

Associates and Adversaries - 2 Timothy 4:9-15

- 1) The greatest of men still need human camaraderie (9)
- 2) The greatest of leaders are served & betrayed by their companions (10-12)
 - a) Demas: some abandon us in our darkest hour
 - b) Crescens: his no-name-reliable cohort
 - c) Titus: his mission-impossible right-hand man
 - d) Luke: his never-leave-my-side friend
 - i) The *man of talent, education and sacrifice* (14)
 - ii) With Paul from second journey until death (2 Tim. 4:11)
 - iii) A medical missionary/historian; gave up all to help Paul
 - e) Mark: after a falling out, their friendship was strong as ever
 - i) The *second chance man* (10)
 - ii) Wealthy son of Mary; church in his house (Acts 12:12); cousin of Barnabas
 - iii) Accompanied Paul & Barnabas but abandoned them (13:2-5, 13)
 - iv) Ten years later, he was in Rome, reconciled to Paul (Col 4:10; Phlm 24)
 - v) Labored w/ Timothy in Asia Minor (2 Tim 4:11)
 - vi) Knew Peter from Jerusalem (Acts 12:12-17); called "my son" (1 Pt 5:13)
 - (1) Don't shun those w/ a past if they repent
 - (2) God is merciful, gifting us more than we deserve
 - f) Tychicus: his ready-at-a-moment's-notice comrade
 - i) Servant leader
 - ii) Accompanied Paul w/ offering for Jerusalem church (Acts 20:4)
 - iii) Asian, mentioned w/ Trophimus; from Ephesus?
 - iv) Pulpit fill for Titus (Titus 3:12) & Tim (2 Tm 4:12)
 - v) Courier for Paul's letter to Ephesus (Eph 6:21), Philemon & Colossians (Col 4:7)
 - (1) Italy to Adriatic to Greece to Aegean to Asia to Colossae
 - (2) Willing to travel arduously w/ Paul
 - (3) Faithful to the bitter end (2 Tim. 4:12)
 - (4) Never achieved prominence; none of his words are recorded, just service
- 3) The greatest of leaders have basic, physical needs (13)
 - a) They need clothing to keep warm; food for sustenance; doctors for health
 - b) They need something to read to keep busy, to stay sharp
- 4) The greatest of leaders will always be opposed (14-15)
- 5) Observations/Applications
 - a) When we're lonely, we all need friends we can trust
 - b) When we're wounded, we need friends who advocate for us
 - c) When we're loved, we need to share our gratitude
 - d) When we're in need, we must swallow pride & advertise it