

Colossians 4:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

All my state shall Tychicus declare unto you, who is a beloved brother, and a faithful minister and fellowservant in the Lord:

Analysis

All my state shall Tychicus declare unto you, who is a beloved brother, and a faithful minister and fellowservant in the Lord. Paul introduces Tychicus, letter carrier and personal representative. "All my state" (ta kat' eme panta, τὰ κατ' ἐμὲ πάντα) refers to Paul's personal circumstances. "Shall Tychicus declare" (gnōrisei hymin Tychikos, γνωρίσει ὑμῖν Τυχικός) indicates Tychicus would verbally supplement the written letter with personal details.

Three descriptions commend Tychicus: "beloved brother" (agapētos adelphos, ἀγαπητὸς ἀδελφός) emphasizes affection and spiritual kinship; "faithful minister" (pistos diakonos, πιστὸς διάκονος) stresses reliability in service; "fellowservant in the Lord" (syndoulos en Kyriō, σύνδουλος ἐν Κυρίῳ) indicates shared slavery to Christ. These commendations validate Tychicus's authority to represent Paul and encourage Colossians to receive him warmly.

Historical Context

Letter delivery in the ancient world required trusted couriers traveling dangerous routes. Tychicus apparently carried multiple letters simultaneously (Ephesians 6:21-22; possibly Philemon). Such couriers often provided oral elaboration beyond written content, answering questions and applying apostolic teaching to specific situations. Tychicus's faithful service enabled Paul's continued ministry despite imprisonment.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. Who serves faithfully in unglamorous roles—like letter carriers—enabling ministry but receiving little recognition?
2. How do you receive and honor faithful servants God sends, even if they lack prominent titles?
3. What qualities make someone 'faithful' in ministry—reliability, character, perseverance, or all three?

Interlinear Text

| | | | | | | | |
|------------------|----------|-------|------------|----------|----------|---------------|-------|
| Τὰ | κατ' | ἐμὲ | πάντα | γνωρίσει | ὑμῖν | Τυχικὸς | ὁ |
| G3588 | state | my | All | declare | unto you | Tychicus | G3588 |
| | G2596 | G1691 | G3956 | G1107 | G5213 | G5190 | |
| ἀγαπητὸς | ἀδελφὸς | καὶ | πιστὸς | διάκονος | καὶ | σύνδουλος | |
| who is a beloved | brother | and | a faithful | minister | and | fellowservant | |
| G27 | G80 | G2532 | G4103 | G1249 | G2532 | G4889 | |
| ἐν | κυρίῳ | | | | | | |
| in | the Lord | | | | | | |
| G1722 | G2962 | | | | | | |

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.

2 Timothy 4:12 (Parallel theme): And Tychicus have I sent to Ephesus.

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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