

Chesswood Baptist Church

Where Everybody is Somebody

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MINISTRY OF THE WORD

GRACE TO YOU, AND PEACE, FROM GOD OUR FATHER

AND THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

PASTOR HOWARD DANIEL JR.

SUNDAY MORNING, JULY 15, 2018

SCRIPTURE READING: **PHILEMON 1:1-9**

Philemon 1:3, Grace to you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

1. BACKGROUND

- a. Please refer to the July 15, 2018 Evening Message for the Background.

2. INTRODUCTION

- a. The primary purpose of this epistle is to reveal Christ's love for us and what He did for us on the cross.
- b. Jesus Christ became our substitute. **1 Peter 3:18**, *For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:*
- c. Philemon was told in the letter that if Onesimus had wronged him in any way to put it on Paul's account. **Philemon 1:18**, *If he hath wronged thee, or oweth thee ought, put that on mine account;*
- d. This reminds us of the death of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. **1 Peter 2:24**, *Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.*

- e. For those of us who are saved; Jesus Christ took our place on the cross. **Hebrews 7:26**, *For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens; Romans 10:4*, *For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.*
- f. There is no amount of religion or law that could do that job. Christ had to perform that mission.
- g. Jesus Christ was qualified to do so because he was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of a virgin, fulfilled God's laws totally, then He went to the cross and died for the sins of mankind, bodily resurrected the third day, and ascended into Heaven to make intercessions for us.
- h. What a beautiful illustration of how Christ saves the sinner. **John 1:12**, *But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:*
- i. In **Philemon 1:17** Paul tells Philemon, ***If thou count me therefore a partner, receive him as myself.***
- j. In other words, Jesus came to die for the sins of mankind. In the Garden of Gethsemane, the sin of the whole world was loaded on Him. He truly became our substitute as we stand before God bearing the righteousness of Jesus Christ. **Romans 3:22**, *Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:*
- k. Onesimus was totally unprofitable because he was a runaway slave.
- l. All of us are unprofitable. God says in **Jeremiah 17:9**, *The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?*
- m. There is no good in us. **Romans 3:12**, *They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.*
- n. Only when we accept the Lord Jesus Christ as our personal Saviour can we be made alive. **1 Corinthians 15:22**, *For as in*

Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

- o. Paul was a great apostle; however, he does not emphasize such in this epistle. He is writing to his friend to receive Onesimus.
- p. Paul spoke of a new relationship. This new relationship is peace with God and is established when one trusts Christ as personal Saviour. **John 1:12**, *But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Romans 5:1*, *Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:*
- q. Paul demonstrated how there could be two different classes of people in the Roman Empire; those who were saved and those who were lost.
- r. The only solution to man and his problems is Jesus Christ and Him alone.
- s. This is a precious epistle that will show us this love that is not constrained by anything, but that Jesus Christ came to die.
- t. I am reminded of **John 3:16**, *For God so loved the world, that he gave his **only begotten Son**, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*
- u. Some themes of the **Book of Philemon** are:
 - 1. *All sins against people are also sins against God.*
 - 2. The laws of the land are for both Christians and non-Christians.
 - 3. *A right relationship with Jesus Christ will break down social and economical barriers.*
 - 4. *Reconciliation requires action from the wrong and the wronged.*
 - 5. *Christ will forgive our sins and give us a fresh beginning; a new standing before Him. 2 Peter 1:4*, *Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.*
- v. With that Introduction, let's look at the points to the message

today.

3. EIGHT POINTS TO THE MESSAGE

a. Paul, a prisoner of Jesus Christ.

1. **Philemon 1:1**, Paul, a prisoner of Jesus Christ, and Timothy our brother, unto Philemon our dearly beloved, and fellowlabourer,
2. As stated in the Introduction, Paul does not make mention of his apostleship.
3. He is just writing a letter to a friend.
4. This epistle is not addressed to the Church but certainly has application to the Church.
5. We want to understand what God's Word is saying here.
6. "Paul, a prisoner of Jesus Christ," – This has no reference to the fact that he was a prisoner in Rome.
7. What he is saying is when you come to know Christ as Saviour and you are called to preach the Gospel, you must be firmly on that mission day and night.
8. There is no flexibility, no moving to the right or to the left; we are to stay on point and on course. **Acts 20:2**, *For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God. Deuteronomy 5:32*, *Ye shall observe to do therefore as the LORD your God hath commanded you: ye shall not turn aside to the right hand or to the left.*
9. Paul is emphasizing this fact when he says he is a prisoner of Jesus Christ.
10. He is talking about spiritual things.
11. This speaks of service to the highest degree.
12. It reminds me of the mission God has given to every pastor. **2 Timothy 4:2**, *Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.*
13. God calls us to do a job for Him and we must be found faithful. We must do that job to excellence and to the best of our ability. **1 Corinthians 4:2**, *Moreover it is required in*

stewards, that a man be found faithful.

14. We are not responsible for success, but our mission is for sharing the Word of God. Always remember, God adds to the Church. **Acts 2:47**, *Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.*
15. *“and Timothy our brother”* – This is speaking of Timothy, Paul's brother in Christ; and the fact that all three men were Christians.
16. *“unto Philemon our dearly beloved,”*- Paul had this man as a special friend.

b. To the church in thy house.

1. **Philemon 1:2**, *And to our beloved Apphia, and Archippus our fellowsoldier, and to the church in thy house:*
2. We believe that this greeting is specifically to the family of Philemon.
4. Apparently, Philemon married one of the locals in the area.
5. He got into business in Colossi and became very successful.
6. The term *“fellowsoldier”* represents a child of Philemon and does not speak to the fact that he was a member of the Roman army.
7. The Bible speaks of being a good soldier of Jesus Christ. **2 Timothy 2:3**, *Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.*
8. *“and to the church in thy house:”* – The early church met in homes.
9. They met in homes for approximately 200 years.
10. This emphasizes to us that we are not to stay at home and watch television. **Hebrews 10:25**, *Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.*

11. Paul was missionary minded and when Philemon was saved he was devoted to getting the Gospel message out in the early church.
12. They did not have buildings like we do today.
13. This reminds us that we can't get so impressed with our building that we don't do a work for God.

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

1. **Philemon 1:3, Grace to you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.**
2. This is a standard greeting of the Apostle Paul.
3. He mentions grace. The Bible says in **Ephesians 2:8-9**, *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9: Not of works, lest any man should boast.*
4. Peace comes only by knowing Jesus Christ as personal Saviour. **Philippians 4:7**, *And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*
5. The Bible speaks of two different kinds of peace. Peace with God and peace of God. **Romans 5:1**, *Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: Colossians 3:15*, *And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. Philippians 4:9*, *Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.*
6. Peace with God is a relationship established when one is born again. Peace of God is fellowship when one is in the will of God.
7. We must never forget that peace with God can never be broken; it is secured by the Godhead. **1 Peter 1:4**, *To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth*

*not away, reserved in heaven for you, **5: Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*** Fellowship, on the other hand can be broken when we sin, grieve the Holy Spirit, quench the Holy Spirit, are disobedient and fail to realize the will of God for our lives.

8. We are to be present in the local church to lend our talents and skills to further God's work.

d. I thank my God.

1. **Philemon 1:4, I thank my God,** *making mention of thee always in my prayers,*
2. Paul had Philemon on his prayer list. **James 5:16, Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.**
3. I ask you today, do you have your pastor on your prayer list?
4. Do you have other saints on your prayer list? Are you frequent to take things to the Lord in prayer?
5. We are to have joy in the Lord, but prayer is very much a part of the life of a Christian. **1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, Rejoice evermore. 17: Pray without ceasing. 18: In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.**

e. Hearing of thy love and faith.

1. **Philemon 1:5, Hearing of thy love and faith,** *which thou hast toward the Lord Jesus, and toward all saints;*
2. Philemon had a testimony for Jesus Christ.
3. He did not broadcast the fact that he was a believer.
4. He not only had love toward Jesus Christ, but he had love toward other believers.
5. When we have love toward other believers we are not so quick to tear them down or beat them up. We must love

them even though they might be unlovable. **1 John 3:14**, *We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death. 1 John 3:16*, *Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.*

f. Acknowledging every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus.

1. **Philemon 1:6**, *That the communication of thy faith may become effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus.*
2. This man's faith resulted in good works, in producing good things. **Matthew 5:16**, *Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven. Ephesians 2:10*, *For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.*
3. When we really understand the depths of the Lord's love for us, and we fall deeply in love with Him, we are faithful in every respect. **1 Corinthians 4:2**, *Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.*
4. The life of Philemon was a living testimony.
5. It resulted in what **Philippians 2:13** says. *For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.*
6. This man did not mind being molded by the Lord Jesus Christ.
7. Truly, he was predestined to be conformed to image of God's Son. **Romans 8:29**, *For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.*
8. What a testimony for this family.

g. For we have great joy and consolation in thy love.

1. **Philemon 1:7**, *For we have great joy and consolation in thy love,* because the bowels of the saints are refreshed by thee, brother.
2. We reflect on **Nehemiah 8:10**, *Then he said unto them, Go your way, eat the fat, and drink the sweet, and send portions unto them for whom nothing is prepared: for this day is holy unto our Lord: neither be ye sorry; for the joy of the LORD is your strength.*
3. Paul had great joy and consolation in the love of Philemon.
4. The word bowels imply the heart. The entire psychological makeup of the human being.
5. It is the inner light that is important.
6. God talks about being strengthened in the inner man. **Ephesians 3:16**, *That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;*
7. There are many wonderful Christians who do not allow themselves to enjoy the abundant life merely because they are trying to live the Christian life.
8. When we allow the Holy Spirit to live the Christian life through us, the bowels of the saints are refreshed by us.

h. Yet for love sake I rather beseech thee.

1. **Philemon 1:8-9**, *Wherefore, though I might be much bold in Christ to enjoin thee that which is convenient, 9; Yet for love's sake I rather beseech thee,* being such an one as Paul the aged, and now also a prisoner of Jesus Christ.
2. Again, Paul emphasizes that he is a prisoner of Jesus Christ. **Hebrews 10:19**, *Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus,*
3. Once we become a prisoner of Jesus Christ, we are confined to do His will just like a prisoner is confined to the will of those who supervise them in prison.
4. Philemon was being molded and made in the image of

Christ Jesus and he realized he needed to reflect Christ in everything he did. **Romans 8:29**, *For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.*

5. Paul is about to make a gracious plea for Onesimus.
6. The whole purpose of this letter was for Philemon to see Onesimus in a different light.
7. There is a three-fold basis for Paul's letter.
 - a. *"for love's sake"* - This is the love Paul expressed for Philemon. This love is what we must express for each believer.
 - b. *"being such an one as Paul the aged,"* – Paul was admitting that he had spent many years for Christ.
 1. History tells us that Paul was about 60 years old at this time.
 2. Philemon was apparently the younger of the two.

4. CONCLUSION

- a. If you do not know Him, come to the side of the Living Saviour today.
- b. **Romans 3:23**, *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*
- c. **Romans 3:10**, *As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:*
- d. **Romans 10:9-10**, *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10: For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*
- e. Would you please stand?

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