

FINAL WORDS
PART 2-REGARDING PEOPLE
2 TIMOTHY 4:19-22

Introduction

As believers, it is good for us to show a personal interest in other believers.

This is a lesson that can be learned from the closings of Paul's letters to the Churches.

He always sent greetings from believers who were with him as well as greeting believers in the Churches to which he was writing.

And remember, these were the very last recorded words that Paul ever wrote.

I. PAUL TOOK TIME TO GREET SOME SPECIALLY BELOVED BELIEVERS! (Vs 19)

We know that Paul loved and cared for people in general.

But several people held a special place in Paul's heart.

A. PRISCA AND AQUILA (or PRISCILLA AND AQUILA).

Priscilla and Aquila were companions of Paul. They were originally residents of Rome. But the Roman emperor, Claudius, had the Jews banished from Rome in A.D. 52.

So, Priscilla and Aquila moved to Corinth. They were the couple who opened their home to the Apostle Paul when he first entered Corinth. They were also the couple who went into business with Paul as tent-makers.

They later traveled with Paul to Ephesus where they settled.
(Acts 18:18-21)

The chief characteristic of this couple was their hospitality—i.e. they had both an open heart and an open house.

Wherever we find them, we find that their home is the center for Christian worship and fellowship.

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1. They Received The Young Preacher, Apollos, Into Their Home To Instruct Him In The Faith!
(Acts 18:24-26)

2. They Had A Church That Was Meeting In Their Home In Ephesus! (1 Corinthians 16:19)

3. Paul Mentioned The Church Meeting In Their Home At Corinth! (Romans 16:3-5a)

Paul said they had risked their lives in order to save him.

This may have referred to the attacks made on Paul and the Church in Corinth (*Acts 18:6, 12-17*), or it may have referred to some other severe persecution that took place in Ephesus. (*1 Corinthians 15:32; 2 Corinthians 1:8*)

In either case, this godly couple, Priscilla and Aquila, had risked their lives in order to save the life of Paul who was one of God's dear servants.

B. ONESIPHORUS.

This is the second time in this letter that Paul has mentioned Onesiphorus. (*Cf. 2 Timothy 1:16-18*)

Onesiphorus was a faithful believer and a dynamic example of a courageous man, a man who was committed to helping people even if it did endanger his life.

This passage gives every indication that he dearly loved Paul. When Onesiphorus heard that Paul had been arrested and imprisoned in Rome, he apparently struck out for Rome to see what he could do to help.

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The word "*sought*" in *vs. 17* indicates that he had some difficulty finding the prison where Paul was chained.

For two years Paul had been allowed to live in a rented house and to use it as his living quarters despite the fact that he was a prisoner.

But apparently at some point he was put behind bars in one of the security prisons where the most notorious criminals were imprisoned.

Whatever the case, Onesiphorus did not give up his search. He "*sought [Paul] out very diligently.*"

The idea is not only that he sought, but that he sought against great difficulty until he found Paul.

Note his ministry to Paul:

1. It Says That He Refreshed Paul Often!

This would certainly include visits and the encouragement and comfort of sharing Scripture and prayer.

And, if allowed, it might have included food and clothing and the provision of any medical or financial needs Paul might have had.

2. It Says That He Was Not Ashamed Of Paul's Imprisonment!

i.e. He was not ashamed to be identified with Paul as a friend and fellow believer in the Lord Jesus Christ. He stood by the side of Paul as a follower of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

3. We Can See Paul's Deep Appreciation And Love For Onesiphorus!

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He prays that God will have mercy upon this dear saint in the day of judgment—he prayed that God would reward Onesiphorus for the many things he did for him when he was a prisoner.

Oliver B. Greene said, "*The majority of friends (so-called) will forsake us in the darkest hour of need; but the friend who is to be treasured as a jewel is the man who stands with us when we need encouragement, when all others are against us, and seemingly we have lost the battle. No words could ever express the worth of such a friend!*"

PAUL TOOK TIME TO GREET SOME SPECIALLY BELOVED BELIEVERS

II. PAUL SUPPLIED SOME INFORMATION ABOUT OTHERS!

Paul knew that Timothy and others at the Church at Ephesus longed for information about certain fellow laborers.

A. Erastus.

Romans 16:23 calls him, "*the chamberlain of the city.*" (i.e. He was the treasurer of the city of Corinth.)

So, that means that **He was a man:**

- **who was highly respected both among believers and the world.**
- **who was given great responsibility who obviously could be trusted.**
- **a man of courage who stood up for his convictions and did not let political office nor friends and associates in high places keep him from confessing Christ.**

At some point, Erastus was apparently called to preach the Gospel, and eventually he left political office.

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He is seen on a mission tour with Timothy (*Acts 19:22*) and is mentioned in our text as still being faithful in the latter months of Paul's life. (*2 Timothy 4:20*)

B. Trophimus.

Trophimus was from Ephesus. There are only three references to him in the Scripture.

He was the highly esteemed leader in the Church at Ephesus who was entrusted with their offerings to the poor at Jerusalem (*Acts 20:4-5*).

He was the reason why the Jews of Jerusalem rioted and arrested Paul. (*Acts 21:28-30*)

He was left sick by Paul in Miletus.
(*2 Timothy 4:20*)

Apparently, Paul was unable to heal him. This shows that it is not always God's will to heal. But we must always remember God wills to heal sometimes.

III. PAUL REQUESTED HELP FOR HIMSELF! (Vs 21a)

He needed Timothy's presence and encouragement
And no doubt, he needed the things he asked Timothy to bring.

IV. PAUL PASSED ON THE GREETINGS OF OTHERS! (Vs 21b)

Who were these folks?
After all, Paul had just said that Luke alone was with him.

They were probably believers who lived in Rome and who occasionally visited Paul, but who did not visit him too often nor really minister to his needs.

Regarding Eubulus and Pudens and Claudia: this is the only mention of these names in the New Testament.

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However, they and Timothy must have known each other for them to be sending greetings to Timothy.

Regarding Linus: this, too, is the only mention of him in the New Testament. There are some early Christian writers who say that he was the first bishop of Rome and that he served as bishop for about twelve years (Herbert Lockyer. *All the Men of the Bible*, p.218).

V. PAUL GAVE THE BENEDICTION OF CHRIST AND OF GRACE!

These are the last recorded words written by Paul.

He loved both Timothy and the Church at Ephesus and he wanted two simple things for them.

A. That the Lord Jesus Christ, God's own dear Son, might be with their spirit.

B. That the grace of God—His favor and blessings—be with all.