

2 Timothy 4:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Salute Prisca and Aquila, and the household of Onesiphorus.

Analysis

Salute Prisca and Aquila, and the household of Onesiphorus. Paul sends greetings to faithful friends. "Prisca and Aquila" (Priskan kai Akylan, Πρίσκαν καὶ Ἀκύλαν)—this couple appears frequently in Paul's ministry (Acts 18:2-3, 18-26; Romans 16:3-4; 1 Corinthians 16:19). Priscilla (Prisca) and Aquila were tentmakers who worked with Paul in Corinth, traveled with him, instructed Apollos in Ephesus, and hosted house churches. They risked their lives for Paul (Romans 16:4). Their mention here suggests they were in or near Ephesus where Timothy served.

"The household of Onesiphorus" (ton Onēsiphorou oikon, τὸν Ὀνησιφόρου οἶκον)—Paul greeted Onesiphorus personally earlier (1:16-18), commending his faithful service. Here he greets the household, possibly because Onesiphorus had died (accounting for past-tense verbs in 1:16-18) or was traveling. Ancient households included family, servants, and associates. Onesiphorus's faithful service extended to his entire household, who continued supporting Paul's ministry.

These greetings reveal Paul's extensive relational network and warm affection for faithful coworkers. Even from prison facing execution, he maintains pastoral concern for individuals, remembering to send personal greetings. Ministry isn't merely preaching but relationships—knowing, loving, and serving people. Paul's example: godly leaders invest in people, remember faithful service, express appreciation, and maintain relationships despite geographic separation. These aren't trivial social niceties but expressions of Christian love and community.

Historical Context

Prisca and Aquila were Jewish Christians expelled from Rome under Claudius (AD 49), relocated to Corinth where they met Paul, then moved to Ephesus, and apparently returned to Rome (Romans 16:3) before returning to Asia. Their mobility and hospitality made them invaluable to Paul's mission. House churches met in their homes wherever they lived. Onesiphorus's household similarly showed consistent faithfulness. These families exemplified Christian hospitality and service. The greetings preserved in Scripture honor their faithfulness across centuries, fulfilling Jesus's promise that acts of service for His sake would be remembered (Matthew 26:13).

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. Who are the faithful coworkers, supporters, and friends you should greet, thank, and express appreciation to?
2. How can you and your household, like Aquila, Prisca, and Onesiphorus, serve God's people and advance gospel ministry?
3. Do you maintain warm personal relationships in ministry or become so task-focused that you neglect expressing love and appreciation to people?

Interlinear Text

Ἀσπασαι	Πρίσκαν	καὶ	Ἀκύλαν	καὶ	τὸν	Ὀνησιφόρου
Salute	Prisca	and	Aquila	and	G3588	of Onesiphorus
G782	G4251	G2532	G207	G2532		G3683
οἶκον						
the household						
G3624						

Additional Cross-References

Acts 18:2 (Parallel theme): And found a certain Jew named Aquila, born in Pontus, lately come from Italy, with his wife Priscilla; (because that Claudius had commanded all Jews to depart from Rome:) and came unto them.

1 Corinthians 16:19 (Parallel theme): The churches of Asia salute you. Aquila and Priscilla salute you much in the Lord, with the church that is in their house.

Acts 18:18 (Parallel theme): And Paul after this tarried there yet a good while, and then took his leave of the brethren, and sailed thence into Syria, and with him Priscilla and Aquila; having shorn his head in Cenchrea: for he had a vow.

Acts 18:26 (Parallel theme): And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue: whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly.