

The Roster of Hero's Through History
Will Your Name Be on This List?
Colossians 4:7

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What do you think the greatest characteristic of a Christian is?

To God the greatest characteristic is *faithfulness*.

Some emphasize service. Oh, service is the greatest characteristic. To others it is knowledge of doctrine: the more you know the greater you are. While to others, emotionalism: the greatest Christian is the one who is the most charismatic. And there are churches that are based on one of these and so people gravitate to the church that emphasizes what they do best and where they can shine forth. Service, Knowledge, Emotion.

But dear people to God, it is *faithfulness*.

Remember where we are in history. We are in the first century of the Church. The beginning of a new dispensation. And if you don't like the word *dispensation*, then something simple like a new order, a new government, a new system, a new arrangement. For example, from Adam to Abraham, the spiritual responsibility was up to the father of a family. Then from Abraham to Jesus Christ, there was a new order, a specialized priesthood and system of worship. Then we all must admit, whether you call it a dispensation or system or arrangement, we must all admit that things changed with the ascension of Jesus Christ and the establishment of the Church. So, this is the first century, therefore, an important time for the development of a new dispensation. And we will see some of the most important characteristics God is looking for in the Church Age.

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Different personalities and callings but the common greatness is their faithfulness.

Colossians 4:7 As to all my affairs, Tychicus, our beloved brother and faithful servant and fellow bond-servant in the Lord, will bring you information

As to all my affairs. Literally, *the all things related to me.*

Each of our lives is made up of *things*. Not just materialistic things but experiences, circumstances, encounters, difficulties, joys, sadness, disappointments, good things! Next, we have a new name, Tychicus! We are now being introduced to truly a great man of history, the kind of man the church was built upon.

Let's take a Profile of Tychicus

1. First, let's look at his name. It is an unusual name for as important a person as we have here. His name means fortunate, or fateful. He may have been brought up in a family who believed strongly in fate or chance. But he was converted to Christian faith. And this belief would take a strong control over his life. He no longer believed in fate but in God's Sovereign design. As great as this man will be to Church history, I do not recommend that you name your son, Tychicus.
2. We do not know how this man heard the gospel. But, he is first mentioned with Paul on Paul's third missionary journey when Paul

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travelled from Greece through Macedonia and was accompanied by a group of seven men. Acts 20:4-5.

3. When Paul went erroneously to Jerusalem, Tychicus did not go with him. Scripture does not say that he disapproved but simply that he did not go with him.
4. He rejoins with Paul during Paul's first Roman imprisonment This is our passage of Colossians 4:7-8 and Ephesians 6:21-22.

Paul sent Tychicus to the Ephesians, most probably while carrying Paul's famous letter to them so that they might learn about Paul's circumstances. It is likely that Tychicus carried Paul's letter to the Colossians at the same time, since Paul sent him to them as well and for the same reason. [Sourced from <http://www.abarim-publications.com/Meaning/Tychicus.html#.XSA5W-hKiUk>]

5. This next point is important in learning about Tychicus. There was trouble on the island of Crete. Crete was filled with a troubled people. Generally, people on Crete were there because of trouble somewhere else, like in Greece or Egypt. Crete gave birth to the likes of the Spartans and Philistines. Anyway, when there was trouble on Crete, Paul sent none other than Tychicus to help Titus handle and straighten out these people. Titus 3:12.
6. During Paul's Second Imprisonment in Rome, he sent Tychicus to Ephesus. 2 Tim. 4:12. He was to take over the Ephesian church to relieve Timothy so that Timothy could join Paul in Rome while Paul was dying.

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Back to Colossians 4:7 **the things pertaining to me Tychicus will tell you.** They are hungry to learn about Paul. He was loved by those he had ministered too. They knew he was always in trouble and they cared and prayed for him.

Here we have two vital characteristics of this Tychicus. First, he is called a **beloved brother.** This is not some sweetness and light.

Beloved

1. I hope I can explain this to you in two words without in any way, one word taking away from the other. Both are different and both are highly sought after: ***Beloved and Esteemed.***
2. Beloved is a term of endearment.

Matthew 3:17 and behold, a voice out of the heavens said, (from God the Father) “This is My beloved Son, (Jesus Christ at His baptism—sign that He was going to fulfill the Plan of God the Father, for Him to go to the cross) in whom I am well-pleased.”

3. God loves all believers as His beloved:

Romans 1:7 to all who are beloved of God in Rome, called as saints: (that is everyone who has believed in Jesus, His Son as their Savior) Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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OK, let's take a quick look at the saying '*I love you.*' A man says this to his closest friend, and then that same day tells his wife he loves her. There is a big difference. A woman tells her child she loves him/her, then she tells her husband I love you...There is a big difference. God loves all unbelievers...God loves every born-again believer. There is a big difference. In John 14:23, if anyone, any believer loves Jesus Christ, God the Father will love that believer.

But God loves every believer—but there is a difference. God loves the believer, who is wasting his or her life here on earth, with no spiritual growth. God loves the believer who is increasing in the knowledge of God and growing in the knowledge of Christ by the Holy Spirit...But, there is a difference.

4. This word also includes the concept of admiration or esteem. First, this is true of God the Father for His Son. God has the highest esteem for His Son and what His Son is doing.

Likewise, believers should have esteem for other believers who serve the Lord. For example, I have the highest esteem for our Jim Langston, as well as others in this assembly.

5. Tychicus was loved by everyone who knew him in the body of Christ. This means everyone held him in the highest regards and respect. It was for this reason that Paul was able to send him to Ephesus and Crete.

Notice that the Bible emphasizes the character of this man, not his personality. Many people are distracted by personality. It is the character

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that counts. Every parent should teach his/her children, both sons and daughters that it is their character that counts. Personality may get votes, but it is character that wins friends.

Colossians 4:7 As to all my affairs, Tychicus, our beloved brother and faithful servant and fellow bond-servant in the Lord, will bring you information.

Two descriptions of the character of this first century Christian hero.

First: *beloved brother*.

Next: faithful servant.

Notice people, especially you parents, that the Bible emphasizes the character of this believer, not his personality or how he looks. In fact, while we make a great deal out of how someone looks, the Bible rarely describes physical appearance but emphasizes character. It is the character that counts not personality. It is alright if one has a nice personality provided they have character. You young unmarried people remember this—look at her/his character, not just physical appearances or personality, what about their character? Personality is a cover for what you really are inside. Personality is the costume that you put on to disguise the blemishes. Character is what the true soul essence is. When you marry someone, you marry their character: good or bad, weak or strong.

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Tychicus was *a faithful servant ho pistos diakonos* This tells us so much about this believer. This is what we should all seek to be said of us. Written on our tomb stones: *he/she was a faithful servant of the Lord*

The problem with this banner is that it covers a lifetime; through ups and downs in life. In the good times and in the bad times, are you faithful? Faithfulness is a real problem in America today. Over half the people who marry cannot remain faithful to that marriage. Marriages in America today are plagued with desertion, adultery and or divorce.

And if we speak of *faithfulness to the Lord*, well this lasts until the first real challenge comes along. Today with the strong advent of LGBTQ the challenge comes quickly and from where we least expect it. There are so many fundamental doctrines of the Bible that are challenged today. Therefore, all these things make it more challenging to remain faithful.

I. First and foremost, this is one of the most valued of essence of God:
His faithfulness.

1. Deuteronomy 7:9.

Deuteronomy 7:9 Know therefore that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God, who keeps His covenant and His lovingkindness to a thousandth generation with those who love Him and keep His commandments;

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Know. This is where the journey begins. This is where the battle begins, *knowing*. This is why not many through church history made it to being a faithful servant. They did not want to spend the time to *know* the Word of God. To fulfill this verb requires knowing how to be Filled with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit empowers our souls. Then under the power of the Holy Spirit we learn under a Pastor-Teacher who studies and teaches the Word of God.

Know therefore that the Lord your God. First, you have to know that the Lord is your God. Remember, He is not everyone's God.

Know therefore that the Lord your God, He is God, the faithful God. The Hebrew word for *faithful* basically means *firm*. The word introduces that which supplies stability and confidence in life. And dear people, the more you know of the faithfulness of God and the more you trust in His faithfulness, the more stable you become and develop confidence in life.

I feel so sorry for people who suffer from depression especially if they are Christians. There is no reason for one who believes in Jesus Christ to suffer depression. And the greatest relief from depression is not chocolate cake or drugs but is to get into the Word of God and learn of the Faithfulness of God. I also feel sorry for anyone who believes in replacement theology. That God is not faithful to Israel and will not fulfill His unconditional covenants to Israel. People, if God does not have to be faithful to

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Israel, to His unconditional covenants He gave them, then God does not have to be faithful to us and to save us when we die. Our peace at death, our confidence at death is solely because of the faithfulness of God. That God will be faithful to His Son, that God will be faithful to His Word, and that He will surely deliver us when we die from this life and are to face to face with His Son.

Deuteronomy 7:9 Know therefore that the Lord your God, He is God, the faithful God He is God, the faithful God, who keeps His covenant and His lovingkindness to a thousandth generation (that is forever) with those who love Him and keep His commandments;

2. Isaiah 49:7

Isaiah 49:7 Thus says the LORD, the Redeemer of Israel and its Holy One, To the despised One, To the One abhorred by the nation, To the Servant of rulers, "Kings will see and arise, Princes will also bow down, Because of the LORD who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel who has chosen You."

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And dear people, if you have believed in Jesus as your Savior, He has chosen you. He will be faithful to you, for you are a chosen one.

3. And the faithfulness of God is vital to the Church Age believer, that is to you and me.

1 Corinthians 1:8 who will also confirm you to the end, blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 1:9 God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

These two verses are packed with vital points for us to remember: He will confirm us. That is, He will establish the truth of our Justification and imputed Righteousness, to the end for us: Rapture and Judgement Seat of Christ. We owe everything to Jesus Christ our Savior-friend. We who were called, that is everyone who believes in Jesus Christ, were called by God the Father into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ. We will enjoy eternal fellowship with Jesus Christ, our Lord. Whether one knows this or lives in this manner, Jesus Christ is our Lord.

4. And another passage we have studied:

1 Thessalonians 5:24 Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass.

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Here is our stability; our confidence, our hope, our peace throughout life. God will bring out eternal destiny to pass—to reality.

5. And one of the most important passages on the faithfulness of God is in

2 Timothy 2:13 If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself.

Some Christians believe and teach that you can lose your salvation if you deny Jesus Christ. People, you may grow up and detest your parents and deny them as your parents, but I am so sorry to tell you, that you cannot erase the truth that they gave you birth. And when we believe in Jesus Christ as Savior, He saved us. We are in union with Him. And He simply cannot deny Himself, that is, He cannot deny that you are in Him! We make up the Body of Christ. He is faithful, even if we are not.

6. And Oh, people His faithfulness is so important in our daily lives.

1 Corinthians 10:13 No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.

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Please pay close attention to this verse. Many are overtaken by temptation and then cry out and try to blame God. People, He does not promise you will not fall into temptation. What this says is that God is faithful and He will provide the way of escape...but if you do not trust His faithfulness and put your faith in His provision of the Holy Spirit, then it is you who has failed, not God, He is Faithful.

7. And of course, the faithfulness of God in the forgiveness of our sins (1 John 1:9). Verse 9 must always be understood in the context from verse 8 where they were in denial. This verse is directed to all believers who deny their sins. If you are aware of your sins and go to faith in the Holy Spirit, this verse is not for you.

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

If. Maybe a believer will or maybe he/she will not.

we confess our sins, Acknowledge that we have sinned.

He God is faithful. This is a *predicate adjective*.

and righteous to forgive. *Aorist subjunctive*, referring to something God has already done in the past.

us our sins and to cleanse. Also *aorist subjunctive* referring to something already completed

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us from all unrighteousness.

8. In other words, John is telling these believers to stop denying they sinned. They denied because they were told if they sinned they would lose their salvation. John, the beloved pastor, assures them they will not lose their Salvation, they have already been forgiven and cleansed at the point of justification, and to claim what is theirs by faith.

9. God is faithful in keeping all He promises.

Hebrew 10:23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful;

The faithfulness of God should encourage us to be faithful to Him. See Hebrews 11:11.

II. Jesus Christ is also declared to be faithful.

1. He is the faithful high priest.

Hebrews 2:17 Therefore, He (Jesus Christ in His incarnation) had to be made like His brethren (human race) in all things, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

2. He is faithful to His Father and our Father.

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Hebrews 3:2 He (Jesus Christ) was faithful to Him (God the Father) who appointed Him, as Moses also was in all his house. (See also Hebrews 3:5 and Revelation 17:14)

3. He is a faithful son.

Hebrews 3:6 but Christ *was faithful* as a Son over His house—whose house we are, if we hold fast our confidence and the boast of our hope firm until the end.

4. He is the faithful creator. Our faithfulness in life is in response to His faithfulness:

1 Peter 4:19 Therefore, those also who suffer according to the will of God shall entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right.

5. He is the faithful witness – we can trust anything and everything He says:

Revelation 1:5 and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us and released us from our sins by His blood (see also Revelation 3:14.and 19:11)

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6. He is referred to as the Holy one who is faithful. Hosea 11:12.
7. We all know that Satan is alive and well, in the world today, but if you remain faithful to the Lord, He will be faithful and protect you from Satan.

2 Thessalonians 3:3 But the Lord is faithful, and He will strengthen and protect you from the evil one. (that is from Satan. This is reinforced by the Lord's prayer :)

John 17:15 I do not ask you to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil one. (No believer can be indwelt by Satan or his demons.)

III. The Word of God is faithful. You can believe it and trust it.

Revelation 21:5 And He who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." And He *said, "Write, for these words are faithful and true. (See also Revelation 22:6 and Titus 1:9.)

Psalm 119:30: I have chosen the faithful way; I have placed Your ordinances before me.
Psalm 119:31 I cling to Your testimonies;

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O Lord, do not put me to shame! (see also verse 65)

IV. One of the historical reasons for national calamity is that there are no faithful believers.

Psalm 12:1 Help Lord, for the godly man ceases to be. For the faithful disappear from among the sons of men.

Psalm 78: 7 Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget his deeds but would keep his commands.

Psalm 78:8 They would not be like their ancestors—a stubborn and rebellious generation, whose hearts were not loyal to God,

whose spirits were not faithful to him.
(these Israelites are further described in verse 37)

Psalm 78:37 For their heart was not steadfast toward Him, nor were they faithful in His covenant

V. The Lord blesses the faithful believer.

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Psalm 31:23 O love the Lord, all you His godly ones! The Lord preserves the faithful And fully recompenses the proud doer.

Psalm 31:24 Be strong and let your heart take courage, All you who hope in the Lord.

Psalm 101:6 My eyes shall be upon the faithful of the land, that they may dwell with me; He who walks in a blameless way is the one who will minister to me.

VI. Very important for every believer to realize is that God looks upon those who are faithful in small things to be rewarded with much bigger blessings. See Matthew 25:21-23 and

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.

Luke 16:11 Therefore if you have not been faithful in the use of unrighteous wealth, who will entrust the true riches to you?

Luke 16:12 And if you have not been faithful in the use of that which is another's, who will

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give you that which is your own? (See also Luke 19:17)

VII. There are a few believers throughout history who are declared in the Word of God as *faithful*

Abraham Neh.9:8;

Moses Numbers 12:7 & Heb. 3:5;

David 1 Sam. 22:14;

Daniel Dan. 6:4;

Hananiah Neh. 7:2;

Timothy 1 Cor. 4:17;

The assembly in Ephesus Eph. 1:1;

Tychicus Eph. 6:21 and Col. 4:7;

Some of the believers in Colossae Col. 1:2;

Epaphras—*faithful servant of Christ* Col. 1:7;

Onesimus Col. 4:9;

The Apostle Paul 1Tim. 1:12;

Women who wish to serve are to be faithful to the Lord 1Tim. 3:11;

Pastor Teachers are to be faithful to the Word of God 2 Tim. 2:2;

Silvanis 1 Pet. 5:12

Wouldn't you like to add your name to this 'elite' list?