

Wednesday's Wisdom

a weekly short note from Mike Minear

Tychicus

James Smythe

"All my state shall Tychicus declare unto you," writes the Apostle Paul in the closing paragraphs of his epistle to the Colossians, "who is a beloved brother, and a faithful minister and fellow servant in the Lord" (4:7).

Tychicus, who was the messenger who carried Paul's letter to the church at Colosse, may have been led to Christ by the great Apostle. We hear of Tychicus first as being at Ephesus, where Paul ministered around A.D. 58; for when the Apostle left the city he took Tychicus and others with him, and they accompanied Paul on the long voyage that brought them to Jerusalem.

One can become very well acquainted with fellow passengers on board , ships, especially when the voyage which Paul and Tychicus shared required months.

In the Colossians epistle, written some five or six years after the journey was over, we find the two men together again. Tychicus was Paul's emissary at that time to carry this letter, as has been mentioned. Two years later Tychicus may have done another such job, carrying a communication to Crete for the Apostle (Tit. 3:12; cf. 1:5). Finally we see Tychicus' name in Paul's last letter, addressed to Timothy, in which it is revealed that Tychicus was to go to Ephesus, his home (2 Tim. 4:12). Paul and Tychicus, then, were friends and associates for a period of twelve years and more.