

Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible

Scriptures for Today: Philemon 17-19 – being willing to pay the price for reconciliation

Today's Message:

"The Price of Peace"



INTRODUCTION

Last week, we learned that being willing to let go of something you hold dear can often help to move reconciliation forward. It must come willingly, not forced. And an eternal perspective can change minds and hearts to obey God. Today, we have arrived at some of the greatest verses in the Bible that point us to Jesus Christ! Paul will become a substitute for Onesimus. He will state his reputation on the man, and he will be willing to pay the full and necessary cost of reconciliation. What a picture of the cross and Christ's willingness to pay the price for our peace and salvation. This is God's message to you...

LEARNING TOGETHER

❖ The Text Philemon 17-19

A. The Substitution – Paul asks for Onesimus to be received as if he was Paul.

1. Reconciliation can begin when we can see and **RECEIVE** an offender through Christ.

- **Philemon 17** – *If thou count me therefore a partner, RECEIVE HIM as myself.*

"If thou **count** me" – to regard or reckon to be true; appealing with a spiritual perspective

"A **partner**" – not strangers; together in Christ and His work; joined in spiritual fellowship

"Receive him **as myself**" – welcome home, accept into fellowship; take back in relationship

Comparing Scriptures

- **Philemon 12** – ... sent again: thou therefore RECEIVE HIM, that is, **mine own bowels**:
- **Matthew 18:5** – ... whoso shall **receive one such little child in my name** RECEIVETH ME.
- **1 Timothy 2:5** – ...one God... **one mediator** between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.

Key Truths

- Jesus, our **Mediator** and **Substitute**, says to the Father, **"Receive them as myself."**
- Jesus Christ's resurrection is **our justification** – God receives sons and daughters as they (we) come out of the tomb! *"Buried in the likeness of His death, raised..."*
- Our acceptance is based on another's standing with the Father – Jesus Christ!

Practical Applications

- If you are a Christian, Jesus Christ is asking you to receive His own **as** Himself!
- Who is God asking you to receive? Not from afar – welcome back through grace.

Matthew 25:40

... Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these MY BRETHREN, ye have done it unto me.

Romans 4:25

Who was delivered for our offenses, and was **raised again** for our JUSTIFICATION.

Ephesians 1:6

To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath **made us ACCEPTED** in the beloved.

Imagine Onesimus standing before Philemon and Paul says...

Philemon... do not receive him as a runaway slave.

Do not receive him as a thief or a disappointment.

Receive him as if it were me standing there. That is substitution.

B. The Debt Acknowledged – Paul acknowledges the debt that is owed.

2. Reconciliation requires the wrong be acknowledged – the offender owes a **DEBT**.

- **Philemon 18** – *If he hath **wronged** thee, or **oweth** thee ought...*

“Wronged” – to injure; to do injustice; to harm unfairly. Reconciliation requires truth.

“Or oweth thee ought” – to be indebted; to be obligated; to have a charge against you.

Comparing Scriptures

- **Psalms 51:3** – *For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me.*
- **Psalms 51:4** – *Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight...*
- **Genesis 39:9** – *... how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?*

Key Truths

- Biblical reconciliation and peace come from total **HONESTY** with God.
- Practical reconciliation and peace come from total honesty with each other.

Practical Applications

- Reconciliation starts when someone says, “I was wrong. Something is owed.”
- There is a sin debt that must be paid by all people – someone must pay it!

C. The Debt Assumed – Paul is willing to pay the price for reconciliation.

3. Reconciliation requires someone to absorb the cost – to **PAY** the price for peace.

- **Philemon 18** – ... *put that ON MINE ACCOUNT;*
- **Philemon 19** – *I Paul have written it with mine own hand, I will repay it: albeit I do not say to thee HOW THOU OWEST UNTO ME even thine own self besides.*

“Put that on mine account” – an accounting term; transfer the debt from him to me!

“I Paul have written it with mine own hand” – a signed guarantee; a legal promissory note!

“I will repay it” – to make good and pay in full; a willingness to pay the full price of peace.

“Albeit I do not say...” – not saying by saying... Philemon was saved or helped through Paul

Comparing Scriptures

- **Luke 10:35** – *... whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee.*
- **Isaiah 53:4-7** – *Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows...*
- **John 3:16** – *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son...*
- **2 Corinth 5:21** – *For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we...*

Key Truth

- A sacrifice is required to make peace and reconciliation (*it may be small or large*).
- The greatest peace ever made was made on the **CROSS** by our Lord Jesus Christ!

Practical Application

- Sometimes peace in your home, or church, or relationships require a **SACRIFICE**.

What not to say

“Just get over it.”
“It wasn’t that bad.”
“Time will fix it.”

Important Note

You cannot heal relationships by denying wounds.

Genesis 22:8

And Abraham said, My son, God will provide HIMSELF a lamb...

John 1:29

The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

John 19:30

When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, **It is finished**: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.

Peace is never free... reconciliation is not cheap... because someone always pays.

Thank God that Jesus Christ was willing to pay the price for our peace with God!

“He paid a debt He did not owe; I owed I debt I could not pay.”