

## of Discipleship May 15, 2021

### Day 1: Philemon vs:1-2

***Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, to Philemon our dear friend and fellow worker, to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow soldier and to the church that meets in your home:***

One of the ways we can know what we value is to answer the question “what would I go to jail for?” Paul was under house arrest because he preached Christ crucified, dead, and risen. He would not stop telling people the truth that outside of Christ there is no real life.

**Question:** A hard question: What would you be willing to risk your life for?

**Challenge:** Share with a spiritual friend your answer to the above question & ask it of them.

### Day 2: Philemon vs: 3

***Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.***

The grace of God always comes before peace. Peace here means wholeness. We are never whole until the grace of God is experienced. The grace of God has three parts. One, it is available to us before we know it. Two, there is the grace we experience when we confess Christ as Lord. And three, there is the grace that sustains us in life.

**Question:** If peace is wholeness and harmony, how would you describe it?

**Challenge:** Think about your life before you really acknowledged Christ as Lord and write down where you think God’s presence was in your life.

**Scripture:** Psalm 8

### Day 3: Philemon vs: 4-5

***I always thank my God as I remember you in my prayers, because I hear about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints.***

Paul may have started the church at Philemon’s house but it would only succeed if others were faithful disciples. Philemon not only believes but acts on his beliefs. Through loving the saints, Philemon is demonstrating that Jesus is real. It was a source of strength for Paul to know that others were working just as he was. Paul always gave the credit to God who is the source of everything.

**Question:** What do you give thanks for when you pray?

**Challenge:** Make a pact with your spiritual friend to pray for each other that you can show love for the saints.

**Scripture:** Romans 1:7-13

### Day 4: Philemon vs: 6

***I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ.***

First Paul praised Philemon for sharing his faith, now he reveals a wisdom that comes with experience. Faith is made real and grows as we express it. Faith has to be used so that we can gain the full benefit from it. Faith is not a momentary expression of belief but a way of living that gives us an abundant life. It is only in faith that we can understand the good things we have in Christ.

**Question:** Read the scripture. Why do you think Jesus told one leper he was well when all were healed?

**Challenge:** Think about things you do in your daily life. How many of those things do you question before you do them? For example, do you wonder if the floor will hold you before you get out of bed?

**Scripture:** Luke 17:1-19

### Day 5: Philemon vs: 7

***Your love has given me great joy and encouragement, because you, brother, have refreshed the hearts of the saints.***

Paul’s words of tribute regarding Philemon do not center around Philemon’s social standing or wealth but his generosity to the saints. Philemon has no doubt helped people with the basics of food and shelter but what encourages Paul is the love Philemon has shown. Philemon’s actions came from his faith in Christ and not from an attempt to look good in God’s eyes.

**Question:** Would someone say they received joy from the love you have shown others?

**Challenge:** Examine your charitable giving of either money or time and ask yourself why you did it.

**Scripture:** Matthew 6:1-8, 16-18

### Day 6: Philemon vs: 8-9

***Therefore, although in Christ I could be bold and order you to do what you ought to do, yet I appeal to you on the basis of love. I then, as Paul — an old man and now also a prisoner of Christ Jesus —***

Paul is going to make a hard request of Philemon. Paul knows that he can demand that Philemon grant his request because of their relationship. Paul will not insist because he knows that Philemon must grant the request out of love because what is at stake is not just freeing a slave but the basis

of Christian community. The new community holds each other accountable in love, not law.

**Question:** What laws do we have that are based on love?

**Challenge:** Think of someone you love. Now think about what you have a “right” to ask of them and why.

**Scripture:** Philemon