

The Faithful Letter Carriers

(Colossians 4:7–9)

WHAT IS TRUE, AND WHAT SHOULD CHRISTIANS DO?

The Christian confession that Jesus is Lord should be demonstrated in daily life. Are you a dearly beloved brother or sister, faithful courier, and fellow servant (slave) in the Lord, dependent upon Christ in all things?

The Christian Believers Who Carried the Epistle to Colossae (vv.7–9):

1.) Tychicus

A. His person: (v. 7)

- a. “Beloved brother.”
- b. “Faithful minister.” (e.g., He is a faithful agent/courier)
- c. “Fellow servant (slave) in the Lord.”

B. His Mission: (v. 7, 8)

- a. That he faithfully tells Colossae all the news about Paul. (7)
- b. That Colossae may know about their circumstances. (8)
- c. That he may encourage their hearts in Christ. (8, 2:2)

(Background: In Acts 20:1–6, Tychicus is mentioned among the group of believers in Asia Minor. He is mentioned explicitly in the closing of four of Paul’s letters: Ephesians 6:21–22, Colossians 4:7–8, Titus 3:12, and 2 Timothy 4:12. Many believe him to be the “brother who is famous among all the churches for his preaching of the gospel” in 2 Cor. 8:18. Church tradition is that he died a martyr.)

2.) Onesimus (v. 9)

A. His person:

- a. “Faithful.”
- b. “Beloved brother.”

B. His relationship to the Colossians— “He is one of you.” Read Paul’s plea for Onesimus as a “brother” in Philemon 10-21.

3.) Their purpose: To deliver Paul’s letter and tell the church in Colossae everything about Paul’s situation. (v.9)

APPLICATION:

Are you a living example of Christ who embodies His teaching? Are you a faithful servant of God who serves as a living voice that testifies to the Gospel of Christ? Letters written with ink do not compare with changed lives. Even though Paul is absent from them, these letter carriers are themselves a form of a “letter from Christ, the result of [Paul’s] ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts” (see 2 Cor 3:3).