

Onesiphorus - cont.

served Paul in prison and elsewhere (Matthew 25:40-45).

Today, Christians should serve other Christians and help them to be faithful to the Lord (Matthew 20:26-28; 23:11; Hebrews 6:10; 1 Peter 4:10-11; Revelation 2:19).

4. Onesiphorus the Excellent

Paul wrote that Onesiphorus “often” refreshed me ... he sought me “diligently” ... and, you know “very well”. From these adverbs we learn that Onesiphorus was not a bare-minimum, mediocre Christian.

Today, Christians must abound and excel in all they do for themselves and others (Ecclesiastes 9:10; 1 Cor. 15:58; Rom. 12:8,11; 2 Cor. 8:7; 2 Pet. 1:5,10)

Profitable Christians

Brethren, let's be Christians who are truly profitable to ourselves and to others. It's a difficult world out there and we need each other to encourage one another and cheer up each other. Become a Christian today and then live as a faithful Christian tomorrow. Be a refresher, you and all your house!

- Chris Reeves -

- Thought of the Week -

Who are my friends? Who do I consider a close friend that I can rely upon when I need them? There are all kinds of friends, some true and some not. Is God my friend? I am told in the Bible that Abraham was the “friend of God” because he obeyed God. Jesus also said that I am his friend if I obey him. This week I'm going to get closer to my two friends, God and Jesus. I'm going to do more to obey them this week and they will be there for me as a true friend should be.

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

The House of Onesiphorus

“The Lord grant mercy unto the house of Onesiphorus: for he oft refreshed me, and was not ashamed of my chain; but, when he was in Rome, he sought me diligently, and found me (the Lord grant unto him to find mercy of the Lord in that day); and in how many things he ministered at Ephesus, thou knowest very well.”

- 2 Timothy 1:16-18 -

“Salute Prisca and Aquila, and the house of Onesiphorus.”

- 2 Timothy 4:19 -

What kind of Christian are you when you are around other Christians? What do your words and actions do to them? Do you build them up, or tear them down? Do you refresh them, or wear them out? Do you cheer them up, or discourage them? It's good for us to think about what we do to others Christians around us.

When the apostle Paul was doing his labors for Christ, he found a Christian that refreshed him; that made him feel better. That Christian's name was Onesiphorus. He is mentioned only in the book of 2 Timothy. Let's see what we can learn about this man?

A Profit to Paul

After being released from prison in Rome in the early 60's A.D., Paul was imprisoned a second time in Rome, c. A.D. 66-68 (2 Timothy 1:16-17; 2:9). This was a difficult time for Paul and he would have been experiencing much hardship. What he needed at this time was encouragement from his fellow-Christians. He found that encouragement in a man named Onesiphorus and his household.

Onesiphorus, meaning “profit-bearing,” lived up to his name as he was a great profit to Paul (2 Timothy 1:16; 4:19). The question we need to ask ourselves is this: What am I doing as a Christian to profit others? What am I doing that will get me mercy from the Lord? Let's consider four great qualities of this man that we need to have in our own lives.

1. Onesiphorus the Refresher

Paul wrote that Onesiphorus often “refreshed me”. The word “refreshed” comes from the Greek verb ἀναψύχω meaning to “revive”. This word meant to cool someone or something by blowing fresh air on them. Figuratively, it meant to bring much-needed relief after a period anxiety or trouble; to encourage; to cheer up.

Onesiphorus was a refresher, not a

discourager. He gave Paul much-needed refreshment, rest, and relief during a difficult and “heated” time in his life (1 Corinthians 16:18; 2 Corinthians 7:13; Romans 15:32; Philemon 7, 20).

Today, Christians need to be encouraging and refreshing toward others. We live in difficult times and it's nice to have someone to refresh us.

2. Onesiphorus the Courageous

Paul wrote that Onesiphorus was “not ashamed of my chain”. Onesiphorus was not a fair-weather Christian. Unlike others of his day, he was courageous for truth at all times. He stood up for Paul and he stood with Paul in the preaching of the gospel (2 Timothy 1:8,12,15; 4:10,16).

Today, Christians need to be courageous for truth at all times and stand with others who are preaching and defending the truth (Psalm 119:6; Mark 8:38; Luke 9:26; Romans 1:16).

3. Onesiphorus the Servant

Paul wrote that Onesiphorus “sought me out” and “ministered” to him. Onesiphorus was not selfish. He