

Apostle Paul Epistles Doctrine Book Of Philemon



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Paul's explanations in his epistles are crucial for us today because they lay the **doctrinal foundation of the Christian faith** and provide **practical instructions for daily living**. Here's why his teachings remain relevant:

1. They Explain the Gospel of Grace

Paul's epistles emphasize **justification by faith** (Romans 3:28, Galatians 2:16) and the **sufficiency of Christ's sacrifice** (Colossians 2:13-14). This message is essential in a world where many still seek salvation through works or religious rituals.

2. They Teach How to Live as Christians

Paul provides guidance on:

- **Sanctification** – Living a holy life (1 Thessalonians 4:3-4)
- **Love and Unity** – Bearing with one another in love (Ephesians 4:2-3)
- **Spiritual Warfare** – Standing against the enemy (Ephesians 6:10-18)
- **Christian Conduct** – Walking in the Spirit (Galatians 5:16-25)

3. They Defend Against False Doctrines

Paul warns about false teachers (Galatians 1:6-9, 2 Timothy 4:3-4) and emphasizes the need to stand firm in sound doctrine (Titus 2:1). This remains critical today as many distort the gospel.

4. They Emphasize the Church's Role

Paul explains the **body of Christ** (1 Corinthians 12:12-27), the **role of pastors and elders** (1 Timothy 3:1-7), and the **importance of fellowship** (Hebrews 10:25). His teachings help believers understand how to function within the church.

5. They Give Us Hope for Christ's Return

Paul's writings on the **Second Coming of Christ** (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, 1 Corinthians 15:51-58) provide hope in troubled times, reminding believers of their future resurrection and eternal life with Christ.

Conclusion

Paul's explanations are essential today because they teach us **who we are in Christ, how to live by faith, how to resist falsehood, and how to prepare for Christ's return**. His epistles continue to **equip, encourage, and establish believers** in the truth of God's Word.

Elder W H Moody

**The Book of Philemon – A Letter of Forgiveness and Reconciliation**

Philemon is **Paul's shortest letter**, but it is powerful in teaching about **Christian love, forgiveness, and reconciliation**. Paul writes to **Philemon**, a wealthy believer in Colossae, regarding **Onesimus**, a runaway slave who has become a Christian under Paul's ministry.

**1. Paul's Greeting (Philemon 1-3)**

(Verse 1-2) **"Paul, a prisoner of Jesus Christ, and Timothy our brother, unto Philemon our dearly beloved, and fellowlabourer, And to our beloved Apphia, and Archippus our fellowsoldier, and to the church in thy house:"**

- Paul writes while **in prison** and addresses **Philemon**, along with Apphia (likely Philemon's wife) and Archippus (possibly their son or a church leader).
- The **church met in Philemon's house**, showing his hospitality.

(Verse 3) **"Grace to you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ."**

- Paul greets them with **grace and peace**, which comes from God.

**2. Paul's Thankfulness for Philemon's Faith (Philemon 4-7)**

(Verse 4-5) **"I thank my God, making mention of thee always in my prayers, Hearing of thy love and faith, which thou hast toward the Lord Jesus, and toward all saints;"**

- Paul **prays for Philemon**, acknowledging his **love and faith** in Christ.

(Verse 6) **"That the communication of thy faith may become effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus."**

- Paul prays that Philemon's **faith would bear fruit** in his actions.

(Verse 7) **"For we have great joy and consolation in thy love, because the bowels of the saints are refreshed by thee, brother."**

- Philemon had a reputation for **encouraging and refreshing** fellow believers.

**3. Paul's Plea for Onesimus (Philemon 8-21)**

**Onesimus the Runaway Slave**

**** (Verse 8-9) **** "Wherefore, though I might be much bold in Christ to enjoin thee that which is convenient, 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."

- Paul, ****instead of commanding****, ****appeals to Philemon in love****.

**** (Verse 10-11) **** "I beseech thee for my son Onesimus, whom I have begotten in my bonds: Which in time past was to thee unprofitable, but now profitable to thee and to me."

- Onesimus was once ****useless**** (as a runaway), but now he is ****useful**** in Christ.

**** (Verse 12-14) **** "Whom I have sent again: thou therefore receive him, that is, mine own bowels: Whom I would have retained with me, that in thy stead he might have ministered unto me in the bonds of the gospel: But without thy mind would I do nothing; that thy benefit should not be as it were of necessity, but willingly."

- Paul is ****sending Onesimus back**** but hopes Philemon ****will willingly forgive him****.

**Onesimus as a Brother in Christ**

**** (Verse 15-16) **** "For perhaps he therefore departed for a season, that thou shouldest receive him for ever; Not now as a servant, but above a servant, a brother beloved, specially to me, but how much more unto thee, both in the flesh, and in the Lord?"

- ****God used this situation**** to transform Onesimus into a ****beloved brother in Christ****.

**** (Verse 17-18) **** "If thou count me therefore a partner, receive him as myself. If he hath wronged thee, or oweth thee ought, put that on mine account;"

- Paul ****asks Philemon to accept Onesimus as he would accept Paul himself****.

- Paul even offers to ****pay Onesimus' debts****.

**** (Verse 19) **** "I Paul have written it with mine own hand, I will repay it: albeit I do not say to thee how thou owest unto me even thine own self besides."

- Paul reminds Philemon that ****he himself was saved through Paul's ministry****.

(Verse 20-21) "Yea, brother, let me have joy of thee in the Lord: refresh my bowels in the Lord. Having confidence in thy obedience I wrote unto thee, knowing that thou wilt also do more than I say."

- Paul expresses **confidence** that Philemon will **forgive Onesimus and go beyond Paul's request**.

4. Paul's Closing Remarks (Philemon 22-25)

(Verse 22) "But withal prepare me also a lodging: for I trust that through your prayers I shall be given unto you."

- Paul hopes to be **released from prison** and visit Philemon.

(Verse 23-24) "There salute thee Epaphras, my fellowprisoner in Christ Jesus; Marcus, Aristarchus, Demas, Lucas, my fellowlabourers."

- Paul mentions **other believers** who support him.

(Verse 25) "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen."

- Paul ends with a **blessing of grace**.

Key Lessons from Philemon

1. **Christian Love and Forgiveness**

- Philemon is called to **forgive and welcome back Onesimus** as a brother.

2. **No More Division in Christ**

- Onesimus was a slave, but in Christ, he is now **equal** with Philemon.

3. **God's Sovereignty**

- What seemed like a **bad situation** (Onesimus running away) led to his **salvation**.

4. **Paul's Example of Christ**

- Paul offers to **pay Onesimus' debt**, just as **Christ paid our sins**.

This letter is a beautiful **example of grace, reconciliation, and the transforming power of the Gospel**.