

Knowing, Loving, Serving Christ ... Together

Week 1 :: Philemon 1:1-7 10 FEB 2012
Week 2 :: Philemon 1:8-14 17 FEB 2012
Week 3 :: Philemon 1:15-21 23 FEB 2012
Week 4 :: Philemon 1:22-25 23 FEB 2012

REVIEW Philemon

STARTING FEB 2ND 2012
WITH KENNETH AND BILL

OVERARCHING THEMES

1. BROTHERHOOD in Christ
- a bondservant received as an apostle by Philemon
2. Love
- Paul's care and concern to repair a broken relationship
- Repeated words, such as "love" and "beloved"
3. Spiritual \equiv Physical
- Paul compares/contrasts what ONESIMUS owes with THE spiritual gain PHILEMON RECEIVED FROM PAUL.

10 FEB 2012

Week 1 :: Philemon 1:1-7

- 1 Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, To Philemon our beloved fellow worker
- 2 and Apphia our sister and Archippus our fellow soldier, and the church in your house:
- 3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
- 4 I thank my God always when I remember you in my prayers,
- 5 because I hear of your love and of the faith that you have toward the Lord Jesus and for all the saints,
- 6 and I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective for the full knowledge of every good thing that is in us for the sake of Christ.
- 7 For I have derived much joy and comfort from your love, my brother, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you.

cf. v. 20

cf. v. 12+20

- PAUL IS IN PRISON AT THE WRITING OF THIS LETTER TO PHILEMON.

• IMPRISONED FOR CHRIST'S SAKE

- PHILEMON: BELOVED FELLOW-WORKER

• PRECIOUS TO PAUL, BELONGING TO A COMP. OF LOVE AND HAS DEMO'D HIS LOVE

• NOTE OF ZIAN LOVE ECHOES IN REMAINDER OF EPISTLE

- APPHIA: POSSIBLE WIFE TO PHILEMON

- ARCHIPPUS: cf. Col. 4:12

- THEMES IN INTRO (VS. 4-7) WHICH REAPPEAR: PRAYER, LOVE, FELLOWSHIP, HEART, REFRESH, AND BROTHER.

- "HEAR OF YOUR LOVE": NOT UNKNOWN NECESSARILY, BUT RECEIVING REGULAR REPORTS

• LOVE FOR ALL THE SAINTS AND FAITH TOWARD THE LORD JESUS.

- PAUL'S THANKSGIVING (VS. 5) LEADS DIRECTLY TO INTERCESSION (VS. 6)

• EXACT MEANING DIFFICULT TO DETERMINE

• SHARING: ACTIVE, NOT SIMPLY ALMSGIVING BUT GENEROSITY AND LIBERALITY.

• A PRACTICAL EXPRESSION OF OUR FAITH.

• THAT PHILEMON'S GENEROSITY MIGHT LEAD HIM EFFECTIVELY INTO A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF ALL THE BLESSINGS THAT ARE HIS IN CHRIST.

- PAUL'S THANKSGIVING GROUNDED IN PHILEMON'S LOVE DEMO'D TO OTHERS CONCRETELY.

• THE "HEART" OCCURS 3X, MEANS 'INMOST FEELINGS' OR 'VERY SELF'

•• TOTAL PERSONALITY AT DEEPEST LEVEL.

•• PAUL SPEAKING DIRECTLY AND PERSONALLY.

17 FEB 2012

Week 2 :: Philemon 1:8-14

THE SITUATION

REASON #1

- 8 Accordingly, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do what is required, WHAT IS PROPER
- 9 yet for love's sake I prefer to appeal to you—I, Paul, an old man and now a prisoner also for Christ Jesus—FOR "AMBASSADOR"
- 10 I appeal to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I became in my imprisonment. LAST WORD IN GRK
- 11 CONTRAST Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me.)
- 12 I am sending him back to you, sending my very heart. cf. v. 7 + 20
- 13 I would have been glad to keep him with me, in order that he might serve me on your behalf, during my imprisonment for the gospel, "AS YOUR REP."
- 14 but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your goodness might not be by compulsion but of your own accord.

→ FOR SENDING HIM BACK

- Paul's boldness did not rest on authority, BUT B/C OF THEIR KIAN RELATIONSHIP, THEIR CLOSE CONNECTION (V. 17)
 - HE COULD SPEAK OPENLY AND WITH AFFECTION.
- PAUL KNOWS OF PHILEMON'S KINDNESS + GENEROSITY IN THE PAST AND SO ENTREATS/REQUESTS.
 - LOOKING FORWARD TO PHILEMON'S LOVE BEING SHOWN ONCE AGAIN
 - REQUEST COMES FROM SOMEONE WELL KNOWN TO PHILEMON, WITH AUTHORITY (AMBASSADOR OR FATHER) AND WITH SHARING IN CHRIST'S SUFFERINGS.
- PAUL IS INTERCEDING ON ONESIMUS'S BEHALF NOT MAKING A REQUEST ABOUT HIM.
 - MORE INTENSE AND MORE PERSONAL
- WHAT WAS ONCE TRUE (USELESS) IS NO LONGER TRUE (USEFUL)
 - A PHRYGIAN SLAVE PROVERBIALY WAS UNRELIABLE AND UNFAITHFUL.
 - A NEW DESCRIPTION THAT TRULY FIT HIS NAME (ONESIMUS = "PROFITABLE" OR "USEFUL" → PAUL BEARS WITNESS AND CONFIDENT PHILEMON WILL AGREE.
- IT IS AS IF PAUL, IN THE RUNAWAY SLAVE, CAME TO PHILEMON IN PERSON.
- PAUL'S DESIRE OR PERSONAL PREFERENCE IS EXPRESSED (V. 13) BUT HE FOREGOES ITS REALIZATION (V. 14).
 - SERVICE — HELP, IN THE SVC. OF THE GOSPEL.
- PAUL DID NOT WANT TO BREAK FELLOWSHIP BY KEEPING HIM. PAUL DID NOT WANT TO SUGGEST COERCION OR FORCE HIS DECISION.
 - PHILEMON'S "GOODNESS" IS STILL UNSTATED BY PAUL. — "YOUR good deed"

23 FEB 2012

Week 3 :: Philemon 1:15-21

REASON #2
THE REQUEST

15 For this perhaps is why he was parted from you for a while, that you might have him back forever,

16 no longer as a bondservant but more than a bondservant, as a beloved brother especially to me, but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord. *LIKE PAUL TO PHILEMON NOW PAUL TO ONESIMUS.*

17 So if you consider me your partner, receive him as you would receive me. *κοινωνῶν*

18 If he has wronged you at all, or owes you anything, charge that to my account.

19 (I, Paul, write this with my own hand: I will repay it) to say nothing of your owing me even your own self.

20 Yes, brother, I want some benefit from you in the Lord. Refresh my heart in Christ.

cf. v. 7 *cf. v. 12 + 7*

21 Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

NOTES
NEXT PAGE

- PAUL DID NOT KNOW GOD'S DESIGNS BUT PERHAPS GOD'S HIDDEN PURPOSE WORKED THESE WRONGS FOR GOOD

• IF SO, THEN PHILEMON SHOULD RECEIVE HIM BACK IN A NEW RELATIONSHIP THAT WOULD ENDURE FOREVER.

- PAUL DESCRIBES THE ACTUAL STATE OF ONESIMUS WHETHER PHILEMON RECOGNIZES IT OR NOT.

• ONESIMUS IS ADDRESSED IN SAME WAY AS PHILEMON ("BELOVED BROTHER"); HE IS NOW ALSO A PART OF THE BODY OF CHRIST

• RELATIONSHIPS ARE NOW CONDUCTED IN LIGHT OF BELONGING TO THE SAME LORD.

- IF ONESIMUS IS A BELOVED BROTHER IN THE HIGHEST SENSE TO PAUL, THEN DOUBLY SO TO PHILEMON: NATURAL HUMAN RELATIONSHIP AND IN THE LORD.

• NOT MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE SPHERES BUT FLESH IS NOT THE DECISIVE ONE.

- PAUL BASES HIS APPEAL ON THE CLOSE TIE BT HIMSELF AND PHILEMON.

• PAUL IDENTIFIES HIMSELF WITH ONESIMUS.

• ONESIMUS SHOULD BE TREATED AS A FELLOW CHRISTIAN

- PAUL DOES NOT WANT ANY POSSIBLE HINDRANCE TO PHILEMON'S FAVORABLE RECEPTION OF ONESIMUS.

• AS A FATHER FOR HIS SON, PAUL STANDS GOOD FOR ANY CHARGES.

- PAUL INSERTS HIS OWN IOU ABOUT ONESIMUS

• DOUBLE "I" WITH HIS OWN NAME GIVE THIS THE CHARACTER OF A FORMAL AND BINDING SIGNATURE.

• USES A TECHNICAL TERM (ONLY HERE IN N.T.) FROM LAW MEANING "TO PAY DAMAGES" OR "MAKE COMPENSATION" - ἀποζημιώω

- A DISCUSSION OF DEBT ALLOWS PAUL TO REMIND PHILEMON OF HIS INDEBTEDNESS TO PAUL.

• NOTE THE INTERPLAY OF PRONOUNS IN VS. 18-19

- PAUL WISHES THAT PHILEMON WOULD FULFILL HIS HEART'S DESIRE. PAUL IS CLOSELY AND PERSONALLY IDENTIFIED WITH ONESIMUS.

23 Feb 2012

Week 4 :: Philemon 1:22-25

22 At the same time, prepare a guest room for me, for I am hoping that through your prayers I will be graciously given to you.

PLURAL, FOR THEIR BENEFIT

23 Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, sends greetings to you,

SHARING PAUL'S CONFINEMENT

24 and so do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke, my fellow workers.

25 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

- PAUL IS CONFIDENT OF HIS OBEDIENCE (V. 21)
- 'OBEDIENCE' IS A STRONG TERM, SIGNIFYING MEN'S OBEDIENCE TO GOD OR TO HIS WILL, AS WELL AS TO HIS CHOSEN REPRESENTATIVES.
- YET WHY DOES PAUL SAY THIS IN HIS APPEAL? PHILEMON'S OBEDIENCE IN THE PAST, DEMAS' SO CONCRETELY (V. 7) GIVES PAUL CONFIDENCE IN PHILEMON'S RESPONSE FOR THIS ACT OF LOVE.

- PAUL DOES NOT ASK FOR PRAYER BUT TAKES IT FOR GRANTED THAT THEY ARE REMEMBERING HIM AND HIS IMPRISONMENT IN PRAYER.
- "GRACIOUSLY GIVEN" - ONLY GOD CAN SECURE PAUL'S RELEASE AND ONLY AS A GIFT FROM GOD