

2 Timothy 4:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Tychicus have I sent to Ephesus.

Analysis

And Tychicus have I sent to Ephesus. Paul mentions another coworker: "Tychicus have I sent to Ephesus" (Tychikon de apesteila eis Epheson, Τυχικὸν δὲ ἀπέστειλα εἰς Ἔφεσον). *Apostellō* (ἀποστέλλω) means send as messenger or representative—apostolic sending. Tychicus, Paul's faithful associate (Acts 20:4, Ephesians 6:21-22, Colossians 4:7-9, Titus 3:12), apparently carried this letter to Timothy and possibly served as Timothy's temporary replacement, freeing Timothy to travel to Rome.

This brief statement reveals Paul's continued concern for churches despite personal crisis. Even facing execution, Paul manages ministry logistics, ensuring churches have pastoral oversight. He doesn't become consumed with self-pity or abandon responsibility but faithfully shepherds to the end. The mention also explains why Timothy can leave Ephesus—Tychicus will assume pastoral duties during his absence. This demonstrates wise ministry planning and concern for church stability.

Tychicus's faithful service across multiple letters shows the importance of reliable workers who serve without fanfare. He's mentioned several times but never prominently, representing countless faithful servants who labor quietly, supporting more visible leaders. The church needs both public teachers and faithful servants who handle practical ministry. Tychicus models such faithfulness—reliable, trustworthy, willing to serve however needed without seeking glory.

Historical Context

Tychicus was from Asia Minor (Acts 20:4), making him ideal for ministry in Ephesus. He accompanied Paul on third missionary journey, delivered letters to Ephesians and Colossians, and possibly Titus. His reliability across many years made him Paul's trusted representative. Ancient communication depended on such faithful messengers who carried letters, explained contents, and represented senders. Tychicus's faithful service enabled Paul's widespread influence despite imprisonment. Every great leader needs reliable assistants who execute plans, communicate directives, and ensure smooth operations. Tychicus provided this for Paul.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. Are you faithfully serving in less visible roles like Tychicus, or do you only want prominent positions?
2. How can you ensure ministry continues effectively when you must be absent, through training and deploying faithful workers?
3. Who are the reliable, trustworthy servants you can depend on to faithfully represent you and execute important responsibilities?

Interlinear Text

Τυχικὸν δὲ ἀπέστειλα εἰς Ἔφεσον
Tychicus And have I sent to Ephesus
G5190 G1161 G649 G1519 G2181

Additional Cross-References

Acts 20:4 (Parallel theme): And there accompanied him into Asia Sopater of Berea; and of the Thessalonians, Aristarchus and Secundus; and Gaius of Derbe, and Timotheus; and of Asia, Tychicus and Trophimus.

Ephesians 6:21 (Parallel theme): 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:

Colossians 4:7 (Parallel theme): All my state shall Tychicus declare unto you, who is a beloved brother, and a faithful minister and fellowservant in the Lord:

Titus 3:12 (Parallel theme): When I shall send Artemas unto thee, or Tychicus, be diligent to come unto me to Nicopolis: for I have determined there to winter.

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