

# 2 Timothy 1:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The Lord grant unto him that he may find mercy of the Lord in that day: and in how many things he ministered unto me at Ephesus, thou knowest very well.

## Analysis

**The Lord grant unto him that he may find mercy of the Lord in that day: and in how many things he ministered unto me at Ephesus, thou knowest very well.** Paul prays that Onesiphorus "may find mercy of the Lord in that day" (heurein eleos para kyriou en ekeinē tē hēmera, εὐρεῖν ἔλεος παρὰ κυρίου ἐν ἐκείνῃ τῇ ἡμέρᾳ). "That day" refers to Christ's return and final judgment (v. 12)—the day when believers receive rewards for faithful service (1 Corinthians 3:12-15, 2 Corinthians 5:10). Paul anticipates that Onesiphorus's sacrificial service will receive divine commendation and reward.

The verb "find" (heurein, εὐρεῖν) echoes v. 17—as Onesiphorus diligently sought and found Paul, so Paul prays he will find mercy from Christ. This isn't works-righteousness (salvation is by grace, Ephesians 2:8-9) but recognition that faithful service results in eternal rewards. Christ promises to reward even cups of cold water given in His name (Matthew 10:42). Onesiphorus's ministry will not be forgotten.

Paul references Onesiphorus's earlier ministry in Ephesus: "in how many things he ministered unto me at Ephesus, thou knowest very well" (hosa en Ephesō diēkonēsen, beltion sy ginōskeis, ὅσα ἐν Ἐφέσῳ διηκόνησεν, βέλτιον σὺ γινώσκεις). The verb diakoneō (διακονέω) means "serve, minister"—humble, practical service. Timothy, having worked alongside Onesiphorus in Ephesus, knew

his consistent faithfulness better than Paul. This establishes Onesiphorus as model of faithful service Timothy should emulate.

## Historical Context

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The phrase "in that day" was technical terminology in Jewish and early Christian eschatology, referring to the Day of the Lord when Messiah would return to judge, reward, and establish His kingdom (Joel 2:31, Malachi 4:5, Matthew 7:22, 2 Thessalonians 1:10). Early Christians lived with urgent expectation of Christ's imminent return, motivating sacrificial service and endurance of persecution. The hope of future reward enabled believers to suffer present loss cheerfully (Hebrews 10:34, 11:26). Paul's prayer reflects this eschatological orientation—present faithfulness will be rewarded at Christ's return. This hope sustained countless martyrs and faithful servants throughout church history.

## Related Passages

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**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## Study Questions

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1. How does living with conscious awareness of "that day" when Christ returns to judge and reward affect your daily decisions, priorities, and service?
2. What "ministries" of practical, humble service are you performing that, though perhaps unnoticed now, will receive Christ's commendation at His return?
3. How can Onesiphorus's example of consistent faithful service in multiple locations (Ephesus and Rome) challenge you toward lifelong faithfulness rather than sporadic obedience?

## Interlinear Text

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δῶη	αὐτῷ	ὁ	κυρίου	εὐρεῖν	ἔλεος	παρὰ	κυρίου
grant	unto him	G3588	The Lord	that he may find	mercy	of	The Lord
G1325	G846		G2962	G2147	G1656	G3844	G2962
ἐν	ἐκείνῃ	τῇ	ἡμέρᾳ	καὶ	ὅσα	ἐν	Ἐφέσῳ
at	that	G3588	day	and	in how many things	at	Ephesus
G1722	G1565		G2250	G2532	G3745	G1722	G2181
διηκόνησεν	βέλτιον	σὺ	γινώσκεις				
he ministered unto me	very well	thou	knowest				
G1247	G957	G4771	G1097				

## Additional Cross-References

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**Hebrews 6:10** (Parallel theme): For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.

**2 Timothy 1:12** (Parallel theme): For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.

**1 Timothy 1:3** (Parallel theme): As I besought thee to abide still at Ephesus, when I went into Macedonia, that thou mightest charge some that they teach no other doctrine,

**2 Timothy 1:16** (Grace): The Lord give mercy unto the house of Onesiphorus; for he oft refreshed me, and was not ashamed of my chain: