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Statue of St. Paul in the Archbasilica of St. John Lateran by Pierre-Étienne Monnot.

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WE RECENTLY LAUNCHED a whole new website that is intended to convey the breadth and depth of our ministry. I encourage you to check it out at www.capmin.org. I am continually encouraged by your enthusiasm, cooperation, and help in achieving our joint strategic ministry objectives. Thank you! But why are we doing this save the clear command of the Great Commission?

Ralph Drollinger

Weekly Bible Study During Session

SENATE: 8:00 AM Tuesdays, Rotating Offices of Senators. *Hot Breakfast Served.*

HOUSE: Capitol H324: Monday or Tuesday Evenings after First Votes Back. *Dinner Served.*





I. INTRODUCTION

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? In order to mature Public Servants in Christ we need strong Bible teachers, evangelists and disciple makers at every level along their career paths. Thank you for faithfully opening doors in local governments, state capitols and foreign nations! Your partnership is so helpful and effective!

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

Near the end of his letter to the believers in the Ephesian church 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



Paul the Apostle by El Greco



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 in the life of the believer, but nonetheless 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 characteristic 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 these 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. How could the Gospel possibly progress in a geographic sense while he remained in prison if it were not for *faithful* teammates who would go and travel in his place? Part of God’s sovereign orchestration of Paul’s circumstances serves 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 healing.

Like the cold of snow in the time of harvest

♥ VERSE OF THE WEEK

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.



Be faithful in the smallest matters; those victories become mental imprints for developing lifelong responses.



★ PUBLIC SERVANT ENDORSEMENT

State Senator

Harold M. Metts

District 6, Providence, RI



CAPITOL MINISTRIES' in-depth Bible studies are important because sometimes there is an element of resistance for Lawmakers to live out their faith in office due to what they hear about the separation of church and state. But I always point out that The Constitution provides us with freedom of religion and free speech too, and that our nation was founded on Biblical principles. Getting into the Word of God through Bible studies reminds lawmakers of their own spiritual roots and increases their awareness of Biblical principles. And too, the Word opens eyes, just like it did for me. Years ago I read the Bible preparing to teach Sunday school to teenagers and I went from being politically correct to being Biblically correct. And at some point, you hope that the Holy Spirit will convict Lawmakers to apply the Word of God to their own lives and to the laws they enact. Lawmakers need the Gospel and they need the Word of God. [cm](#)

The Importance of Faithfulness in the Life of the Believer

Is a faithful messenger to those who send him, For he refreshes the soul of his masters.

Today, fruit packers manufacture a *cold snow* if you will: After being picked in the field, they immediately douse produce in icy cold water in order to impede its deterioration. The idea is that a good messenger preserves the message of the one who sent him. Note the summation of Tychicus' character quality of *faithfulness* as illustrated by Hoehner in his outstanding commentary on the book of Ephesians:

Later in his second Roman imprisonment, Paul sent Tychicus to Ephesus to relieve Timothy in order that Timothy could come to Paul (2Timothy 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*: these are three concomitant characteristics for being used mightily by God. Are you faithful, available and teachable — or just one or two of those, if any?

Now note one particular means Paul used to evoke *faithfulness*, availability and teachability: Paul was *collegial* with his partners in ministry.

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. It is not as if Paul paraded around in some robe like some ministers



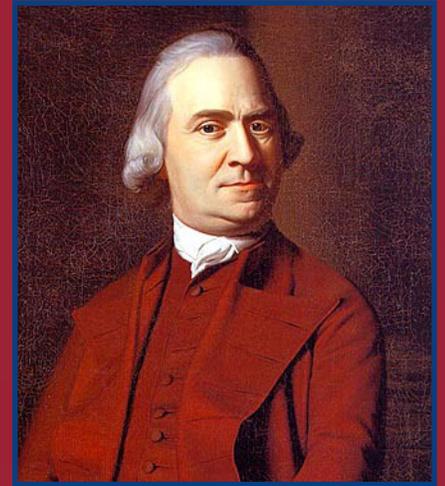
do today. Nor did he sit up front in the churches he founded in some extra-large chair — as if he was somehow above those he ministered to. That is not biblical Christianity my friend! Rather he had a collegial relationship with those whom He discipled and partnered with in ministry. Even though he personified 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 as it relates to the one 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) and it greatly aids developing *faithfulness* and motivation. Being collegial to your staff works not only in the advance of the Great Commission in ministry but it will work for you as a leader in your office.

**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 thousands of local city and county government offices throughout America – and in foreign federal capitols throughout the world. What a task we are about! How we each need to be *faithful*, motivated partners in the Gospel in order to achieve such a divine task as this! I count each of you as strategic partners and peers in our joint monumental effort to help create a movement for Christ amongst the world’s governing authorities!

While the practice of collegiality is no guarantee of developing *faithfulness* in another, it can certainly help. Viewing others as teammates and partners was tantamount as to how Paul dispatched his authority in leadership. In Philippians 2:3 this internal attitude of Paul’s — how he viewed leadership — is further revealed when he states, “*regard one another as more important than yourselves.*” As a result of Paul trusting others who were trustworthy, Tychicus could be counted on to complete the smallest tasks and the most difficult, Paul had created self-starters, self-sufficient teammates for the sake of the Gospel. Tychicus developed into a doctrinally solid believer who had a passion for world evangelism; he represented Paul well, being void of

Samuel Adams



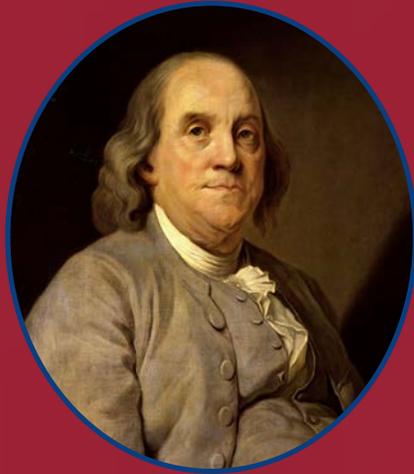
“In the supposed state of nature, all men are equally bound by the laws of nature, or to speak more properly, the laws of the Creator.”

— Samuel Adams, Signer of the Declaration of Independence; Father of the American Revolution; Ratifier of the US Constitution; Governor of Massachusetts.

Samuel Adams, letter to the Legislature of Massachusetts, January 17, 1794.



Benjamin Franklin



“That wise Men have in all Ages thought Government necessary for the Good of Mankind; and, that wise Governments have always thought Religion necessary for the well ordering and well-being of Society, and accordingly have been ever careful to encourage and protect the Ministers of it, paying them the highest publick Honours, that their Doctrines might thereby meet with the greater Respect among the common People.”

— Benjamin Franklin, signer of the Declaration of Independence; Diplomat; Printer; Scientist; Signer of the Constitution; Governor of Pennsylvania.

Benjamin Franklin, *On that Odd Letter of the Drum*, April 1730.

disloyalty, undermining comments of disrespect (cf. 1Peter 2:18), and gossip. Paul took notice of that; and God used Tychicus mightily in His Kingdom work. Collegial Paul had created a co-equal co-laborer for Christ!

Paul had his personal weaknesses (cf. Romans 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 grace and not an extra biblical judgmental spirit characterized Tychicus’s demeanor with others; he undoubtedly possessed skill and dispatch in 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!

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 grace.

Beloved Public Servant friends, you are wonderful, effective, powerful partners in ministry! I am so blessed by what we have seen God do in our partnership already— opening numerous doors for new ministries in civil, state and international governments! May God grant us the ability to germinate hundreds more ministries throughout America and the world in the days and years ahead! 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 connotes that we must grow in God’s attribute of *faithfulness*! To become more like Jesus means we must become increasingly *faithful* to Him and others! Christ was faithful to the Father even to the point of death, death on a cross! This stands in stark contrast to too many believers who are faithful only to the degree it is advantageous to themselves.



Are you *faithful* even when it costs you something to remain *faithful*?

IV. FAITHFULNESS STEMS FROM CULTIVATION

Faithfulness must be cultivated and developed continually throughout our lives. Psalm 78:8 and Luke 16:10 depict this necessity:

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.

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 for developing lifelong responses.

V. FAITHFULNESS WILL BE COMPENSATED

Faithfulness is an intricate, key character quality, and among other things, something every Public Servant should discern in employees when considering hiring or promotion. Proverbs 28:20 Nehemiah 7:2, Luke 12:42, 1 Timothy 1:12 and 2 Timothy 2:2 all respectively serve to indicate the biblical connection between

faithfulness and reward:

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

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.

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?”

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

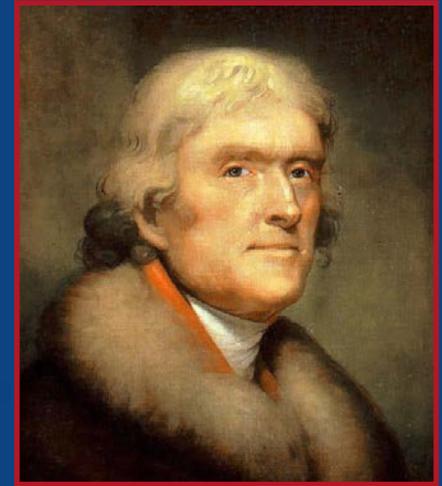
The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

These passages serve to illustrate the correlation between *faithfulness* and reward in both this life and the next. Make no mistake: God intends the motivation of rewards to compel us to be increasingly *faithful*! God rewards *faithfulness*!

VI. APPLICATION

Tychicus was *faithful* to God and to others. Subsequently God blessed

Thomas Jefferson



“How prone all human institutions have been to decay; how subject the best-formed and most wisely organized governments have been to lose their check and totally dissolve; how difficult it has been for mankind, in all ages and countries, to preserve their dearest rights and best privileges, impelled as it were by an irresistible fate of despotism.”

— Thomas Jefferson, Third President of The United States; Signer of the Declaration of Independence; Diplomat; Governor of Virginia; Secretary of State.

Thomas Jefferson, letter to Edward Carrington, January 16, 1787.



The Importance of Faithfulness in the Life of the Believer

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! **cm**

For past studies or additional copies go to www.capmin.org

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10,000 MINISTRIES IN
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200 COUNTRIES



*Making Disciples of Jesus Christ
in the Political Arena
Throughout the World*

CAPITOL MINISTRIES is a ministry organization that provides Bible studies, evangelism and discipleship to political leaders. Capitol Ministries was founded in 1996 and has started ministries in 40 state capitols and dozens of foreign federal capitols. **cm**



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