TO: LEGISLATORS
FROM: PASTOR RALPH DROLLINGER  661-803-7970  24/7/365
DATE: JUNE 26, 2012

MEMBERS BIBLE STUDY

U.S. CAPITOL

FAITHFULNESS IN OUR JOINT MISSION TO OTHER CAPITOLS

This past week I distributed to you a map of the United States that provided an update on our common mission: To plant 50 ministries in 50 state capitols. I have been encouraged by your enthusiasm, cooperation and help in achieving this strategic objective. Thank you! Why are we doing this?

How do we facilitate more men and women in public office who are mature in Christ—governing authorities who not only have the courage to fight the right battles but the strength, faithfulness, and perseverance to go the distance? By maturing them in Christ: Jesus said, “Sanctify them in truth; Thy Word is truth.” It follows that we need strong Bible teachers, evangelists and disciplermakers at every level in the career path of public servants. Thank you for faithfully opening doors in and to your state capitols! Your partnership is so helpful and effective!

Paul too had such good friends. One was Tychicus. Paul trusted him with the most important of tasks: To personally deliver some of Paul’s original letters—the original autographa of Scripture—over hundreds of miles of perilous journey! How come? Like you, he was reliable and trustworthy in his partnership. Let’s drill down on this character quality this week.

CONGRESSIONAL SPONSORS

Robert Aderholt, Alabama
Todd Akin, Missouri
Spencer Bachus, Alabama
Michele Bachmann, Minnesota
Marsha Blackburn, Tennessee
Paul Broun, Georgia
Dan Burton, Indiana
John Campbell, California
John Carter, Texas
Bill Cassidy M.D., Louisiana
Rick Crawford, Arkansas
Jeff Denham, California
John Duncan, Jr., Tennessee
Mary Fallin, Oklahoma
John Fleming, Louisiana
Bill Flores, Texas
Randy Forbes, Virginia
Trent Franks, Arizona
Scott Garrett, New Jersey
Lonie Gohmer, Texas
Tom Graves, Georgia
Ralph Hall, Texas
Gregg Harper, Mississippi
Pete Hoekstra, Michigan
Randy Hultgren, Illinois
Bill Johnson, Ohio
Jim Jordan, Ohio
Steve King, Iowa
Doug Lamborn, Colorado
James Lankford, Oklahoma
Mike McIntyre, North Carolina
Gary Miller, California
Sue Myrick, North Carolina
Randy Neugebauer, Texas
Steve Pearce, New Mexico
Mike Pence, Indiana
Mike Pompeo, Kansas
Bill Posey, Florida
Tom Price, Georgia
Ben Quayle, Arizona
Tim Scott, South Carolina
Steve Southerland, Florida
Lamar Smith, Texas
Marlin Stutzman, Indiana
Glenn “GT” Thompson, Pennsylvania
Scott Tipton, Colorado
Daniel Webster, Florida
Allen West, Florida
Lynn Westmoreland, Georgia
Joe Wilson, South Carolina
Steve Womack, Arkansas
I. INTRODUCTION

Near the end of his letter to the Ephesians the Apostle Paul conveys some personal comments about his close friend and partner in ministry, Tychicus. From this narrative passage, we can glean important insights into the matter of faithfulness. Ephesians 6:21-22 states the following:

But that you also may know about my circumstances, how I am doing, Tychicus, the beloved brother and faithful minister of the Lord, will make everything known to you. I have sent him to you for this very purpose, so that you may know about us, and that he may comfort your hearts.

Paul (writing in Greek) employs a tense known as the “Epistolary Aorist.” He describes the action from the perspective of the person who will read his letter. Accordingly, “I am sending” is our most accurate understanding, whereas I have sent is most accurate to the Greek. I.e., Tychicus had not been dispatched prior to Paul writing this letter.

When we hear the word faithful today our attention is often drawn to the context of marital fidelity. For sure that is an accurate understanding of the biblical word usage. But as used here and illustrated in the life of Tychicus the character quality of faithfulness has a broader application. Stemming from the Greek word pistos, it means in the passive use of the verb (i.e. not acting but affected by the action represented by the verb) “trusted” or “reliable.” In contrast apistos means “untrustworthy” or “not worthy of another’s confidence.” Theologically, faithfulness is a fruit of the Spirit fully bequeathed by the Holy Spirit to and upon every believer at the point of salvation (cf. Gal. 5:22-23). Accordingly faithfulness is a possessed quality, but one that need be continually honed. Reliability in our vertical relationship to God, as well as horizontally in our relationship to ministry partners is a requisite, indispensable characteristic that assures both great communion with God and fulfillment of the Great Commission of God.

Paul was writing from prison in Rome as indicated by the preceding passage in Ephesians 6:20, “I am an ambassador in chains.” It was there that he penned what are commonly referred to as the Prison Epistles: Ephesians, Colossians, Philippians and Philemon. Many commentators believe that he wrote Colossians in close proximity to Ephesians, in that the Colossian epistle would also be delivered to Colossae by Tychicus. Colossians contains an epistolary aorist passage similar to the one under study. Note Colossians 4:7-9:

As to all my affairs, Tychicus, our beloved brother and faithful servant and fellow bond-servant in the Lord, will bring you information. For I have sent him to you for this very purpose, that you may know about our circumstances and that he may encourage your hearts; and with him Onesimus, our faithful and beloved brother, who is one of your number. They will inform you about the whole situation here.

Each passage from the two epistles not only refers to Tychicus as a faithful man, but actively illustrates that very same thing: Paul, who was unable to go because of his imprisonment, sent Tychicus as an apostolic emissary to the churches on his behalf. Paul trusted nonetheless in God’s sovereignty, stating in Philippians, “Now I want you to know brethren that my circumstances have turned out for the greater progress of the gospel…” His situation necessitated ministry teaming in order to fulfill the Great Commission. Part of God’s sovereign orchestration of Paul’s circumstances serve to illustrate his ability to effectively trust in a fellow worker, one who, over many years had proven himself to be faithful. Tychicus personified Proverbs 13:17 and 25:13…

A wicked messenger falls into adversity, But a faithful envoy brings health.

Like the cold of snow in the time of harvest Is a faithful messenger to those who send him, For he refreshes the soul of his masters.
THE BIBLE AND LEADERSHIP: FAITHFULNESS

Note the summation of Tychicus’ character quality of **faithfulness** as illustrated by Hoehner:

Later in his second Roman imprisonment, Paul sent Tychicus to Ephesus to relieve Timothy in order that Timothy could come to Paul (2Tim 2:4) and Paul sent either Tychicus or Artemas to Crete to relieve Titus so that Titus could visit Paul in Nicopolis (Titus 3:12). Tychicus, then, bore five letters (Colossians, Philemon, Ephesians, 2Timothy, Titus) and probably relieved two of Paul’s apostolic legates. It is no wonder that he was called a “beloved brother and faithful servant of the Lord.” Servant diakonos, emphasizes the activity of the servant and in this case signifies **faithfulness** in his activities for the Lord.

The first mention of Tychicus is in Acts 20:4. Of Asian descent, he had been chosen by Paul to take the relief offering to Jerusalem. Therein was the start of a beautiful relationship; Tychicus was not only **faithful**, but this passage also informs us that he was **available** and **teachable**; three key ingredients for being used mightily by God. Now note one particular means Paul used to evoke **faithfulness**, availability and teachability: Paul was **collegial** with his partners.

II. FAITHFULNESS STEMS FROM COLLEGIALITY

Paul says of Tychicus in this week’s passage, the **beloved brother and faithful minister**... What exactly does this larger statement mean? Commentator Ellis says, “In this context the term ‘brother’ means not so much ‘fellow-Christian’ (though Tychicus was obviously this, and the term has this meaning in v. 21) as [it does] ‘co-worker’ or ‘helper.’” This is significant. In the world of ministry, Paul didn’t make people refer to him in some sense of hierarchical superiority. Rather he had a collegial relationship with those whom He discipled—even though he personified apostolic authority, his leadership style was not one of pulling out the org chart. Merriam and Webster define collegial as “marked by power or authority vested equally in each of a number of colleagues.” I realize there are problems with this leadership style wherein it tends over time to breed disrespect and license when it comes to those in authority, but such problems have to do more with the immaturity of those under a collegial boss than the leadership style of the boss himself. Nonetheless, collegiality is an indispensable biblical-based component of effective leadership (with its inherent risks); it aids developing **faithfulness** amongst peers not only in ministry but in your work offices.

**MOTIVATION IN WORK AND MINISTRY ARE ENHANCED WHEN ONE SENSES SHARED OWNERSHIP**

I hope you sense collegiality in and from me as we attempt to germinate and mature effective ministries not only in state capitols but the 1,000’s of local city and county government offices throughout America. I count each of you as strategic partners and peers in our joint monumental effort to help create a movement for Christ amongst our nation’s governing authorities.

While the practice of collegiality is no guarantee of developing **faithfulness** in another, it can certainly help. States Paul in Philippians, “regard one another as more important than yourselves” (2:3). Tychicus could be counted on to complete the smallest tasks and the most difficult. He was doctrinally solid, and represented Paul well, being void of disloyalty, undermining comments of disrespect (cf. 1Peter 2:18), and gossip. Paul took notice of that; and God used him mightily in His Kingdom work.

Paul had his personal weaknesses (cf. Rom. 7) as we all do, and we know that collegiality requires transparency and thus a risk of vulnerability. It follows that Tychicus could have exploited Paul’s foibles and undermined or damaged his leadership. Instead Tychicus was characterized by grace and not rigidity in his demeanor, skill and dispatch of personal relationships. Undoubtedly he was mature in this regard having earned the highest levels of trust; again he was deemed seasoned enough to transport portions of the original New Testament!
THE BIBLE AND LEADERSHIP: FAITHFULNESS

GRACE WITH ONE ANOTHER IS KEY TO OUR FULFILLMENT OF THE GREAT COMMISSION

Unfortunately the shortage of such grace in present-day and historic American Evangelicalism has resulted in many Christian leaders who are not collegial—having been burned by others. In contrast may our partnership always be characterized by abundant such. You are wonderful, effective, powerful partners in ministry! What follows are further insights into faithfulness.

III. FAITHFULNESS STEMS FROM GOD’S CHARACTER

1Thessalonians 5:24 and 2Thessalonians 3:3 state the following:

Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass.
But the Lord is faithful, and He will strengthen and protect you from the evil one.

To grow in Christlikeness means we will grow in God’s attribute of faithfulness. Become like Him!

IV. FAITHFULNESS STEMS FROM CULTIVATION

Faithfulness must be cultivated and developed continually throughout our lives. The following passages depict this necessity.

Psalm 78:8 And not be like their fathers, A stubborn and rebellious generation, A generation that did not prepare its heart And whose spirit was not faithful to God.

Luke 16:10 He who is faithful in a very little thing is faithful also in much; and he who is unrighteous in a very little thing is unrighteous also in much.

We should be strict with ourselves to be faithful in the smallest matters; those victories become mental imprints to developing lifelong responses.

V. FAITHFULNESS WILL BE COMPENSATED

Faithfulness is an intricate, key character quality, and among other things, something every legislator should discern in employees when considering hiring or promotion. The following passages indicate the biblical connection between faithfulness and God’s reward.

Proverbs 28:20 A faithful man will abound with blessings, But he who makes haste to be rich will not go unpunished.

Nehemiah 7:2 then I put Hanani my brother, and Hananiah the commander of the fortress, in charge of Jerusalem, for he was a faithful man and feared God more than many.

Luke 12:42 And the Lord said, "Who then is the faithful and sensible steward, whom his master will put in charge of his servants, to give them their rations at the proper time?

1Timothy 1:12 I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because He considered me faithful, putting me into service,

2Timothy 2:2 The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

VI. APPLICATION

Tychicus was faithful to God and to others. Subsequently God blessed and strengthened him. Paul noticed that and entrusted him with the most important of tasks: personally delivering original autographs of Scripture over hundreds of miles of perilous journey! Why? He was deemed faithful! That is to say he was found to be reliable and trustworthy. May that be said of us as we team to plant ministries amongst public servants throughout America and the world. Therein are everlasting dividends redounding to His glory!