

## For Further Study

Read and meditate on the passage below:

*“You know that everyone in the province of Asia has deserted me, including Phygelus and Hermogenes. May the Lord show mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, because he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains. On the contrary, when he was in Rome, he searched hard for me until he found me. May the Lord grant that he will find mercy from the Lord on that day! You know very well in how many ways he helped me in Ephesus.” (2 Tim. 1:15-18)*

In this letter to Timothy, Paul talks about being deserted by others who were not loyal to him. Perhaps in hyperbole, he says that everyone from Asia abandoned him and even mentions two people by name. Perhaps these two were people that Paul deeply trusted and whose betrayal hurt him the most.

Conversely, Paul speaks about the household of Onesiphorus for their great loyalty to him. Even when Paul was in chains under false charges, these friends refreshed Paul and were not ashamed of him. Going the extra mile, Onesiphorus sought out and found Paul when under arrest in Rome, reminding Paul of the support he was given when in Ephesus years prior. Paul concludes with gratitude and hope that Onesiphorus will experience a reciprocating mercy to what he has shown to him in his time of need.

Who has shown great loyalty to you in times of distress? As you reflect on the people that you rely and depend on regularly, consider how you can express your gratitude to them this week.

Take some time to also pray, thanking God for his loyalty to you and sharing with him about the struggles you are facing right now.

**PRACTICE:**  
Thank friends who  
have been loyal to you.

