

3 June 2018: Preached by Rev Clement Chew

Topic: A Study of 2 Timothy: Ashamed of Christ's Servants?

Scripture text: 2 Timothy 1:15-18

1. Christians must not be ashamed of the servants of Christ. Instead, they must seek to be associated with them.
2. Firstly, we must know the Word of God to discern if one is genuinely a servant of Christ. All the churches of Asia Minor intentionally disassociated ("turned away") themselves with Apostle Paul because they felt ashamed of him as a prisoner of the Romans. Rejection of Apostle Paul meant rejection of Christ as he was being imprisoned for the cause of Christ. The decision of the majority is only right when it is according to God's truth. Let us minister to the servants of Christ in their greatest need.
3. Secondly, we must demonstrate devotion to the cause of Christ by ministering to suffering saints. Thank God for the house of Onesiphorus who counted it his honour to be a companion of Christ's servant. He spared no effort ("very diligently") in seeking out the Apostle Paul and purposefully went to encourage him. Let us pray for the mind of Christ, courage and loyalty to stand by the side of Christ's servants.
4. Thirdly, a Christian is expected to be a follower of Christ. Onesiphorus followed Apostle Paul because Apostle Paul followed Christ and was persecuted for His Name's sake. Onesiphorus wanted to be a partaker of Christ's sufferings by standing by Christ's servant in his time of need (Matt 25:34-40). Likewise, our love for our fellow brethren must not be in word or tongue, but in deed and truth.