

## **2 Timothy 1 (15-18) – This is How to Be a Blessing**

Intro: 1947 – Jackie Robinson, “Pee Wee” Reese, and the arm around the shoulder. This text is not everything *about* the subject, or the last word *on* the subject, but it is foundational *to* the subject. This message does not include all the issues that this particular text addresses, but this is biblically based instruction on *this* subject from *this* text of scripture.

**Issue** (vs.15) – Paul’s situation – He was in prison and was about to die, and was forsaken by his friends, especially two he had apparently counted on. Demas had left him (4:10), and his other associates were ministering elsewhere. He was seemingly left to bear his sorrows alone. Yet, here was Onesiphorus. His name means, “profit-bearer”. He chose to be a blessing despite considerable risk. He had left Ephesus and dared to care, to come to Rome to help Paul.

**Invested** (vs.16) – *he often refreshed me* – he was an encouragement. It means “cooled again” – when things go bad we can “lose our cool”, and we need to be refreshed. How wonderful when someone can be like a breath of fresh air when we feel deflated. Often, more than one time, not just blessing someone but being a blessing, and ongoing source of support.

**Identified** (vs.16) – *was not ashamed of my chains* – he had empathy. It seems that many others, like Phygelus and Hermogenes, were ashamed, and afraid. Onesiphorus did not allow the dangers connected with Paul’s imprisonment to frighten or embarrass him. Others might have thought “what are we going to get out of this but possible death (Matthew 25:31-46 / Hebrews 10:32-34)!” Onesiphorus didn’t give excuses just because his friend got into some trouble. This was going to cost him something, but he was unselfish.

**Intensity** (vs.17) – *he searched for me earnestly and found me* – he gave diligent effort. When Onesiphorus searched for Paul and came to see him again and again, he took his life into his own hands. It was dangerous to keep asking where a certain political prisoner could be found. It was dangerous to visit him, and even more dangerous to keep on visiting him. Romans 12:9 (KJV) – don’t be a counterfeit, be willing to put love into action. Same word used in 1 Peter 1:22, where it is translated “sincere”. Our love should be real, not fake (James 2:15-16 / 1 John 3:18).

**Integrity** (vs.18) – *all the service he rendered at Ephesus* – his life was a picture, an illustration, an example. He had integrity. He had been kind to Paul before, and he did not leave him now in the time of trouble. Other people knew he was a blessing. Proverbs 17:17 / 2 Corinthians 7:6

This was a blessing not only to Paul, but also to others associated with Onesiphorus. Paul prayed for his whole house, for present and future blessings. People talk about all these “anointings”, but we need more with the “Onesiphorus anointing”. Are you lifting anyone up? Are you a fair-weather friend, like Phygelus and Hermogenes? Do you follow up and follow through? Are you Onesiphorus to anyone? Do you need one? We all do. But before you pray for one, pray that you could be one. Ask God who you should diligently seek out, not be ashamed of, and refresh.

You are not alone: Christ is Onesiphorus to you. He has taken on your issue, invested in you, identified with your sin, is not ashamed of you, has intense love for you, and is the illustration of God for you. He is your blessing. Share Him, in word and in deed, and you will be a blessing.