

## **Lesson Four: The Prayer Forgiveness (Part Two)** *Philemon 6-7*

Last week, we began to study Paul's prayer for Philemon, and the current conflict existing between him and Onesimus.

Paul's prayer began with an "\_\_\_\_\_ of Thanksgiving."

This week, we continue in this prayer, and we find what it was that Paul specifically prayed for.

### **I. The Expression of Thanksgiving (Verses 4-5)**

### **II. The \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ (Verses 6-7)**

Even though forgiveness comes at a personal cost, the rewards far outweigh the price.

#### **UNDERSTANDING VERSE 6a:**

##### **"Fellowship"**

κοινωνία [koinōnía] — refers to a partnership (See Philippians 3:10 for usage example)

- To be in "fellowship" is to be a \_\_\_\_\_ of a specific commonality.
- The partnership Philemon partook in was the fellowship of his \_\_\_\_\_.

##### **"Your Faith"**

πίστις [pistis] — refers back to Verse 5 ("...your love and *faith*...").

- Paul is strategically foreshadowing his plea for Philemon to forgive. (See v. 17)
- Paul prays that as Philemon participates in his loving commitment to the church, it will turn out toward his forgiving of Onesimus.
- And that act of forgiving will become "\_\_\_\_\_."

## “Effective”

ἐνεργής [energēs] — an active \_\_\_\_\_ (word from which we get the English word, “energy”)

- Paul is praying that Philemon’s forgiving of Onesimus (an act of participating in faith) will bring about a powerful effect.
- Philemon’s willingness to reconcile with Onesimus will sow seeds that will spring forth into incredible \_\_\_\_\_.

Paul sets forth two categories of blessings that he expects will flow from Philemon’s forgiveness...

### A. \_\_\_\_\_ Blessing (v. 6b)

#### 1. Full Knowledge: One word in Greek; ἐπίγνωσις [epignōsis]

- It is \_\_\_\_\_ knowledge.
- It is not something that can be obtained in a \_\_\_\_\_.
- It comes by \_\_\_\_\_.

#### 2. Every good thing which is in you: “Good Thing;” ἀγαθός [agathos]

- Refers to the \_\_\_\_\_ found in Philemon (such as faith and love).
- The “good” which God has graciously given to you is more fully grasped and realized when you experience them (by operating from them) in the fellowship of the faith.

#### 3. For the sake of Christ: We are given these graces, and act on them for one overarching purpose: the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ.

**The personal blessing that Paul prayed would come from Philemon’s forgiveness would be a fuller \_\_\_\_\_ of God’s gracious \_\_\_\_\_ in him.**

B. \_\_\_\_\_ Blessing (v. 7)

1. Joy & Comfort: “Joy & παράκλησις [paraklēsis] — consolation;

\_\_\_\_\_

- What does Paul find joy and encouragement/comfort in? Philemon’s love
- Verse 6 connects blessing to Philemon’s \_\_\_\_\_ (pointed out in v. 5b)
- Verse 7 connects blessing to Philemon’s \_\_\_\_\_ (pointed out in v. 5a)

2. The hearts of the saints are refreshed: Paul was encouraged and blessed by Philemon because the \_\_\_\_\_ was blessed by Philemon.

- “Hearts” = σπλάγχνον [splanchnon] — \_\_\_\_\_; heart of hearts
- Philemon’s love has given rest/refreshment to the church once before. Now Paul asks Philemon’s refreshing love in the act of forgiving Onesimus (see v. 20).

**To forgive others within the family of the church is to “perfume the whole room” with**

\_\_\_\_\_.

**ADDITIONAL NOTES:**

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**Discussion Questions:**

1. What can forgiving others (by God's grace) teach us about God's gracious forgiving of us?
2. How does forgiving one another bring joy and encouragement to the church? What benefits does an attitude of mercy provide to a congregation?
3. How can the offenses that come our way prove to be a blessing in disguise?