

PHILEMON: The Reconciling Power of the Grace of God

2. Paul *intercedes* for ONESIMUS – a faithful and beloved _____ in Christ. **Philemon 8-16**

- Verse 8 Paul had the **position** and _____ to be able to make Philemon obey His words.
 - a. He was the Apostle to the Gentiles and clearly a leader of Jesus' church – Gal 2:7
 - b. He was a spiritual leader in Philemon's life – Philemon 1, 19
 - c. It would have been the “convenient” and easy thing to do – Acts 24:25; Eph 5:4
- Verse 9 Paul chose _____ over power and position to *intercede* for Onesimus.
 - a. He took this “beseech” approach often and preferred it – Rom 12:1; 2 Cor 5:20
 - b. He referred to himself as “*Paul the aged*” – Psalm 71:9, 18
 - c. He did not say he was a prisoner of Rome, but “*of Jesus Christ*” – Eph 4:1
- Verse 10 Paul **beseeched** Philemon on Onesimus’ behalf – as his _____ in Christ.
 - a. His words were fitly spoken – he waited until now to tell Philemon his purpose – Prov 25:11
 - b. Philemon knew Onesimus as a slave, but now he hears of his faith – 1 Cor 4:15; Col 4:9
 - c. Paul had led Onesimus to Jesus Christ in his “*bonds*” – 1 Tim 1:2; Titus 1:4
- Verse 11 Paul acknowledged Onesimus’ _____, but focused on his **present** state.
 - a. Onesimus had “*in time past*” been “*unprofitable*” – Eph 2:11-13; 1 Pet 2:10
 - b. He was also headed for destruction and hell – Mt 25:30; Rom 3:12
 - c. But now in Christ Jesus, Onesimus was “*profitable*” for God’s glory – Lk 15:24; 2 Tim 4:11
- Verse 12 Paul asks Philemon to _____ a person who had **wronged** him in this world.
 - a. He said that he had **sent** Onesimus to Philemon for a reason – Lk 15:20; Heb 7:25
 - b. His request to receive him as Paul’s own bowels – Phil 1:8; 2 Sam 16:11; Jer 31:20
 - c. Paul was asking Philemon to forgive him – Eph 4:32; Psalm 2:8
- Verse 13 Paul tells Philemon that he **could have** _____ Onesimus with him to do God’s work.
 - a. Paul is a man of character – this demonstrates his unselfish approach to ministry.
 - b. It is a blessing when our brothers and sisters in Christ help us in ministry – 1 Cor 16:17
 - c. It is a blessing to be a recipient of unselfish acts of love for God’s glory – Phil 2:30; Acts 20:35
- Verse 14 Paul did not want to _____ Philemon to forgive Onesimus, but do so **willingly**.
 - a. Jesus made it clear that His leaders would not lord over God’s people – Mk 10:43; 1 Pet 5:2, 3
 - b. God desires for us to choose to obey Him from a *willing mind* and heart – 2 Cor 1:24; 8:12
 - c. God does not want us to give *grudgingly* or of *necessity*, but be a *cheerful giver* – 2 Cor 9:7
- Verse 15 Paul brings the key truth of God’s _____ and **providence** into the situation!
 - a. *Perhaps* – the key to our success for God’s glory is seeing things from God’s perspective!
 - b. Joseph understood God’s plan was **bigger** than deep personal injuries – Gen 45:5-8; 50:20
 - c. The *will of God* for our life is **more important** than our will always – Mt 6:10; 26:36,42; Acts 4:28
- Verse 16 Paul asks Philemon to _____ Onesimus **as a beloved brother** in Christ.
 - a. We **must** recognize our brothers and sisters in Christ as our *beloved brethren* – for God’s sake!
 - b. We have **all** been *partakers of the benefit* of Christ – *brethren, faithful and beloved* – 1 Tim 6:2
 - c. If we love Christ, we **must** love those who have been *begotten of Him* – 1 Jo 5:1; 3:15

PRACTICAL: You were here tonight for a reason – *PERHAPS* it was to stop asking WHY and start asking HOW God might use **forgiveness** in our life to bring Him more glory...