

# Reconciled

A STUDY IN PHILEMON

The Fellowship of Faith  
Philemon 4-7  
November 10, 2019

...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. - **Philemon 6**

## I. PAUL - THE APOSTLE OF PRAYER

- Paul is genuinely thankful for Philemon. This is not a one-sided relationship. He has gained much from his friendship and partnership with him (vss. 5, 7).
- Paul does not just ask for prayer, he also prays. He tells people how he is praying for them. His prayers are theologically rich, and virtually devoid of asking for health, wealth or peace for his friends (vss. 4-6; 1 Cor. 1:4-9; Eph. 1:15-23; Phil. 1:9-11; Col. 1:9-14).
- Paul loves to hear that those he has led to Christ have become active in the faith (vss. 5, 7; Eph. 1:15; Phil. 1:3-7; 1 Thess. 1:2-10; 2 Thess. 1:4; 2 Tim. 1:5).

## II. PHILEMON - HE WHO REFRESHES THE SAINTS

- Philemon's love and faith toward Christ is real.
- Philemon's love and faith for the saints is real.
- Philemon has turned his love and faith into work for the Lord.
- Philemon's love, faith and work have created much joy and comfort for Paul.

## III. AN ACTIVE FAITH = A STRONG FAITH

- Paul prays that Philemon's mutual participation in the faith with others will lead him to a greater understanding of the faith, and a desire to put it into practice (vs. 6).
- By doing this, Philemon will be a stronger, more faithful believer and the community to which he belongs will benefit. All for the sake of Christ (1 Tim. 4:6-10; James 1:2-4).

**KNOW:** Our active participation in the faith grows deep roots into that faith. The more we engage, the stronger we become.

**DO:** Put your faith in Christ into practice. Lay deep and abiding roots.

### Suggested Reading:

*Praying with Paul: A Call to Spiritual Reformation* by D.A. Carson  
(LifePoint Library #248.3 CAR)

*The Radical Disciple* by John R.W. Stott (LifePoint Library #284.4)

### Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

#### Please Read Philemon 4-7

1. What is Paul stressing here in his introduction to this letter?
2. Why is Paul so thankful for Philemon? Do you think he starts the letter this way for any particular purpose?
3. Would people who know you say that you show an active love for the saints?
4. Do you derive joy when you hear of another believer's active faith that ministers to the saints in their area of influence?
5. What is your prayer life like as it relates to God's people and the church? What are most often the objects of your prayers?
6. In what ways has your active participation in the faith increased your knowledge and your faithfulness to God?