

# Colossians 4:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Whom I have sent unto you for the same purpose, that he might know your estate, and comfort your hearts;

## Analysis

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**Whom I have sent unto you for the same purpose, that he might know your estate, and comfort your hearts.** Paul specifies Tychicus's dual purpose: "that he might know your estate" (hina gnō ta peri hymōn, ἵνα γνῶ τὰ περὶ ὑμῶν) and "comfort your hearts" (parakalesē tas kardias hymōn, παρακαλέσῃ τὰς καρδίας ὑμῶν). Tychicus would gather information about Colossae for Paul and provide pastoral encouragement to the church. This bidirectional ministry—reporting back and strengthening forward—exemplifies faithful pastoral service.

The verb parakaleō (παρακαλέω, "comfort/encourage") appears throughout Paul's letters, describing ministry of strengthening believers through truth, presence, and prayer. Tychicus's visit would assure Colossians of Paul's continued concern despite physical absence, encouraging them to remain faithful amid doctrinal challenges.

## Historical Context

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Ancient communication was slow and difficult. Letters took weeks or months to arrive; personal visits were rare. Traveling representatives like Tychicus provided crucial link between apostle and churches, maintaining relationships and extending ministry beyond Paul's immediate location. Such representatives required complete trustworthiness since they represented apostolic authority and teaching.

## Related Passages

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**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## Study Questions

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1. Who has God sent to encourage your heart, and do you receive such ministry gratefully?
2. How can you extend encouragement to fellow believers who feel isolated or discouraged?
3. What makes encouragement effective—truth, presence, prayer, or combination?

## Interlinear Text

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ὅν	ἔπεμψα	πρὸς	ὑμᾶς	εἰς	αὐτὸ	τοῦτο	ἵνα
Whom	I have sent	unto	you	for	the same	purpose	that
G3739	G3992	G4314	G5209	G1519	G846	G5124	G2443
γνῶ	τὰ	περὶ	ὑμῶν,	καὶ	παρακαλέσῃ	τὰς	καρδίας
he might know	G3588	estate	your	and	comfort	G3588	hearts
G1097		G4012	G5216	G2532	G3870		G2588
ὑμῶν,							
your							
G5216							

## Additional Cross-References

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**Ephesians 6:22** (Parallel theme): Whom I have sent unto you for the same purpose, that ye might know our affairs, and that he might comfort your hearts.

**Colossians 2:2** (Parallel theme): That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ;

