

TODAY'S MESSAGE
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PAUL'S EPISTLE TO PHILEMON 1:15-25
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"THE POWER OF PERSUASION THROUGH THE TRUTH OF GOD'S WORD"

INTRODUCTION:

A wordsmith=a skilled user of words. Relative language in the usage of words. Using words to explain, create a picture in the mind and using words to tell story. And using words to provoke thought and understanding.

Paul uses words to point out to Philemon that this man, Onesimus has a past, and he did something wrong to Philemon that left him having feelings of distrust, anger, hurtful and the feelings of wanting to punish Onesimus. After all, Onesimus was his slave and he had that right.

Trusting Philemon to do the right thing:

Paul entreats Philemon's spiritual and Godly principals. Paul uses words that entreat the heart of Philemon and wants him to know that this same man, Onesimus, by rights should be punished, and could have given him the maximum penalty for his crime. But instead, Paul, in fact, wants Philemon to know the benefits that he could receive from Onesimus and have a true and trusted servant whom he could now work along-side of him and not as a slave doing the work under his master. Paul wants Philemon to know and understand that Onesimus is his brother in Christ and should be treated as such. Onesimus was away for a season, but now it is time to receive him forever, but not as a slave any longer but as a fellow worker and servant of God. Receive him the same as you would receive me.

Paul goes on to talk about the importance of forgiving and releasing Onesimus to now be looked at as a trusted fellow worker in Christ and not as a slave any longer. Paul intercedes on Onesimus behalf, and he stands in the gap and offers to right all the wrong that Onesimus did to Philemon. Paul would pay off any and all the debts that Onesimus owes Philemon. Notice how wisely Paul says to Philemon, *"Yea, brother, let me have joy of thee in the Lord:"* and, *"refresh my bowels in the Lord"*. AMP-*Yes, brother, let me have some profit from you in the Lord. Cheer and refresh my heart in Christ.* Paul put it to Philemon as if he has no other choice. Paul does not use a play on words. He is not trying to tease Philemon and make him feel that he has to play the game. But rather, Paul straight up tells him, this is the right thing to do. Onesimus has proven himself and past the real test of his true conversion. Let it also be noted that Onesimus yielded to the wisdom and confidence to Paul and was willing to return to his slave master and do what was right and to accept the punishment due him. Onesimus knew, as well as Paul, that the law was on Philemon's side.

Paul's last statement, he puts it out there, *Having confidence in thy obedience I wrote unto thee, knowing that thou wilt also do more than I say.* Which is to say: Philemon, you have always sought to be obedient unto God, therefore, I know you will do the right thing and even much more than what I would ask of you Philemon.

This is the mind-set of Paul:

Of all that Paul has said on behalf of Onesimus, Paul allows his words to be crafted and given by God. Paul trusted in the wisdom of God and not in his own abilities. He was dealing with a very delicate matter and he needed God to guide and direct him with every word and intention that was before him. This is a very, very valuable lesson which we all need to learn: **Ps. 20:7 AMPC**-*Some trust in and boast of chariots and some of horses, but we will trust in and boast of the name of the Lord our God.* **Prov. 3:5-6 KJV**-*Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. [6] In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.* Oh how our hearts rejoice when we truly and totally trust the Lord for His wisdom, His mercy, His understanding and His judgement toward our situation. Do we **Truly** and **Confidently** trust God for our own life and our future? Some think because they seek out Christian material and Christian thinking, that this is trusting God. "TRUSTING GOD IS, TRUSTING GOD AND NOT MAN'S THOUGHTS AND IDEAS". Man can put out good and fundamental truths and ideas, but as born-again-believers, our hope, trust, directions must come from God. Emotions, feelings, wants and desires are not what we should trust. REAL trust is, not doing anything, except, but to wait on God and test and try Him according to His Word.

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; **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.

Prepare lodging for me:

Now here, Paul quickly changes the conversation and asked Philemon to prepare for his coming. Paul plans to log with Philemon and the saints in Colosse. Until he arrives, greet his fellow-prisoners and workers in the Lord; Epaphras, Marcus, Aristarchus, Demas, Lucas and fellow-laborers. And he also pronounces the Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. AMEN!

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 fellowprisoner in Christ Jesus;* **24** *Marcus, Aristarchus, Demas, Lucas, my fellowlabourers.* **25** *The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.*

The Epistle of Philemon [Amplified Bible, Classic Edition]

¹⁵ Perhaps it was for this reason that he was separated [from you] for a while, that you might have him back as yours forever,

¹⁶ Not as a slave any longer but as [something] more than a slave, as a brother [Christian], especially dear to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh [as a servant] and in the Lord [as a fellow believer].

¹⁷ If then you consider me a partner *and* a ^[b]comrade in fellowship, welcome *and* receive him as you would [welcome and receive] me.

¹⁸ And if he has done you any wrong in any way or owes anything [to you], charge that to my account.

¹⁹ I, Paul, write it with my own hand, I promise to repay it [in full]—and that is to say nothing [of the fact] that you owe me your very self!

²⁰ Yes, brother, let me have some profit from you in the Lord. Cheer *and* refresh my heart in Christ.

²¹ I write to you [perfectly] confident of your obedient compliance, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.

²² At the same time prepare a guest room [in expectation of extending your hospitality] to me, for I am hoping through your prayers to be granted [the gracious privilege of coming] to you.

²³ Greetings to you from Epaphras, my fellow prisoner here in [the cause of] Christ Jesus (the Messiah),

²⁴ And [from] Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke, my fellow workers.

²⁵ The grace (blessing and favor) of the Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah) be with your spirit. *Amen (so be it).*