Ephesians 6:21-24

Ephesians 6:21 – “So that you also may know how I am and what I am doing, Tychicus the beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord will tell you everything.”

1. Tychicus
   a. Tychicus was from the province of Asia (Acts ).
   b. Tychicus may have been from Ephesus in Asia Minor, but he is not mentioned in Luke’s account of Ephesus in Acts 19 and is not mentioned in the account of the sea voyage to Rome.
   c. Since Tychicus is in Rome around 61-62 AD while Paul is living under house arrest in Rome (60-62 AD) it would appear that Tychicus had traveled from Ephesus (or, Asia Minor) to Rome to see Paul.
   d. Tychicus is now returning to Ephesus and then to Colossae with these three letters (maybe, four letters or more):
      i. Ephesians
      ii. Colossae (Col. 4:7)
      iii. Philemon
      iv. (Laodicea, Col. 4:16)
   e. Tychicus will (has been) representing Paul in Asia Minor in Ephesus, Colossae and the other churches. It is likely that the Ephesian letter is a circular letter.
   f. After this:
      i. Tychicus is with Paul in Corinth when Paul writes Titus in Crete. Tychicus is mentioned as a possible replacement (along with Artemas) in Crete for Titus - Titus 3:12 – “When I send Artemas or Tychicus to you, do your best to come to me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there.”
      ii. Tychicus had been with Paul in Rome during his second and final imprisonment in 67 AD before winter when Paul writes Timothy in Ephesus in 2 Timothy 4:12 – “Tychicus I have sent to Ephesus.”
   g. Tychicus is:
      i. Dear brother – meaning not only is he a believer but also a co-worker and a helper in the ministry Paul has been assigned.
      ii. Faithful servant – meaning he has faced hardships and made hard choices but has remained true to the Lord Jesus
2. Ephesians 4:21 is almost a word-for-word parallel with Colossians 4:7-8:
   a. Col. 4:7-8 – “Tychicus will tell you all about my activities. He is a beloved brother and faithful minister and fellow servant[a] in the Lord. I have sent him to you for this very purpose, that you may know how we are and that he may encourage your hearts,…”
   b. Paul had just completed the letter to the Colossians (and Laodiceans) and a letter to Philemon in Colossae. So, this letter to the Ephesians is a letter likely quickly written after the Colossians letter so Paul could send it along with Tychicus.

6:22 – “I have sent him to you for this very purpose, that you may know how we are, and that he may encourage your hearts.”

1. Besides delivering the letters, Paul’s purpose for Tychicus was to let them know the details of what was happening in Paul’s daily life and court case in Rome.
2. Paul wanted Tychicus to relieve any fears or doubts the believers had because of Paul’s imprisonment.
3. Tychicus was to “encourage their hearts”.
4. “Encourage” – parakalese – compound word from two words para-kaleo (“from close beside-to call) properly meaning “make a call” from being “close-up and personal”. We translate it with words meaning “to exhort”, “to encourage”
   a. Para – “from close-beside”
   b. Kaleo – “to call”
5. Paul was being treated well and had all that he needed as is revealed in Philippians.

6:23 – “Peace be to the brothers, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.”
1. The three blessings that have been a theme throughout Ephesians:
   a. Peace – with God and with each other
   b. Love – from God to us and from us to others
      i. God’s love for believers
      ii. Christ’s love for them
      iii. Believers love for one another
      iv. Believing husbands’ love for their wives
      v. Believers’ love in general
      vi. Next, the believer’s love for Christ (next verse, also) stressing our response to God’s love for us in a personal relationship
   c. Faith – in God’s Truth that empowers

6:24 – “Grace be with all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with love incorruptible.”
1. “Grace”
a. Ephesians began with Grace (1:2) and the theme continued through the book – 1:7; 2:5, 7, 8; 3:2, 8; 4:7)
b. The article he is in front of “grace” making it “the grace” which most likely refers to “the grace of our Lord Jesus”

2. “Those who love our Lord Jesus Christ” refers to:
   a. believers

3. “Incorruptible” – *aphtharsia* – This word means “immortality” and “incorruption” and is used to refer to the resurrection. This could refer to:
   a. “our Lord Jesus Christ” who is immortal
   b. “all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with an undying love” since we are already participating in the eternal life
   c. Immortality, incorruptible linked directly to God or the one of his blessings since these are eternal, incorruptible and immortal. Thus, we are secure.
- Tychicus is with Paul in Corinth when Paul writes Titus (Titus 3:12).
- Paul considered Tychicus capable of replacing Titus in the oversight of the difficult Crete (Greeks on a Mediterranean Island) church.
- Tychicus is with Paul when Paul is arrested in Troas and taken to Roman prison for the second time or Tychicus joins Paul in prison.
- This time Paul sends Tychicus to Ephesus to replace Timothy (2 Timothy 4:12).

Paul, 62 - 68 AD
This map represents a possible itinerary for Paul after his release from Roman prison in 62 AD and his death in Rome during the fall of 67 or spring of 68. This is speculated from: Romans 15:23, 28; Titus 1:5, 3:12; 2 Timothy 1:15; 4:13; 4:21; 4:9-21; Philemon 2:23, 24 and Eusebius' account that Paul preached in Spain which agrees with Clement and the Muratorian Canon.

Paul could have gone directly to Spain upon his release from Roman prison. He could have returned through Crete (Titus 1:5), wrote Titus from Corinth, revisited the Asian churches and been arrested in Troas where he would have left his cloak and books (2 Tm 4:13).