



## The Epistles of Paul the Apostle to the Colossians and Philemon

### *The Expectations of Philemon*

#### *Philemon 1:20-21*

- I. THE MOTIVATION OF EXPECTATIONS (Philemon 1:20)
  - A. The Desire for Joy
    1. The request for joy—“let me have joy”
    2. The means of the joy
      - a. Brother
      - b. Thee
    3. The ultimate source of the joy—“in the Lord”
  - B. The Desire for Refreshing
    1. The request for refreshing—“refresh” (Exodus 23:12; Exodus 31:17; 1 Samuel 16:23; Acts 27:3; Romans 15:32; 1 Corinthians 16:18; 2 Corinthians 7:13; 2 Timothy 1:16; Philemon 1:7).
    2. The means of refreshing—you understood
    3. The place of refreshing—“my bowels”
    4. The ultimate source of the refreshing—“in the Lord”
- II. THE CONFIDENCE IN THE EXPECTATIONS (Philemon 1:21)
  - A. The Motivation of Paul’s Confidence
    1. The possession of confidence—“Having confidence”
    2. The source of confidence—“in thy obedience”
      - a. 2 Kings 18:12 says Israel “obeyed not the voice of the LORD” and then defined that as they “would not hear them, nor do them” (that is, hear or do the commandments of God).
      - b. Thus, the Bible defines disobedience as the refusal to hear and do God’s commandments (see 1 Samuel 15:22; Proverbs 5:13; Jeremiah 17:23).
      - c. Obedience is twofold: first, the individual must have an attentive ear, and second, he must act by faith.
    3. The result of confidence—“I wrote unto thee”
  - B. The Extent of Paul’s Confidence
    1. Paul already expressed that he had confidence in Philemon’s obedience.
    2. Now, he expressed that he fully expected Philemon would go above and beyond that which Paul had requested.



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### *The Closing Remarks*

#### *Philemon 1:22-25*

- I. PAUL'S FINAL REQUESTS (Philemon 1:22-24)
  - A. His Desired Journey (Philemon 1:22)
    1. The request—"withal prepare me also a lodging"
    2. The expectation—"through your prayers I shall be given unto you"
  - B. His Desired Greetings (Philemon 1:23-24)
    1. Epaphras (Philemon 1:23)
      - a. He was Paul's fellowprisoner in Christ Jesus.
      - b. He was a Colossian (Colossians 4:12).
      - c. He was a servant of Christ (Colossians 4:12).
      - d. He laboured for the believers in prayer (Colossians 4:12).
      - e. He had a great zeal for the region (Colossians 4:13).
    2. Marcus (Philemon 1:24; Colossians 4:10; 1 Peter 5:13)
      - a. Sister's son to Barnabas (Colossians 4:10); Note: This is very likely John who was surnamed Mark (Acts 12:12, 25; Acts 15:37, 39; 2 Timothy 4:11)
      - b. One who gave commandments to and might visit the Colossians (Colossians 4:10)
      - c. Paul's kinsman according to the flesh (Colossians 4:11)
      - d. Paul's fellowworker (Colossians 4:11)
    3. Aristarchus (Philemon 1:24; Colossians 4:10-11; see Acts 19:29; Acts 20:4; Acts 27:2)
      - a. Paul's fellowprisoner (Colossians 4:10)
      - b. Paul's kinsman according to the flesh (Colossians 4:11)
      - c. Paul's fellowworker (Colossians 4:11)
    4. Demas (Philemon 1:24; Colossians 4:14; see 2 Timothy 4:10)
    5. Lucas (Philemon 1:24); Luke the beloved physician in Colossians 4:14
- II. PAUL'S SALUTATION (Philemon 1:25)
  - A. The Recipient(s) of the Salutation—"your spirit"
  - B. The Blessing of the Salutation
    1. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ
    2. Be with your spirit



## The Epistles of Paul the Apostle to the Colossians and Philemon

### *The Picture of Salvation*

#### *Philemon 1:1-25*

- I. THE CHARACTERS EXPLAINED
  - A. Philemon—pictures the Father
  - B. Paul—pictures the Son of God
  - C. Onesimus—pictures the lost soul redeemed by the grace of God
- II. THE PICTURE PRESENTED
  - A. Onesimus' Past—Onesimus was a runaway slave with a debt he could not repay (Philemon 1:18), just as lost men are slaves to sin (John 8:34; Romans 6:20) with an unaffordable debt (Romans 6:23; Psalm 49:7-8).
  - B. Onesimus' Change
    1. When Onesimus met Paul, he was begotten in Paul's bonds (Philemon 1:10). As Paul's spiritual son (Philemon 1:10), he was profitable (Philemon 1:11) and ministered in the gospel (Philemon 1:13).
    2. So we are born again when we meet the Lord Jesus Christ (John 3:16) and our salvation comes through the Saviour's suffering (Romans 5:9-10). Through salvation, we become the sons of God (John 1:12; Galatians 3:26) and through obedience we can be profitable (Matthew 25:21).
  - C. Onesimus' Reception
    1. The acceptance
      - a. Onesimus was accepted by Philemon, not because of his own merit, but because of the appeal of Paul. Paul asked Philemon to receive Onesimus forever (Philemon 1:15) as a brother beloved (Philemon 1:16) and as himself (Philemon 1:17).
      - b. So Christ appeals to the Father to receive us forever (John 5:24). We become joint-heirs with the Son (Romans 8:17; Galatians 4:6-7). And, Christ becomes our substitute for sin (2 Corinthians 5:21).
    2. The payment—As Paul offered to restore any loss to Philemon (Philemon 1:18), so Christ paid our debt of sin (Ephesians 1:7; 1 Peter 1:18-19; 1 Peter 2:24; 1 Peter 3:18).
    3. The confidence—As Paul was confident in Philemon's reception of Onesimus (Philemon 1:21), so Christ was confident that the Father would hear Him (John 11:41-42).