

LOVE and Reconciliation ~ Philemon 1:1-25

→ Scripture Reading Philemon 1:4, 7, 9-11, 15-16

INTRODUCTION

→ Full Temple → Temple and dividing wall → Stone carved warning

Ephesians 2:14 (NLT) For Christ Himself has brought peace to us. He UNITED Jews and Gentiles into ONE people when, in His own body on the cross, He broke down the wall of hostility that separated us.

Colossians 3:11 (NLT) In this New Life, it doesn't matter if you are a Jew or a Gentile, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbaric, uncivilized, slave, or free. Christ is ALL that matters, and He lives in ALL of us.

The Great Encourager ~ Philemon 1:1-7

¹ Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, To Philemon our dear friend and fellow worker, ² to Appiah our sister, to Archippus our fellow soldier AND to the church that meets in your home: ³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

→ Map - Land route very long trip - by ship easier

⁴ I always thank my God as I remember you in my prayers, ⁵ because I hear about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints.

1 Samuel 12:23 ...as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against God by CEASING to pray for you...

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. ⁷ Your LOVE has given me great joy and encouragement, because you, brother, have Refreshed the hearts of the saints.

IMPLICATIONS

⁷ Your LOVE has given me much joy and comfort, my brother, for your Kindness has often REFRESHED the hearts of God's people.

A Good Encourager

- is AVAILABLE
- is a Good LISTENER
- does NOT give pat ANSWERS
- has Walked the Road BEFORE
- Always POINTS you to the Lord

Very Special Request ~ Philemon 1:8-20

⁸ Therefore, although IN Christ I could be bold and order you to DO what you ought to do, ⁹ 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 - ¹⁰ I appeal to you for my son Onesimus, who became my son while I was in chains. ¹¹ Formerly he was USELESS to you, but now he has become USEFUL both to you and to me. ¹² I am sending him - who is my very heart - back to you.

¹² I am sending him back to you: will you receive him AS MY SON, part of me? JBP

¹³ I would have liked to keep him with me so that he could take your place in helping me while I am in chains for the gospel. ¹⁴ But I did not want to do anything without your consent, so that any favor you do will be spontaneous and not forced.

¹⁴ if you have a favor to give me, let it be spontaneous and **not forced** from you by circumstances. JBP

¹⁵ Perhaps the reason he was separated from you for a little while was that you might have him back for good - ¹⁶ no longer as a slave, but better than a slave, as a dear brother. He is very dear to me but even dearer to you, both as a man and as a brother in the Lord.

IN Christ we are ONE family. NO WALLS of Racial, Economic, or Political differences should separate us. LASB

¹⁷ So if you consider me a partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. ¹⁸ IF he has done you any wrong or owes you anything, charge it to me. ¹⁹ I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand. I will pay it back - not to mention that you owe me your very self. ²⁰ I do wish, brother, that I may have some benefit from you in the Lord; REFRESH my heart in Christ.

IMPLICATIONS

¹⁵ It seems you LOST Onesimus for a little while so that you could have him back forever. (NLT)

...he was PARTED from you for a while (ESV) ...there has been a purpose in your LOSING him. (JBP)

Acts 4:24 (NLT) ²⁴ ...O Sovereign Lord, Creator of heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them...

²⁹ ...consider their threats and enable your servants to speak Your Word with great boldness.

Paul saw each person's Conversion as a Sovereign Act of God. HOTC

Very Special Request ~ Philemon 1:8-20

²¹ Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will DO even more than I ask. ²² And one thing more: Prepare a guest room for me, because I hope to be restored to you in answer to your prayers. ²³ Epaphras, my fellow prisoner IN Christ Jesus, sends you greetings. ²⁴ And so do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas and Luke, my fellow workers. ²⁵ The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

TAKE AWAY??

⁷ Your LOVE has given me great joy and encouragement, because you, brother, have Refreshed the hearts of the saints.

2 Corinthians 5:17, 18, 20 (CSB) ¹⁷ ...if anyone is IN Christ, he is a New Creation; the old has passed away, and see, the new has come!

¹⁸ Everything is FROM God, who has Reconciled us to Himself THROUGH Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation.

²⁰ ...we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making His appeal through us. We plead on Christ's behalf, Be reconciled to God.