



“Your Character is Showing”

Philemon 1:4-7

October 4, 2020

Philemon 1-7

- 1 Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,
To Philemon our beloved brother and fellow worker,
- 2 and to Apphia our sister, and to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house:
- 3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
- 4 I thank my God always, making mention of you in my prayers,
- 5 because I hear of your love and of the faith which you have toward the Lord Jesus and toward all the saints;
- 6 and I pray that the fellowship of your faith may become effective through the knowledge of every good thing which Christ's sake.
- 7 For I have come to have much joy and comfort in your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, brother.

Philemon 1-7

- 4 I thank my God always, making mention of you in my prayers,
- 5 because I hear of your love and of the faith which you have toward the Lord Jesus and toward all the saints;
- 6 and I pray that the fellowship of your faith may become effective through the knowledge of every good thing which is in you for Christ's sake.
- 7 For I have come to have much joy and comfort in your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, brother.

4 I thank my God always, making mention of you in my prayers,

- Philemon's life is the cause for thanksgiving.
- Every time Paul prays, he just can't help giving thanks for Philemon. Philemon is never forgotten.
- Paul is saying, "Philemon, every time I look at your life I can't help thanking God for you."
- Is that what people say about your life?
- Knowing that someone is thankful for your life will go a long way to motivate you.
- Paul in 1 Thess. 5 says, "Pray without ceasing." Can you see why?
 - Paul always had a lot to pray for.
 - It motivates people.

Philemon 4-7

- 4 I thank my God always, making mention of you in my prayers,
- 5 because I hear of your love and of the faith which you have toward the Lord Jesus and toward all the saints;
- 6 and I pray that the fellowship of your faith may become effective through the knowledge of every good thing which is in you for Christ's sake.
- 7 For I have come to have much joy and comfort in your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, brother.

5 because I hear of your love and of the faith which you have toward the Lord Jesus and toward all the saints;

What does Paul hear about Philemon's life that makes him thankful?

1. You love the Lord.
- “love” – αγαπη – based on the one loving not the one loved.
2. You have faith in what Christ can do.
3. You love the saints.
4. You have faith in what the saints can do.



Philemon 4-7

- 4 I thank my God always, making mention of you in my prayers,
- 5 because I hear of your love and of the faith which you have toward the Lord Jesus and toward all the saints;
- 6 and I pray that the fellowship of your faith may become effective through the knowledge of every good thing which is in you for Christ's sake.**
- 7 For I have come to have much joy and comfort in your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, brother.

6 and I pray that the fellowship of your faith may become effective through the knowledge of every good thing which is in you for Christ's sake.

- Based on the character of Philemon, Paul prays that Philemon would come to know and experience fellowship on an even deeper level.
- “fellowship” – κοιινωνια - partnership, companionship, participation, fellowship, commonness.
- “effective” – ενεργησ – powerful.
- “knowledge” – επιγνωσισ – full knowledge, experiential knowledge.

Col 1:9-10

- 9 For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,
- 10 so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord,

6 and I pray that the fellowship of your faith may become effective through the knowledge of every good thing which is in you for Christ's sake.

- Based on the character of Philemon, Paul prays that Philemon would come to know and experience fellowship on an even deeper level.
- “fellowship” – κοιινωνια - partnership, commonness, companionship, participation, fellowship.
- “effective” – ενεργησ – powerful.
- “knowledge” – επιγνωσισ – full knowledge, experiential knowledge.
- Paul is saying, “Philemon, you have such great Christian character and I want people to see it in even a greater way. I want you to demonstrate your belief in the importance of fellowship in the body of Christ.”
- Philemon is going to experience what he knows in a greater way and those around him (family, friends, church, community) are going to see it and God is going to be glorified.
- This is going to be powerful. It is going to have a great impact.

Don't look now but your character is showing.

Philemon 4-7

4 I thank my God always, making mention of you in my prayers,

5 because I hear of your love and of the faith which you have toward the Lord Jesus and toward all the saints;

6 and I pray that the fellowship of your faith may become effective through the knowledge of every good thing which is in you for Christ's sake.

7 **For I have come to have much joy and comfort in your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, brother.**

7 For I have come to have much joy and comfort in your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, brother.

- In verse 5 Paul testifies to hearing great things about Philemon but now Paul tells his own experience about Philemon

- Paul got much joy and comfort from the life of Philemon.

- It was because of Philemon's love which was demonstrated toward other believers.

"hearts" – $\sigma\pi\lambda\alpha\gamma\gamma\upsilon\alpha$ – inward parts – spleen, intestine, liver, bowels. The deepest part of you.

"refreshed" – $\alpha\nu\alpha\pi\alpha\upsilon\omega$ – stop-rest-be refreshed, cease from labor, to hold-up, in order to recover and collect your strength.

*Military and agricultural term.

- Philemon brought people rest, spiritual refreshment.

- He came to the hurting, the suffering, the depressed, the discouraged, those in trial, those tired, those frustrated, and he refreshed them all.