

IMPACT

I **M**ust **P**ersonally **A**cknowledge **C**hrist **T**oday
Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own under-
standing; *in all your ways acknowledge Him* and He shall direct your path.
Proverbs 3:5-6

Passage: Ephesians 6:21-22 “But that you also may know my affairs and how I am doing, **Tychicus**, a beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord, will make all things known to you; whom I have sent to you for this very purpose, that you may know our affairs, and that he may comfort your hearts.” Colossians 4:7 “**Tychicus**, a beloved brother, faithful minister, and fellow servant in the Lord, will tell you all the news about me.”

Quote: When God gives an assignment, it is never “minor.” Tychicus was a beloved and faithful servant in the Lord. Enough said!

Paul exhorted Timothy, “You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, *that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier.*”¹ Endure means “to undergo hardship—be afflicted, suffer trouble.”² “Engaged in warfare,” speaks of active duty and not someone who parades his “profession of faith” when it seems advantageous. Entangle means to “braid in, to interweave, entwine; then to involve in.”² Paul’s admonition goes beyond guarding against a defeat to temptation; it includes guarding against distractions and deterrents that undermine the mission of fearing God, keeping His commandments and gaining His “Well done, good and faithful servant” as an ambassador of Christ who shares the gospel.³

Nearing the end of his journey, Paul wrote to Timothy, “But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to *all who have loved His appearing*. Be diligent to come to me quickly; for *Demas* has forsaken me, having loved this present world, and has departed for Thessalonica—*Crescens* for Galatia, *Titus* for Dalmatia. Only *Luke* is

with me. Get *Mark* and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for ministry. And *Tychicus* I have sent to Ephesus.”⁴ Engagement and perseverance in promoting Christ’s kingdom reveal the character and priorities of all individuals who profess to be soldiers of Christ. The goal of the good soldier, whether he is a well-known Paul, a little-known Tychicus, or a struggling Mark who was AWOL for a time⁵ “is not to pursue his own plans, or to have his own will, or to accumulate property or fame for himself. His will is absorbed in the will of his commander, and his purpose is accomplished if he meets with his (approval). Nowhere else is it so true that the will of one becomes lost in that of another, as in the case of the soldier.”⁶ Apparently Demas, who served with Paul for a time, did not learn this truth. The wording in the Greek means “having loved the world that now is; that is, this world as it is, with all its cares, and troubles, and comforts; *having desired to remain in this world, rather than go to the other.*”⁶ Demas became fearful of the peril that comes with being engaged in the battle for truth.

Be faithful!

Stephen Crane wrote a novel about a young Civil War soldier in the Union Army who likewise struggled with fear and ran from battle. In his flight, Private Henry Fleming came upon a group of wounded soldiers whose bloody bandages appeared to him like a Red Badge of Courage. He longed for a wound—“a red badge of courage”—to mask his cowardice and lack of engagement in the conflict. Henry learned that it takes far more than “looking the part” to be a real soldier. Like others, he had entered the war dreaming of glory, fame and honor. He got a good dose of the truth that peace can only be achieved on the road to duty. There are no “safe zones” for any Christian who desires to show forth Christ through what he or she says and does. Good soldiers “man the gap” where God has placed them. Good soldiers do what they can to further the kingdom for the glory of God and the eternal good of others! Good soldiers remain faithful to fight for truth, to finish well, to keep the faith.

1 I Tim.2:3-4; IMPACT 38 2 Strong’s Greek Dictionary 3 Eccl.12:13-14; Matt.25:21; II Cor. 5:20 4 II Tim.4:5-12 5 Acts 13:13; 15:38; II Tim.4:11 6 A. Barnes