

## **PAUL'S ENCOURAGING FRIENDS**

### **Acts 16:34-35**

**Tonight we'll consider three  
especially encouraging friends of Paul**

#### **I. THE PHILIPPIAN JAILOR** - Acts 16:33-34

##### **A. AN ATTENTIVE MAN (33a)**

- Washing their wounds that very hour

1. An immediate task: This was their most pressing need
2. A difficult task
3. Perhaps a public task

##### **B. AN OBEDIENT MAN (33b)**

- Immediately he was baptized

1. Ready to identify with Christ
2. Ready to lead his family in doing so
3. Ready to thrill the heart of these two missionaries

##### **C. A HOSPITABLE MAN (34a)**

- Feeding them in his house

##### **D. AN EXCITED MAN (34b)**

- Greatly rejoicing

#### **II. EPAPHRODITUS** - Phil. 2:25-30, 4:18

##### **A. AN ACTIVE MAN (25)**

1. To Paul: A brother and fellow worker and soldier
2. To the Philippians: Their messenger and minister

##### **B. A SENSITIVE MAN (26-30)**

1. Concerned about his church family (26)
  - a. Longing for them
  - b. Distressed about them
    - It upsets him that his sickness has upset them
2. Committed to Paul's needs (30)
  - a. His awareness: Recognizing unmet needs
  - b. His action: Involved in assisting

Over please >

## C. AN HONORABLE MAN (29)

1. His Reception: Joyfully receive him in the Lord
2. His Regard: Assign great value and distinction to men like this

III. ONESIPHORUS - II Tim. 1:16-18, 4:19

## A. A COMFORTING MAN

- He often refreshed Paul

1. His help: Refreshment
  - a. The word carries the idea of providing a cool breeze to a man about to faint
  - b. Note that Paul's situation was very difficult (See 4:9-17)
2. His habit: Helping often not occasionally
  - a. This was nothing new for him
  - b. His ministry in Ephesus was something well known by Timothy (18)

## B. A BRAVE MAN

- Unashamed of Paul's chains

1. His position: Not ashamed for Paul's condition
2. His zeal: Not afraid to seek Paul out
3. His association: No afraid to be seen with Paul

## C. A NOTEWORTHY MAN (4:19)

1. Paul sends greetings by way of Timothy
2. Paul knows he will not see Onesiphorus again, but wants him to know that he is not forgotten.

CONCLUSION:**These friends all had different relationships with Paul ...**

- He had known the Philippian jailor for about an hour
- He had known Epaphroditus for probably less than a month
- He had known Onesiphorus for years

**Yet each of them significantly encouraged him.**

*Who will you inspire this week?*

*Will you be:*

1. Attentive like the Philippian jailor
2. Aware like Epaphroditus
3. Active like Onesiphorus

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