

Understanding the Book of Philemon

Philemon 1-25 (p.1273)

Intro

I. Every single _____ is called to live...

Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus... v.1

Every single person must be willing to _____ and, if necessary, suffer for Jesus; all of us must work _____ for the sake of the gospel.

...all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted... (2 Tim. 3:12)

Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, to Philemon our beloved fellow worker and Apphia our sister and Archippus our fellow soldier, and the church in your house...v.1,2

Every family should serve the Lord together and practice _____; every Christian should demonstrate love toward God's people and should share their _____ with others.

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank my God always when I remember you in my prayers, because I hear of your love and of the faith that you have toward the Lord Jesus and for all the saints, and I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective for the full knowledge of every good thing that is in us for the sake of Christ. For I have derived much joy and comfort from your love, my brother, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you. v.3-7

We give thanks to God always for all of you... remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love... (1 Thess. 1:2,3)

God works through us to _____ and encourage one another through what we would call "_____ hospitality."

II. A radically _____ life.

Accordingly, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do what is required, yet for love's sake I prefer to appeal to you—I, Paul, an old man and now a prisoner also for Christ Jesus— I appeal to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I became in my imprisonment. (Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me.)

v.8-12

With Onesimus, we see the _____ and limitations of a Christian environment; we still have to be _____ again.

We also see the _____ bonds of love and affection between true believers, and we see sincere _____ to the Lord that comes from the heart.

...my child, Onesimus, whose father I became...I am sending him back to you, sending my very heart. I would have been glad to keep him with me, in order that he might serve me on your behalf during my imprisonment for the gospel, but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your goodness might not be by compulsion but of your own accord. For this perhaps is why he was parted from you for a while, that you might have him back forever, no longer as a bondservant but more than a bondservant, as a beloved brother—especially to me, but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord. v.12-16

I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do what is required, yet for love's sake I prefer to appeal to you...v.8,9

True Christian faith creates _____ relationships and transforms existing ones; every believer has the _____ to make a radical difference in peoples' lives.

So if you consider me your partner, receive him as you would receive me. If he has wronged you at all, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. I, Paul, write this with my own hand: I will repay it—to say nothing of your owing me even your own self. Yes, brother, I want some benefit from you in the Lord. Refresh my heart in Christ. Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say. At the same time, prepare a guest room for me, for I am hoping that through your prayers I will be graciously given to you. v17-22

Tychicus will tell you all about my activities. He is a beloved brother and faithful minister and fellow servant^[d] in the Lord. I have sent him to you for this very purpose, that you may know how we are and that he may encourage your hearts, and with him Onesimus, our faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you. They will tell you of everything that has taken place here. (Col. 4:7-9)

Every Christian _____ live a life of radical obedience, because every Christian has _____; Jesus lived a life of radical obedience, and His _____ can change you.

Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, sends greetings to you, and so do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke, my fellow workers. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. v.23-25

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. v.3

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God works through us to refresh and encourage one another through what we would call "radical hospitality."

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Every Christian can live a life of radical obedience, because every Christian has Jesus; Jesus lived a life of radical obedience, and His grace can change you.

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