

# BRIEF RECAP OF REVIVAL LEADERS YOU SHOULD KNOW

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# LEADERS AND THEIR POSITION

Leader	Position
Elijah – The man who heard God’s Wisper	Prophet
Ezekiel – The man who saw dry bones come back to life	Prophet
Hezekiah – The man who opened the Temple Doors	
Jeremiah – the man wh God’s people t	Prophet
Josiah – The man who tore his clothes ures were read	King
– The man who said the Joy of the Lord is your strength	King’s Cupbearer – Political Leader

**What if you are not a Prophet, King, or Political Leader?**



# ONESIPHORUS — THE MAN WHO REFRESHED PAUL

The Ministry of Refreshment

2 Timothy 1:16-18



# CONTEXT

- 2 Timothy is Paul's last letter.
- Paul is bound in chains in a Roman prison cell.
- He is awaiting his appeal to Emperor Nero.
- He will soon be executed.
- Tradition says he was beheaded.



## 2 TIMOTHY 1:16–18

- <sup>16</sup> May the Lord grant mercy to the household of **Onesiphorus**, for he often **refreshed** me and was not ashamed of my chains, <sup>17</sup> but when he arrived in Rome he searched for me earnestly and found me— <sup>18</sup> may the Lord grant him to find mercy from the Lord on that day!—and you well know all the service he rendered at Ephesus.



# PAUL'S FAITH

- Paul's faith remains strong.
- 2 Timothy 4:7–8; “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. <sup>8</sup> Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.”
- 2 Timothy 4:17–18; “But the Lord stood by me and strengthened me, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. <sup>18</sup> The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.”



# PAUL'S HARDSHIPS

- Paul spent time under arrest in Rome on two different occasions
  - Acts 28:30–31; “He lived there two whole years at his own expense, and welcomed all who came to him, <sup>31</sup> proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance.”
  - The second time was very different.
    - Most cells were dark, especially inner cells of a prison.
    - Some cells were just holes in the ground.
    - Prisoners sat in painful leg or wrist chains.
    - Unbearable cold, lack of water, cramped quarters, and sickening stench from waste made sleeping difficult and waking hours miserable.
    - Paul asked for a cloak, presumably from the cold (2 Tim. 4:13).
    - Prison food, when available, was poor. Most prisoners had to provide their own food from outside sources.



# PAUL'S LONELINESS

- 2 Timothy 4:11; “Luke alone is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is very useful to me for ministry.”
- 2 Timothy 1:15; “You are aware that all who are in Asia turned away from me, among whom are Phygelus and Hermogenes.”



# ONESIPHORUS' MINISTRY OF REFRESHMENT

- 2 Timothy 1:16–18; “May the Lord grant mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, for he often **refreshed** me and was not ashamed of my chains, <sup>17</sup> but when he arrived in Rome he searched for me earnestly and found me— <sup>18</sup> may the Lord grant him to find mercy from the Lord on that day!—and you well know all the service he rendered at Ephesus.”
  - “refreshed” basically means “to cool and refresh by a breath.”
  - It is used to refer to physical and/or spiritual refreshment.
- Onesiphorus refreshed Paul physically and spiritually by bringing him things that meet his physical needs and words and presence that meet his spiritual needs.



# ONESIPHORUS' CONSISTENT CONCERN

- Onesiphorus' Ministry of Refreshment was not a one-time event.
  - 2 Timothy 1:16; "... for he often refreshed me..."
  - 2 Timothy 1:18; "... and you well know all the service he rendered at Ephesus."
- It is common for people to say to someone in need, "Now, if there's anything I can do, just call."
  - But the person in need doesn't call and the friend never checks back to see if things are better.
- The Ministry of Refreshment expresses repeatedly refreshes!



# ONESIPHORUS' RISK OF RIDICULE

- Onesiphorus' Ministry of Refreshment did not worry about what others might think.
  - 2 Timothy 1:16; "... and was not ashamed of my chains."
- Perhaps others who knew of Paul's imprisonment were more concerned about their own welfare and reputation than Paul's needs.
  - They thought it was too risky to be associated with a man in prison.
  - "What might others think?"
- The Ministry of Refreshment is focused on the person in need and NOT the opinions of others.



# ONESIPHORUS' TENACITY IN THE TASK

- Onesiphorus' Ministry of Refreshment was persistent.
  - 2 Timothy 1:17; "but when he arrived in Rome he searched for me earnestly and found me—"
- He was committed to the task.
- Like the Samaritan who helped the man who was beaten and left for dead, Onesiphorus did not give up helping just because the task was unpleasant, inconvenient or even required spending money. (Luke 10:33-35).
- Another person might have thought, "If I have some free time, I might try to make contact with Paul."
- The Ministry of Refreshment requires "going the extra mile."



# ONESIPHORUS' TIMELY REFRESHMENT

- It is clear from the context that whatever specific things Onesiphorus brought to Paul, they were timely gifts.
- Have you noticed that often it is the timing of a thoughtful gesture, rather than its scope, that makes the difference?
  - That glass of iced tea tastes best when you're hot and thirsty!
- An act of kindness that may seem small and insignificant to us could mean a lot to a person who needs it.
  - For a lonesome serviceman or woman that refreshing lift could be a timely letter or a card.
  - For a frazzled couple with young children, it could be an offer to baby-sit so they can go out for an evening or a weekend get-away.
  - For an elderly person or shut-in a card, a call, or a visit could be the highlight of the week.
  - For a student feeling pressured and homesick, it might be an offer to go out to lunch, or to help study for an exam.



# ONESIPHORUS' REWARD

- 2 Timothy 1:16–18; “May the Lord grant mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, ....<sup>18</sup> may the Lord grant him to find mercy from the Lord on that day!”
- We don't know who was in the household of Onesiphorus.
- Paul understood that his household enabled Onesiphorus to have a Ministry of Refreshment.
  - The household may have given up money
  - Definitely gave up time with Onesiphorus so that he could refresh others.
- Paul prays that the household and Onesiphorus will be blessed by the Lord with mercy.
  - Paul specifically prays that Onesiphorus will find mercy in the judgement day.
  - Matthew 25:31-46 also teaches the connection between good deeds in this life and rewards in the next life.
- The Ministry of Refreshment will be rewarded!



# THE MINISTRY OF REFRESHMENT

- Do you know people who are:
  - In unfamiliar surroundings
  - Feeling tired and weary
  - Lonely, wondering if anybody cares
  - Experiencing disappointment or discouragement
  - Uncertain about the future
  - Facing extra pressures, difficulties, or limitations
- God promises renewal in Isaiah 40:29-31
  - Isaiah 40:29–31; He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.
  - Are you the one he wants to send to be the minister of refreshment to them?



# REFRESH

- 1 Corinthians 16:17–18; “I rejoice at the coming of Stephanas and Fortunatus and Achaicus, because they have made up for your absence, <sup>18</sup> for they refreshed my spirit as well as yours. Give recognition to such people.”
- Philemon 7; “For I have derived much joy and comfort from your love, my brother, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you.”
- Philemon 20; “Yes, brother, I want some benefit from you in the Lord. Refresh my heart in Christ.”
- Romans 15:32; “so that by God’s will I may come to you with joy and be refreshed in your company.”
- Acts 3:19–20; “Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, <sup>20</sup> that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus,”



# REFRESHMENT IS THE URGENT NEED OF OUR DAY

- 1 Thessalonians 4:18; “Therefore encourage one another with these words.”
- 1 Thessalonians 5:11; “Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.”
- 1 Thessalonians 5:14; “And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all.”
- Hebrews 3:13; “But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.”
- Hebrews 10:25; “not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.”

