

Philemon

- A wonderful and refreshing book about God's providence and man's redemption.
- Onesimus was Philemon's servant who had run away, come into contact with Paul while imprisoned in Rome, been converted by Paul, confessed the whole sinful story, but won Paul's heart.
- *I appeal to you for my son Onesimus, whom I have begotten while in my chains, 11 who once was unprofitable to you, but now is profitable to you and to me. 12 I am sending him back. You therefore receive him, that is, my own heart, Philem 10-13*

Paul's Prayers 5 – Philemon

- The vicinity of Colossae is a long way from Rome:





Paul spends two years preaching the gospel as he waits his appeal to Nero

Three Taverns
Forum of Appius

Puteoli
Pompeii

ADRIATIC SEA
Brundisium
Tarentum

TYRRHENIAN SEA
Messana
Rhegium

Sicily
Syracuse

Syrtis Minor
Malta

Ship lost in storm

Ship smashes into reef and all aboard swim to shore

PAUL'S VOYAGE TO ROME

ACTS 27:1-28:31

- City
- Etesian winds
- ← Paul's routes
- Appian Way

0 100 200 300 Miles
0 100 200 300 Kilometers



BLACK SEA

THRACE

MACEDONIA

Byzantium (Istanbul)

Heraclea

BITHYNIA AND PONTUS

Ancora (Ankara)

GALATIA

Tavium

Parnassus

CAPPADOCIA

Archelais

CILICIA

Tarsus

Coramytium

Pergamum

Subaste

Ephesus

Tripolis

Seleucia

Crete

Myra

Change to a larger grain ship

Porcius Fetus sends Paul to Rome to appeal to Caesar

Caesarea Maritima

Antipatris

JUDEA

Alexandria

EGYPT

Memphis

Nile R.

Phoenix
Cauda
Crete
Salmone
Lasea
Fair Havens

Delphi

Olympia

Achaia

Athens

Sparta

Cyclades Islands

Berea

Larissa

Amphipolis

Thessalonica

Neapolis

Byzantium

Heraclea

Ancora

Ephesus

Tripolis

Crete

Myra

Phoenix

Cauda

Crete

Salmone

Lasea

Fair Havens

Cyrene

CYRENAICA

Syrtis Major

Sicily

Syracuse

Rhegium

Messana

Malta

Syrtis Minor

Forum of Appius

Three Taverns

Rome

ADRIATIC SEA

TYRRHENIAN SEA

AEGEAN SEA

BLACK SEA

MACEDONIA

THRACE

BITHYNIA AND PONTUS

GALATIA

CAPPADOCIA

CILICIA

JUDEA

EGYPT

Paul's Prayers 5 – Philemon

- Paul, has been using Onesimus in his efforts at Rome, but as an opportunity came to send him back to Philemon, he bought it up.
- *whom I wished to keep with me, that on your behalf he might minister to me in my chains for the gospel. 14 But without your consent I wanted to do nothing, that your good deed might not be by compulsion, as it were, but voluntary. Philem 13-14*

Paul's Prayers 5 – Philemon

- Paul, considers it a possibility that providence is involved in this matter.
- *For perhaps he departed for a while for this purpose, that you might receive him forever, 16 no longer as a slave but more than a slave — a beloved brother, especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord. Philem 13-14*

Paul's Prayers 5 – Philemon

- Paul, does not ask for forgiveness of consequences. He offered to repay those himself.
- *If then you count me as a partner, receive him as you would me. 18 But if he has wronged you or owes anything, put that on my account. 19 I, Paul, am writing with my own hand. I will repay — not to mention to you that you owe me even your own self besides.*
Philem 17-22

Paul's Prayers 5 – Philemon

- Paul's final request centers on what this act of forgiveness would do for him.
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- *Yes, brother, let me have joy from you in the Lord; refresh my heart in the Lord. 21 Having confidence in your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say. Philem 17-22*

Paul's Prayers 5 – Philemon

- *I thank my God, making mention of you always in my prayers, 5 hearing of your love and faith which you have toward the Lord Jesus and toward all the saints, 6 that the sharing of your faith may become effective by the acknowledgment of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus. 7 For we have great joy and consolation in your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed by you, brother. Philemon 1:4-7*

Why Paul was Thankful for Philemon:

- *hearing of your love and faith which you have toward the Lord Jesus and toward all the saints,*
- This is not flattery. It is the truth Paul used both as the foundation of his prayer, and the basis of his request regarding Onesemus.

The Goal & Intent of Paul's Prayers

- that the **sharing** of your faith may become effective
- “*koinonia- fellowship, association, community, communion*”
- Philemon was bringing the saints into fellowship and communion with his faith.
- A worthy goal we should all be considering every time we assemble.
- *And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, Heb 10:24-25*

What Lois and Eunice Did

- *when I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also. 2Tim 1:5*

What Timothy was to Do

- *Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all. 16 Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you. 1 Tim 4:15-16*
- The real goal of Hebrews 11 and the “*great cloud of witnesses*” – fellowship with their faith!

Paul's Prayers 5 – Philemon

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The Goal of This prayer

- that the sharing of your faith may become **effective**
- (*energes* - at work, active).
- The ultimate goal would be for Philemon with God's help to so effectually share his faith and love with others that all the members of the church there will have the same degree of it within themselves.

Paul's Prayers 5 – Philemon

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Acknowledgment of Every Good Thing

- **Effective sharing is accomplished**
- **By** (*en* the instrument or means).
- This is the essential ingredient to share faith.
- Philemon must have ability to **acknowledge**
- (*epi - gnosis* – “*gnosis*” alone is “*knowledge*” with prefix *epi* it becomes precise and correct.
-
- knowledge + experience + wisdom = *epignosis*

epi – gnosis – In all Prayers

- Found in prayers to each church / person.
- Ephesians needed **full knowledge (*epignosis*)** of Him (1:17).
- Philippian's love needed to abound in **full knowledge (*epignosis*)**. (1:9).
- Colossians **full knowledge (*epignosis*)** of His will (1:9) and **full knowledge (*epignosis*)** of God (1:10).
- Philemon **full knowledge (*epignosis*)** of every good thing (6).

Thorough Knowledge

- of every **good thing** (- excelling in any respect, distinguished, good).
- Paul knew he needed this precise and correct knowledge about those things that excel, and are good and useful in the church. We can't exhort, strengthen and refresh without an accurate and ready recall of them.

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Great Joy and Consolation in your Love

- Paul has **great** (with nouns of actions or emotions, that have measure, weight, force, intensity, or size - great, strong, intense, and large).
- Paul wants Philemon to know how intense his joy and gladness are.
- They bring him **consolation** (**paraklesis** - consolation, comfort solace).

hearts of the saints have been refreshed by you, brother

- Refreshed
- (anapauo... to cause one to cease from any movement or labor in order to recover and collect his strength... to give rest, refresh)

Like Barnabas

- *And Joses, who was also named Barnabas by the apostles (which is translated Son of Encouragement), a Levite of the country of Cyprus, 37 having land, sold it, and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet. Acts 4:36-37*

A Son of Exhortation

- He could make people want to serve God
- Take those who were weary and faint and give them encouragement and strength.
- There is room in the kingdom of God for such people.
- They will be welcome everywhere.
- People who make you feel good about the stand you have taken for truth.
- People who encourage you that the moral and doctrinal stands that you have taken