

/Hello./ We will now begin with the eighteenth lecture on the prison epistles./ Today's passages are Philemon chapter 1./ The prison epistles refer to the letters that Paul wrote while he was in prison./ They include Ephesians, Philippians,/ Colossians,/ and Philemon.

/Let's begin the lecture on Philemon chapter 1./ The title of this chapter is, "Becoming Upright."

/First, greetings. Verses 1-3./ Second, thankfulness for the fruit of love and faith. Verses 4-7./ Third, Paul appeals and not orders. Verses 8-10./ Fourth, give back to others. Verses 11-14.

/Fifth, the place of a repented man. Verses 15-16./ Sixth, a sacrificial heart to help others. Verses 17-19./ Seventh, a favor and an assurance. Verses 20-22./ Eighth, greetings. Verses 23-25.

/Read verse 1./ Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, To Philemon our dear friend and fellow worker,

/Here it says, "Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus."/ "Christ" means one who was anointed./ Jesus Christ had three duties.

/In the Old Testament, kings,/ priests,/ and prophets were anointed with oil./ The three duties of Christ is King, Priest and Prophet.

/That is why Jesus Christ is the anointed One./ Christ has these three duties and perfected redemption.

/Also, the name "Jesus" means to save his people from their sins./ Matthew 1:21./ Jesus came to this earth to save the chosen people.

/It says, "Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus."/ Unlike the other epistles, Paul did not call himself an "apostle."/ He calls himself "a prisoner."

/There was a reason why Paul said this./ This epistle is addressed to Philemon./ Paul did not confront Philemon with apostolic authority but with love.

/If we look at verses 8-10, we can see that Paul has the right to speak to Philemon with apostolic authority./ However, he chose not to and regarded himself "a prisoner" to ask with love.

/He was a prisoner for Christ./ If anyone suffers/ and is ridiculed and persecuted for Christ, that person is a blessed person./ There are three types of suffering.

/First is suffering for Jesus Christ./ Second is suffering without an apparent reason./ Third is suffering due to sin./ The most valuable suffering among these is to suffer for Christ.

/It is recorded that a man is blessed if he thinks of God when/ he suffers without an apparent reason.

/Yet, there are times when we suffer because of sin,/ and if that is the case, we can be shown mercy by God if we repent of our sins./ Sufferings could become a benefit./ It could be a chance to repent.

/Next, it says, “To Philemon our dear friend and fellow worker.”/ “Philemon” was a rich man who lived in the province of Colosse./ He believed in Jesus Christ through Paul/ and he helped the church and Paul.

/That is why Paul called him a fellow worker./ In verse 2, Apphia appears./ She was the wife of Philemon./ This couple had good faith./ Paul called Philemon’s wife, “Apphia our sister.”

/They were brothers and sisters in faith./ Also, Paul said, “to Archippus our fellow soldier.”/ “Archippus” was the son of Philemon.

/It says that he became a soldier together in the church./ Through this, we can learn that he became a pastor of the church.

/It also says, “to the church that meets in your home.”/ Philemon allowed believers to use his house as a church and worship there.

/In verse 3, Paul greeted and blessed Philemon, “Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.”

/Now, the second point./ Thankfulness for the fruit of love and faith. Verses 4-7.

/Verse 4./ I always thank my God as I remember you in my prayers,

/Whenever Paul prayed, he prayed for Philemon and was always thankful./ A pastor must pray for his church members/ and the members must pray for their pastor./ A pastor and church members must be united and pray for the church.

/Whenever we pray, we must always thank God./ Believers must live faithfully so what when pastors pray for them, he will pray with thanksgiving./ When Paul prayed for Philemon, he was always thankful.

/Verse 5./ because I hear about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints.

/Paul heard that Philemon loved Christ and all the believers.

/Philemon made sacrifices for the church and the believers by making his home a church./ Also, he had a relationship of faith with all the other believers.

/Verses 6./ I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ.

/He also helped the church and the believers financially and he did all things with a good heart.

/Verse 7./ Your love has given me great joy and encouragement, because you, brother, have refreshed the hearts of the saints.

/Philemon helped the church and the believers, and thus, mission work went smoothly, and the believers were blessed./ This news reached Paul in prison and it gave him great joy.

/The third point. Paul appeals and not orders. Verses 8-10.

/Verses 8-9./ Therefore, although in Christ I could be bold and order you to do what you ought to do, yet I appeal to you on the basis of love. I then, as Paul--an old man and now also a prisoner of Christ Jesus--

/Paul was an apostle./ He was a teacher of Philemon./ Philemon believed and was saved when Paul preached the gospel, and was spiritually indebted to Paul./ Therefore, Paul had the right to order Philemon around.

/However, Paul said that he appealed to Philemon on the basis of love./ Paul also called himself “an old man.”/ Paul said that he hoped that Philemon would listen to an old man’s appeals.

/Paul, an old man, was in prison because of Jesus. Philemon had no choice but to listen to Paul’s requests as long as it did not go against the truth.

/Paul was old, was imprisoned, and he taught about Jesus, and so he appealed to Philemon that he would hear his appeals.

/When a superior tells his subordinate to do something,/ the first way to do it is to appeal with love./ The second way is to command./ The third way is to take legal actions.

/Among these, the best way is to appeal on the basis of love./ If that does not work, then the superior can give a command./ If that also does not work, he can take legal actions.

/However, Paul appealed on the basis of love./ What did he appeal for?

/Verse 10./ I appeal to you for my son Onesimus, who became my son while I was in chains.

/Paul said that he appealed for Onesimus, who became a believer through Paul’s evangelizing in prison./ Originally, Onesimus was a servant of Philemon./ He ran away from Philemon.

/It seems that he stole money from his master./ Then he was imprisoned because he violated the law in Rome./ In the Roman prison, he received the gospel by Paul and believed in Jesus Christ.

/That is why Paul said, “Onesimus, who became my son while I was in chains.”/ Onesimus served and obeyed Paul like a father./ Paul loved Onesimus like a son.

/He became a great benefit and help to Paul./ Paul appealed to Philemon while sending Onesimus back to him.

/Therefore, this epistle is an appeal to Philemon to forgive and accept Onesimus.

/Now, let’s discuss the fourth point. Give back to others. Verses 11-14.

/Verse 11./ Formerly he was useless to you, but now he has become useful both to you and to me.

/Because Onesimus committed an unrighteous act in the past and ran away from his master Philemon, he was a useless person./ However, he now repented and believed in Jesus, and thus, he became useful.

/Now, he was even useful to Paul./ Therefore, if anyone believes in the gospel and repents, and lives in faith, he becomes useful to the church, to others, and to God.

/Paul also assured Philemon that Onesimus would be useful to him once he returned to his master.

/Repentance completely changes people./ They become useful to the church./ Those who were once harmful become useful.

/Verse 12./ I am sending him--who is my very heart--back to you.

/This Onesimus received the gospel through Paul in prison./ After he believed, he did not leave Paul./ He continuously helped Paul and it was a great benefit to Paul.

/However, because Onesimus is a servant of Philemon, Paul attempted to send him back to Philemon./ Onesimus was a great benefit to Paul.

/However, Onesimus was a servant of Philemon, and it was correct for him to return to his master./ That is why Paul was sending him back to his master.

/Verse 13./ I would have liked to keep him with me so that he could take your place in helping me while I am in chains for the gospel.

/It would have been a great benefit to Paul to have Onesimus beside him./ However, he was determined to send Onesimus back.

/Verse 14./ But I did not want to do anything without your consent, so that any favor you do will be spontaneous and not forced.

/There was a reason why Paul wanted to send Onesimus back./ First, Onesimus was a servant of Philemon./ Second, Philemon was unaware that Onesimus was serving Paul.

/Third, Philemon did not approve of Onesimus./ That is why Paul said, "But I did not want to do anything without your consent."

/Paul also wanted to send Onesimus "so that any favor you do will be spontaneous and not forced."

/Verses 15 -16. The fifth point./ The place of a repented man.

/Verse 15./ Perhaps the reason he was separated from you for a little while was that you might have him back for good--

/When Onesimus was a servant of Philemon, he committed a crime and ran away./ Through this, he met Paul in a Roman prison./ Paul shared the gospel with Onesimus and he repented and returned to God.

/Now, he was a worker for Paul./ He served Paul with devotion./ Paul tried to send him away to his original master, Philemon.

/Even though Onesimus left his master, he became a new person through repentance and he became an useful person./ He repented and believed in Jesus, and was to now live in the house of God forever.

/Even though he betrayed his master and ran away, he met Paul and believed in Jesus, and thus, become a new person./ It was the same for the Israelites as well.

/Just as Onesimus became a new person through Paul's evangelizing, the Israelites received grace through their seventy years in captivity and then they returned to God.

/Through the seventy years of captivity, they strictly repented and returned to God./ In the same way, Onesimus ran away from slavery and was imprisoned in Rome, met Paul and repented, and eventually returned to God.

/Thus, Paul appeals to Philemon, "Take care of Onesimus and consider him as a brother."

/Verse 16./ no longer as a slave, but better than a slave, as a dear brother. He is very dear to me but even dearer to you, both as a man and as a brother in the Lord.

/Onesimus became a new person by believing in Jesus Christ./ Paul told Philemon not to consider him a slave any longer, but consider him a loving brother in faith.

/Whoever believes in Jesus Christ and becomes a believer,/ whether he is a master or a servant, he becomes a brother./ Of course, even though he is a brother in faith, he must obey his master.

/Also, since he is a brother in faith, a master must treat him with love./ Since believers have become brothers and sisters in faith, whether anyone is a master or a servant, they must cooperate together in love.

/Now, let's discuss the sixth point./ A sacrificial heart to help others. Verses 17-19.

/Paul said to Philemon, "I hope you treat Onesimus with love for me."/ Paul shared the gospel with Philemon./ Paul was a teacher and a leader.

/Therefore, Paul appealed to Philemon to think of him and accept Onesimus and also to accept Onesimus through the love of God.

/If Philemon did not accept Onesimus, Paul would be disappointed because he treated Onesimus like a son.

/Even for us, if anyone repents of their wrong deeds of the past, God will be pleased when we forgive and accept them./ In the past, Onesimus committed a wrongdoing but because he repented and believed in Jesus, Paul appealed to Philemon to accept him.

/Paul said that if Onesimus made a mistake or owed money to Philemon, he would pay it back for him.

/Verse 18./ If he has done you any wrong or owes you anything, charge it to me.

/Paul said that he would take responsibility of any wrongdoings of Onesimus./ Even though he would be financially affected, he hoped that Philemon would forgive Onesimus.

/Onesimus stole money from Philemon and ran away./ Paul said that he would pay it back./ He hoped that Philemon would accept Onesimus even if he had to sacrifice his money.

/We must have the mindset to help others, even if we would have to make sacrifices./ Paul said that he would pay back for anything that Onesimus may have done wrong or owed Philemon.

/This means to help others even if it would cost us./ Paul sent Onesimus back and appealed to Philemon to forgive Onesimus.

/Verse 19./ I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand. I will pay it back--not to mention that you owe me your very self.

/Paul wrote a guarantee by writing, "I will pay it back," with his own hands./ In doing so, Paul proved that he showed great attention and love for Onesimus.

/Philemon owed the debt of the gospel and love to Paul./ Philemon believed in Jesus Christ because of Paul, and he owed Paul the debt of the gospel./ He was the one who needed pay Paul back.

/However, Paul said, "not to mention that you owe me your very self."/ Paul asked Philemon to forgive and accept Onesimus for him.

/Paul did not say, "Since you are indebted to me, pay me back."/ Paul encouraged Philemon with love and let him decide.

/Let's move on to the seventh point. A favor and an assurance. Verses 20-22.

/Paul says with humility, "I do wish, brother."/ Then he asks Philemon to accept Onesimus with love.

/Paul said that to accept Onesimus was to pay Paul back for what he was indebted.

/"I do wish, brother, that I may have some benefit from you in the Lord."/ Paul meant, "If you accept Onesimus, it will be a great joy to me."

/In other words, a shepherd would be happier to find one lost sheep than the ninety-nine sheep he has in the field./ Through Paul, we can see how precious one lost sheep is.

/To God, it is a great joy for him to find one lost sheep./ Paul modeled himself after God's nature./ That's why he says that if Philemon accepts Onesimus, the lost sheep, it would be a great joy to him.

/We must also imitate God's nature./ Onesimus was a prisoner because he break the law./ In the eyes of Philemon, he was a useless slave.

/However, just as God is pleased when one lost sheep repents and comes back to God,/ and just as Paul was pleased if Onesimus returned to Philemon,/ we must be pleased if one person returns to God.

/Paul was pleased that Onesimus would return to Philemon, and Philemon's heart would also be at peace.

/Verse 21./ Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.

/Paul asked Philemon a favor with a loving and appealing heart.

/However, in verse 21, he says, "Confident of your obedience, I write to you."/ He also wrote that he knew Philemon would do more than he asked.

/Verse 22./ And one thing more: Prepare a guest room for me, because I hope to be restored to you in answer to your prayers.

/It says, "Prepare a guest room for me."/ This was assurance that Paul would be released from the Roman prison./ When he was freed, he would visit the house of Philemon.

/Prepare a guest room for me./ How would have Philemon felt when he received this letter?/ It would have been a great joy for him when he heard that Paul would be released and would visit his house.

/How pleased would he have been if the apostle Paul stayed in his house?/ Thus, Philemon would accept Onesimus, whom Paul sent, with joy.

/Because Paul would visit Philemon's house after he was released, he told Philemon to accept Onesimus with love./ If that was the case, what choice did Philemon have other than to accept Onesimus?

/Through this, we can see how much Paul loved Onesimus./ Paul corrected Onesimus and returned him to Philemon.

/Let's discuss the eighth point. Verses 23-25.

/Verse 23-25./ Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, sends you greetings. And so do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas and Luke, my fellow workers. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

/As it is written, Paul greeted numerous believers./ In this way, believers must greet other believers in the church./ That is fellowship in Jesus Christ.

/Fellowship in the church becomes a great benefit to each other's faith./ It is wrong not to greet and have fellowship with one another in the church./ We must encourage and greet one another in the church.

/In verse 25, it says, "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit."

/Paul prayed that the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ would be in our spirits.

/Here we will conclude the last lecture on the prison epistles./ Thank you and God bless you.