



~ Thought For The Day ~

~gathering from the 4 winds~

“come just as you are”

Refresh, Restore, Rebuild = Healing



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Prayer

God Father; in Jesus' name I ask it, Lord help us to extend hospitality to people; whether they are lonely, traveling or just need a friend or they are a lonely person. If we have ought against anyone, help us to forgive them, even if they wronged us, for we are to forgive as You forgave us. Thank You God for the people You place in our lives. Thank You for the privilege You give us to pray for people. Let us all share our faith. Give each one peace and bless them, my Lord. Protect each one as they go forth, I ask it in Jesus' name. Amen.

Worship Music

[Tears Of A Angel-RyanDan](#)

[Like The Sun-RyanDan](#)

[Holy Spirit Come Fill This Place-CeCe Winans](#)

[The Love Of God-Carroll Roberson](#)

Scripture Philemon Introduction & Chapt. 1 (2005)

Philemon 1:1-25 (KJV)

- ¹ Paul, a prisoner of Jesus Christ, and Timothy *our* brother, unto Philemon our dearly beloved, and fellow labourer,
- ² And to *our* beloved Apphia, and Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in thy house:
- ³ Grace to you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
- ⁴ I thank my God, making mention of thee always in my prayers,
- ⁵ Hearing of thy love and faith, which thou hast toward the Lord Jesus, and toward all saints;
- ⁶ That the communication of thy faith may become effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus.
- ⁷ For we have great joy and consolation in thy love, because the bowels of the saints are refreshed by thee, brother.
- ⁸ 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.
- ¹⁰ I beseech thee for my son Onesimus, whom I have begotten in my bonds:
- ¹¹ Which in time past was to thee unprofitable, but now profitable to thee and to me:
- ¹² Whom I have sent again: thou therefore receive him, that is, mine own bowels:
- ¹³ Whom I would have retained with me, that in thy stead he might have ministered unto me in the bonds of the gospel:
- ¹⁴ But without thy mind would I do nothing; that thy benefit should not be as it were of necessity, but willingly.
- ¹⁵ For perhaps he therefore departed for a season, that thou shouldest receive him for ever;
- ¹⁶ 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?
- ¹⁷ If thou count me therefore a partner, receive him as myself.
- ¹⁸ If he hath wronged thee, or oweth *thee* ought, put that on mine account;

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[David Wilkerson](#)

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[Virtue for Women- CatheLaurie](#)

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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.

²⁰ Yea, brother, let me have joy of thee in the Lord: refresh my bowels in the Lord.

²¹ Having confidence in thy obedience I wrote unto thee, knowing that thou wilt also do more than I say.

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

²³ There salute thee Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus;

²⁴ Marcus, Aristarchus, Demas, Lucas, my fellow labourers.

²⁵ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with your spirit. Amen.

Date

wrote this letter and his letter to the Colossians while in prison in Rome (a.d. 60).

Philemon

was a Christian of Colosse, a convert of Paul's, a very well-to-do man. A church met in his house, and it seems that he and Paul were intimate friends. It is likely, though not recorded, that Paul visited Colosse during his three-year stay at Ephesus (Acts 19).

Onesimus

was a slave who belonged to Philemon. He may have been a very talented young man. The Roman army, on its campaigns, often took the brightest and best young men and women from the conquered peoples and brought them home to be sold into slavery.

The Occasion of the Letter

four or five years after Paul had left the region of Colosse, Onesimus, it seems, stole some money from his master, Philemon, and ran away to Rome, where by that time Paul was in prison. While in Rome, perhaps after the stolen money had run out, Onesimus managed to find Paul. Possibly he had learned to love him in his master's home years before. It is not likely that he could have just met him by accident in a city of more than a million people. During his visit with Paul, Onesimus became a Christian, and Paul sent him back to his master, bearing this beautiful little letter.

Purpose of the Letter

wanted to intercede with Philemon on Onesimus's behalf and asked him to forgive the runaway slave. Under Roman law, stealing was punishable by death. Paul appealed to Philemon to receive him as a Christian brother and even offered to repay the stolen money himself. The letter is a perfect gem for its courtesy, tact, delicacy, and generosity. The high point is the tender appeal to Philemon to receive Onesimus "as you would welcome me" (Philemon 17).

The Slave's Reception

Bible gives no hint as to how the master received his returning slave. But there is a tradition that says that his master did welcome him back and took Paul's veiled hint and gave Onesimus his liberty. is the way the Gospel works. Christ in the heart of the slave made the slave recognize the social institutions of his day and made him go back to his master, determined to be a good slave and live out his natural life as a slave. Christ in the heart of the master made the master recognize the slave as a Christian brother and give him his liberty. There is a tradition that says that Onesimus afterward became a bishop in Berea.

Apphia (v. 2) was probably Philemon's wife.

Archippus (v. 2) was probably the pastor of the congregation.

Onesimus (v. 10) means "profitable." Note the play on the word.

"For good" (v. 15) is a hint of the persistence into eternity of earthly friendships.

Epaphras (v. 23) was a Colossian imprisoned in Rome.

Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke (v. 24) were colleagues of Paul and personal friends of Philemon.

(Halley's Bible Handbook; Henry Haley; 2000; history and commentaries; pages 851-852)

There may come a time when you need to "go to bat" for fellow believers. If so, be sure to handle the matter in an orderly fashion. If you find yourself in a tense situation involving other believers, remember that humility and genuine love never fail. As a believer in Jesus Christ, do everything you can as the Holy Spirit leads you to bring mutual respect, unity, and reconciliation among all of the Christians in your life.

Philemon is a very short book with a very important message. From prison, Paul wrote this letter to his friend, a prominent and wealthy Christian man named Philemon. According to the customs of his time, Philemon was a slave-owner. His slave, Onesimus, escaped, went to Rome, became converted, and met Paul. When Paul realized what happened, he decided to write Philemon and encourage reconciliation and forgiveness between the two men. Paul handled this matter very well, in an orderly fashion. Relationships among Christians are not perfect, and there are times when a third party needs to be involved. When this happens, interactions must take place in order and with the right heart attitudes. Paul opens his letter by addressing Philemon as "dearly beloved," making sure to show respect and affection for a fellow believer. He then affirms Philemon's work and ministry before confronting Philemon with the need to take Onesimus back as his slave and receive him as a Christian brother. Throughout this letter, there is a tone of friendship and unity in Christ. Paul's humility and genuine love for both Philemon and Onesimus are evident and allow him to make a bold request for their reconciliation. Let Paul's letter to Philemon serve as an example for handling relationships in an orderly way, and let it encourage you to handle all of your relationships properly, with a humble heart, and seek to bring love, forgiveness, and restoration everywhere you go. Do you thank God for the people He has placed in your life? Paul did, and we read about his prayers for Philemon in Philemon 4-6. Be sure to thank God often for the people He blesses you with and let them know you are praying for them.

In Philemon 8-21, Paul encourages Philemon to forgive Onesimus. Forgiveness is extending love and mercy to someone who has wronged or hurt you. It is not saying that what was done was acceptable, or that it did not matter, but it is a choice to release the person from the burden of guilt for what they have done wrong and not allow that offense to affect your relationship. Have you ever wronged someone and received forgiveness from them? If so, you know that forgiveness clears the way for reconciliation. If there is someone you need to receive forgiveness from or extend forgiveness to, do not procrastinate. Seek the restoration of your relationship through forgiveness.

Paul prayed and asked God to allow him to visit Philemon, and it is interesting to me that he told Philemon to prepare a room in *expectation* of his visit (see Philemon 22). How does an expectant mother behave? She prepares ahead of time for the child she is expecting but does not have yet. Are you living with expectation? ? Are you expecting God to enable you to be a blessing to people any time you see a need? We should all ask ourselves, "What am I expecting?" We might be surprised to find that we are receiving nothing because we expect nothing. We say that we pray in faith, but part of faith is hope and active expectancy. Faith is not asking and doubting or asking and being afraid; it is not asking and worrying. Faith asks and believes that God is working, and it expects and looks forward to the answer with joy. The conversation of faith is filled with expectancy, which I like to define as, "a joy-filled looking forward to receiving a desired result." Real faith does not pray for the salvation of a wayward child and then say to a friend over lunch, "I'm so afraid my son is going to get in trouble and ruin his life." Faith says, "I'm expecting my son to change. I believe God is working in his life and I'm looking forward to the day when he and I can study God's Word together." The phrase "wait on the Lord," is amplified to include "expect," "look for," and "hope in Him" (see Isaiah 40:31). When we read with those additional meanings, we see a better picture of the attitude that we need to have. Waiting on God is not a passive state of doing absolutely nothing. We may do nothing physically, but spiritually we are excited and enthusiastic; we expect and look for God to show up in our circumstances at any moment and we are full of hope, which is joyful and confident expectation. Do an attitude check. Are you praying and waiting, but not waiting properly? If so, make a change and start expecting aggressively. Expectancy prepares the way for God's miracle-working power!

(Amplified Bible, The Everyday Life Bible, 2005, Joyce Meyers, Scripture, notes & commentaries, pages 2021 -2024)

(KJV; Word 9 Bible Software, 2005; Scripture, studies, notes, history)

Psa 119:105

Thy word [is] a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.



Chapel Flock; "Thought For The Day"

Spirit Walker Ministry; PO Box 161102; Wichita, Kansas 67216

Telephone Number; 316-243-1438

www.chapel-flock.com

www.blessingboxcottage.org