COLOSSIANS 4:8 note that **Tychicus** would be able to *...comfort your hearts...* . No doubt **Tychicus** was a great comfort also to the heart of Paul. Some how after Paul's release from prison at Rome, Paul again met up with **Tychicus**. No doubt this happened during the time frame when Paul was at Ephesus as noted in 1 TIMOTHY 1:3. **Tychicus** it seems may have traveled from Ephesus with Paul when Paul left **Timothy** in charge at Ephesus. It also seems that **Titus** was with Paul too as Paul visited Crete, where he now has left **Titus**. Obviously **Tychicus** and **Titus** knew each other, for again Paul writes **Titus** in TITUS 3:12 *When I shall send Artemas unto thee, or Tychicus, be diligent to come unto me to Nicopolis: for I have determined there to winter.* Perhaps all four of these, Paul, **Titus**, **Artemas** and **Tychicus** had recently traveled together, for Paul writes this as if they all knew each other, which certainly they did.

2 TIMOTHY 4:12 records the last mention of **Tychicus** in scripture: *And Tychicus have I sent to Ephesus.* With the information we have studied above it is little wonder that Paul has now once again sent **Tychicus** back to Ephesus. Perhaps it was **Artemas** that Paul sent to Crete to retrieve **Titus**, meaning that **Tychicus** continued to travel with Paul even to Rome once again, where Paul was writing **Timothy** from prison. Perhaps it was **Tychicus** who rushed the letter of 2 TIMOTHY back to **Timothy** in Ephesus, but once again we will have to wait until we get to heaven to know the answer as to who carried this letter back to **Timothy**. One thing we know for certain about **Tychicus**, he was *...a beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord...* as Paul noted without hesitation in EPHESIANS 6:12 and COLOSSIANS 4:7. May these very same qualities be found in each of us as we too follow Paul as he followed Christ. **Tychicus** was this kind of faithful follower of Christ.

(10) Zenas and (11) Apollos

Number ten on our list of the thirty-four people mentioned by name in Paul's last three epistles is **Zenas** the lawyer found only one time in scripture, TITUS 3:13 *Bring Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their journey diligently, that nothing be wanting unto them.* Obviously **Apollos** is number eleven on the list, and is found here with **Zenas** the lawyer. Since **Zenas** is only found in this one scripture we cannot tell if he was a Jewish lawyer, a Greek lawyer, or a Roman lawyer. If he were a Jewish lawyer, he could have been a scribe, and an interpreter of Moses law among the Jews. If he was a Roman or Greek lawyer he would have most likely been familiar with the civil