

Let's Visit

A publication of the Center Church of Christ
110 Hurst Street Center, Texas 75935



Volume 9

Number 26

July 3, 2022

Onesiphorus Beautiful Vocation

I want you to visualize a Roman Legionary pacing back and forth in front of a prison cell. The prisoner in the cell is a preacher. The guard cannot help but have a kindly interest for this strange preacher he has been sent to guard.

He seems to notice the old preacher is not doing so well today. Paul is usually a very cheerful soul. The guard has heard Paul's songs in the night again and again. He has heard Paul urge others to rejoice in the Lord. He knows that as a rule, Paul practices what he preaches. Yet, this morning, the old preacher seems depressed. It is no wonder, with death staring him in the face. Winter is coming and he has no cloak. And that ingrate Demas has deserted him.

Suddenly, his thought are interrupted by the arrival of a visitor. It is Onesiphorus. The guard immediately recognizes this man with the sunny face. He is glad for Paul's sake that he has come. This is in fact, not his first visit to Paul. After those visits, Paul is always unusually cheerful.

Onesiphorus asks to see Brother Paul. The guard tells him he thinks Paul will be needing him today. He informs him Paul had a bad night and he takes him to see Paul. Paul and Onesiphorus greet each other warmly. The guard leaves them alone.

Later, when Onesiphorus is gone, the guard again looks at the prisoner. His whole mood has changed. He is no longer holding his face in his hands. There is a new light in his eyes and a new spring in his step. He is even singing softly to himself. The guard asks if Paul and his friend had a good visit. Paul replies it was excellent. "He refreshes me".

Paul tells Timothy that Onesiphorus often refreshed him and was not ashamed of his imprisonment. What this good man said to Paul on those visits, we do not know. They may have talked about the weather. They may have discussed the

future of the young Church. They may have prayed together. Yet, whatever the nature of their conversation, it brought Paul new courage and fresh hope. His coming was like a breath of salt air on the beach. To Paul, seeing this friend was like taking a long walk in a flower garden after being shut up in a musty room.

This is not a description of one single visit from this man. It is a picture of the kind of visit this man was constantly making. Notice, Paul said, "He oft refreshed me" (II Timothy 1:16-17) He served again and again. You see, Onesiphorus had refreshed Paul before. Paul talks about the things he did in Ephesus. He had refreshed Paul there also. Now, in Rome, in prison, the need is far greater.

He still blessed Paul with his cheering ministry. We can also safely say that what this man did for Paul he did for others also. He was a man who refreshed people. How he earned his living, we are not told. He may have been a man of some means. He may have been a small shopkeeper, he perhaps was a day laborer. He may have been a preacher whose preaching was not successful. Whatever his occupation, it was a sideline with him. His real vocation was being refreshing. He heartened folks and he braced them. He brought courage to the cheerless and depressed. He enabled those who knew him to say, "he oft refreshed me".

In choosing to refresh others, Onesiphorus chose the same vocation as Jesus. Remember, Jesus said

(Continued on page 2)

In Search Of The Lord's Way



Tune in to this Television Ministry
KSLA 12 – Shreveport -7:30 a.m. Sunday
DISH channel 239-6:00 a.m. Sunday
DIRECT TV channel 307 -6:00 a.m. Sunday

Gathered Here and There



Today's Sermon

“Will God Bless America?”

Our text comes from Proverbs 14:34. What kind of America can we expect God to bless?

For The Pantry. . . Canned Fruit

Onesiphorus Vocation – continued from page 1

in His invitation, “Come and I will give you rest”. That is to say, “I will refresh you”. Jesus brings cheer to the cheerless and light in the darkness. Jesus refreshes those who respond to that invitation.

We need those that refresh us. Paul was a man of courage and great faith. He was a stalwart man. He was a man of wonderful intimacy with God. He had refreshed and cheered others in his ministry. Yet, even Paul needed the refreshing ministry of Onesiphorus.

If someone like Paul needed a visit from one who refreshed, it is no wonder ordinary people like us need it. There are so many who are discouraged. There are so many who are baffled and defeated. There are so many finding more tears than laughter. There are so many who are lonely. There are so many who are dead tired and ready to faint. No one is more greatly needed than someone who can change our hopelessness into expectancy and our self-contempt into self-respect.

You see, I have an idea that Onesiphorus let Paul know that he appreciated him. You know, it is refreshing to be appreciated. Have we ever thought how much more smoothly the machinery of the world would run if it were oiled now and then with

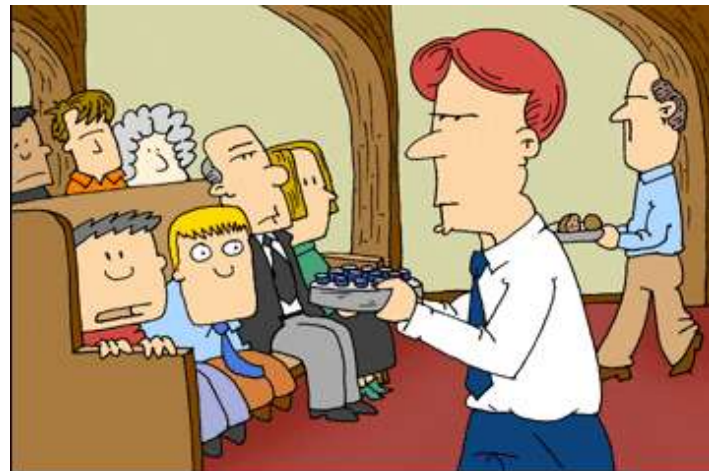
the lubricant of appreciation? We do our work everywhere better when we know we are appreciated. Appreciation is as refreshing as bread to the hungry and water to the thirsty.

I also feel that Onesiphorus refreshed Paul by his sympathy. Not that he told Paul he sympathized with him, he didn't have to. The fact that he was there showed that he cared. Real sympathy is always refreshing to those with burdened hearts. There are times when we all need it.

Onesiphorus refreshed Paul by what he was. He was a brother in Christ. We too can be refreshing. When we drink at the fountain of Living Water, Jesus Christ, we can then refresh others with a Christlike spirit.

tp

On The Lighter Side. . .



THIS IS GOING TO BE A LONG SERVICE
... THEY'RE SERVING FOOD

* * * * *

Think about this. . .

A bright young boy of seven took the large dusty Bible from the table in the living room. After looking through its dusty pages a while he asked his mother, “Isn't this God's book?” His mother of course replied that it was. “Well, we'd better send it back, hadn't wee, since we never use it” said the lad.

-selected

Miscellaneous

Save The Date!



September 11th

Begin right now to pray for this to be a great day, invite your friends and neighbors to come and plan to be here!

* * * * *

A Great Big Thank You!

We want to give a great big thank you to those of you who brought food to help provide the noon meal for the family of Joyce Holt this past Monday. The members of this congregation always answer the call when there is a need for food to be prepared and this was no exception. So again, thank you for answering the call in the same unselfish and generous way that you always do.

If you have not given your name and phone number to be added to the list of those to call, or if you are unsure if your name is on the updated list, please see Sarah Fletcher, Jana O'Brien or Norma Perkins and they will make sure you are on the list. If you brought food for the meal and have not gotten your dishes, the dishes are on the front seat in the "training room" at the back of the auditorium.

tp

**Each One Bring One!
52 in '22
Invite Someone Each Week!**



Those To Remember In Prayer

Tiffanee Klein was kicked in the hand by a horse on Tuesday and is recovering from surgery required to repair her hand.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Roxie Bostick , Gene Bradshaw, Martha Jean Golden, Geneva Graves, Alice Hall, Thelma Hinton, Ted Holt, Debra Pate, Jerry Pate, Wayne Sims, Betty Willis

"EXTENDED FAMILY" AND FRIENDS

Mitchell Anthony (LaResa Livingston's brother) Ana Blair (friend of Debra Pate) Donna Boullion (Ted and Joyce Holt's niece) Gil Boullion (Ted and Joyce Holt's nephew) back surgery Gayle Foster (Cancer) Dalton Hendrix (Joyce Holt's great-great nephew) Sandra Hogan (friend of Roxie Bostick) Suzie Hogan (Roxie Bostick's sister) Laurie King (Co-worker of Mike O'brien,) cancer : Bruce Ligon (friend of Tim and Norma Perkins) Liam Martinez (11 months old) Lamar McCormick (friend of Sarah Fletcher, multiple health issues) Elsie Lee McDaniel (Alice Hall's sister-in-law) Calvin Smith (Debra Pate's uncle) heart and blood pressure issues; Katilyn Tate (Roxie Bostick's daughter-in-law) Jared and Natalie Bostick (Mike and Roxie's son and daughter-in-law) Marc Tate (Jana O'Brien's brother) Pat Tate (Jana O'Brien's mother) Tina Vaughn - cancer

THOSE IN THE MILITARY AND FOREIGN SERVICE

Amanda Bradshaw, Leland Bradshaw, Michele Bradshaw
Jeremiah Soape and Lucas Tate

If you want someone added to the prayer list, please fill out a card and put it in the offering plate.

The Bible will keep you from sin, or sin will keep you from the Bible.

- D. L. Moody





Across The Preacher's Desk

There is a tender story told in Mark 14:1-9 of something which happened during some very difficult days for Jesus. The Jewish leaders were plotting his death and He was surrounded by his critics and His enemies. In this narrative, we see Him going to the little village of Bethany. It is the night before Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem and He goes to a party in His honor in the home of Simon, a leper.

Picture the scene as Jesus is reclining at the table and John tells us Mary came and anointed the feet of Jesus (John 12:1-3). Well, the critics began to raise their voices and talk about her. Jesus said to leave her alone, she had done what she could.

Have you ever thought about the love that caused her to do this? Have you ever experienced that kind of love? An unexpected act of pure love, that is what you see in this beautiful story. She loved Jesus and she did what she could. She didn't have much, but what she had she gave to Jesus. Not to Simon the Leper, not to Peter or James or John. What she did, she did for Jesus.

God loves us more than we can ever love Him. You see, we can never pay Him back for what He has done. God doesn't require the debt to be repaid. He just wants us to accept what He has done and to love Him for it. He wants us to live a life obedient to His will. He only wants us to do what we can.

it's something to think about. . . .tbp

**The Lord's Plan
For Evangelism –
Each one Bring one!
52 in '22!**