

# 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, εύρεῖν 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, εύρεῖν) 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 εὑρεῖν 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: