



WEEKLY SERMON

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Pastor David Miklas

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Phone: 717-715-3317

E-mail: pastormiklas@aol.com

Text: Philemon Verses 19-21

Am I saddened by our culture? Yes. I am sure many of you are as well. How do we stop the moral decline? We can influence our culture and win it back to Jesus by winning and discipling people to Jesus Christ – one person at a time.

One of the greatest privileges we have as Christians is to share the message of the gospel. There are men, women, boys and girls living within sight of your homes, churches and ministries that need to be reached with the saving grace of Jesus.

Here are **SEVEN** irrefutable reasons that should motivate us to be soul-winners.

1. When God allows me to lead someone to Christ, I have confirmation that I've been obedient to God's command. In Matthew 28:18 Jesus said to His disciples "**Go ye therefore, and teach all nations...**"
2. When God allows me to lead someone to Christ, it is a thrill knowing He is using me. The Apostle Paul spoke of this in Romans 10:15 when he said, "**...how beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!**"
3. When God allows me to lead someone to Christ, I feel fulfillment by achieving one of my life's purposes. Jesus tells us of His purpose for our lives in John 20:21, "**...as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.**"
4. When God allows me to lead someone to Christ, I have the opportunity to effect eternity. Jesus said in Luke 15:7, "**I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.**"
5. When God allows me to lead someone to Christ, I have the joy of seeing a life changed forever. In II Corinthians 5:17 we read, "**Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.**"
6. When God allows me to lead someone to Christ, I have the delight of entering into another's labor. The Bible says in John 4:37-38, "**And herein is that saying true, One soweth, and another reapeth. I sent you to reap that whereon ye bestowed no labour: other men laboured, and ye are entered into their labours.**"
7. When God allows me to lead someone to Christ, He reminds me that I have the privilege of sharing the most powerful message that this world has ever known. John 3:16, "**For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.**"

We live as if we have an unlimited amount of time to do God's work.

In John 4:34-35 we read, "Jesus saith unto them, my meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work. (35) Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest."

In James 4:13 we read, "Go to now, ye that say, today or tomorrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: (14) Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away."

We cannot believe Satan's lie that we can serve God tomorrow. With all honesty, tomorrow may never come to you. We do not have a guarantee that we will have tomorrow to serve the Lord. May I encourage you to find someone today with whom you may share the wonderful message of Jesus Christ? Today may be your last opportunity!

Here are **FOUR** Statements to Ponder:

First: If God could close the lions mouth for Daniel, part the Red Sea for Moses, make the sun to stand still for Joshua, open the prison for Peter, put a baby in Sarah's arms and raise Lazarus from the dead, then He can certinly take care of you. Have faith in Him.

Second: There's no storm that God won't carry you through. No bridge that God won't help you cross. No battle that God won't help you win. No heartache that God won't help you let go of. He is SO much bigger than anything you will face today. Leave everything in His hands and embrace the day confidently knowing that He will take care of you.

Third: **HAPPINESS** keeps you **SWEET**; **TRIALS** keep you **STRONG**; **SORROWS** keep you **HUMAN**; **FAILURES** keep you **HUMBLE** and **GOD** keeps you **GOING**.

Fourth: In Christ – Your **PAST** is **SETTLED**; Your **PRESENT** is **COVERED**, and your **FUTURE** is **SECURED**.

In His Amazing Grace,

Pastor David Miklas

“FORGIVENESS, PROFITABLE, EXPECTATION”

INTRODUCTION: As we again come to the one-chapter book of Philemon, let's begin with a review of the last message. Here we noted three significant biblical principles in verses 16-18.

In verse 16 we read, “**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?** Here Paul said to Philemon he was to receive Onesimus not as a slave but as one that was above a slave. He was now to receive him as a beloved brother. Here we have the Biblical principle of **ELEVATION**.

When you came to Christ, you came as a sinner. What happened when Christ received you? He **ELEVATED** you. So now the Word of God refers to you as a **SAINT**.

In verse 17 we read, “**If thou count me therefore a partner, receive him as myself.**” When Paul said to Philemon receive him as myself, we have the Biblical principle of **RESTORATION**. Philemon is to receive Onesimus not as a slave but as a family member.

God has promised those who come to Him on the merits of Jesus Christ that they not only be welcomed into the family, but received in as joint heirs with Christ, as well as brothers of Jesus Christ himself.

In verse 18 we read, “**If he hath wronged thee, or oweth thee ought, put that on mine account.**” Here the Apostle Paul refers to the debt that Onesimus owes Philemon, and he says, “**Put that to my account.**” Here we have the biblical principle of **SUBSTITUTION**. He is saying, “See me, as in his place, assuming that debt. Here again, on the cross the Lord Jesus Christ died, and in so doing He took our sins and placed them on Him accordingly. He paid our debt for all our sins.

In the first three principles of **ELEVATION**, **RESTORATION** and **SUBSTITUTION**, we find what God has done for us. Now in verses 19-21 we find 3 principles regarding what we are to do for God. Here we read,

“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.”

FIRST: In verse 19 we have the Biblical principle of **FORGIVENESS**. We are to be known as a people who **FORGIVE** others. In verse 18, Paul said, whatever Onesimus owes you, put that on my account. In verse 19, he says, I will repay you. “**I Paul have written it with mine own hand, I will repay it:**”

At this time Paul was in prison in his own house. However, he somehow was able to take care of his own expenses as well as those of Onesimus. However, he does something very unusual; he signs his name, “**I Paul have written it with mine own hand,...**” I am made to understand that the signature here, in and of itself, would make it binding.

Now, on a much larger scale, this is what our Lord did for us. We were hopelessly in debt to God, because of our sins against His righteous rule. We could not pay off that debt. So Jesus paid our debt and set us free.

In Romans 3:24-26 we read, “**Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: (25) Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance**

of God; (26) To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.”

In Ephesians 1:7 we read, “In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;...”

We sing the Hymn written by Elvina Hall, “Jesus Paid It All”:

I hear the Savior say,
Thy strength indeed is small;
Child of weakness, watch and pray,
Find in Me thine all in all.

And when before the throne
I stand in Him complete,
I'll lay my trophies down,
All down at Jesus' feet.

Refrain: Jesus paid it all, All to Him I owe;
Sin had left a crimson stain,
He washed it white as snow.

On the even more grand scale, Jesus is not saying, “I will repay it” rather Jesus is saying in the past tense, “I have paid your debt owed to God.” “Jesus paid it all, All to Him I owe,...”

The lesson I believe God would have us see is in the middle of verse 19, “...albeit I do not say to thee how thou owest unto me even thine own self besides.” Please notice the last word “besides.”

Paul is saying to Philemon, “I am returning Onesimus to you. Now as a result of that, you have a moral obligation to me. You owe me something. “Besides this you owe me your own self. I led you to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. So the debt Onesimus owes you is small in comparison to the debt, Philemon, that you owe me.”

In effect Paul is saying, “I am not demanding anything from you, I am not asking you to repay it. On the other hand, “Don't you think it would be the Christ-like thing to do, to forgo the debt of Onesimus?

The theme of forgiveness runs throughout Scripture:

Psalm. 32:1, “Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.”

Isaiah. 43:25, “I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins.”

Jeremiah. 33:8, “And I will cleanse them from all their iniquity, whereby they have sinned against me; and I will pardon all their iniquities, whereby they have sinned, and whereby they have transgressed against me.”

Ephesians. 1:7, “In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;”

1 John 1:;; “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

God is never more like Himself than when He forgives. Our Lord stated that truth positively in Matthew 5:12-15,

“And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. (13) And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen. (14) For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: (15) But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”

In Ephesians 4:31-32 we read, “Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil

speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: (32) And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."

The first most thrilling realization in life is knowing that all your sins have been forgiven at Calvary. You've not fully experienced life until you have realized that Jesus Christ has cleansed you of your past and present and future sins by the Blood of the Lamb of God.

The second greatest aspect of forgiveness comes when someone forgives you for a wrong you have committed against them. My Friends, it is characteristic of saints to forgive.

Forgiveness follows the example of Christ. The abuses which come against us are **TRIFLING** compared to the mountain of sins Jesus washed away at Calvary on our behalf. There on the cross, in the tense of the language of the first words of the cross, Jesus repeatedly said, "Father forgive them, Father forgive them, Father forgive them, for they know not what they are doing." None of us have endured what Christ endured, yet He forgave us all our sins, totally and completely.

As someone said, "Forgiveness is a **CHOICE**, to reconcile with an offender by erasing their debt, and agreeing to live with the consequences of their sin."

In summary we are to be a people who are quick and ready to forgive others in the family of God.

SECOND: In verse 20 we have the Biblical principle of **PROFITABLE**. Here we read, "Yea, brother, let me have joy of thee in the Lord: refresh my bowels in the Lord." In this verse the word "joy" comes from the Greek word meaning "profit" or "profitable." Paul is saying that he wants Philemon to be of some profit in his life.

The "profit" he wanted was simply this, "**He wanted Philemon to receive Onesimus and remit the debt in order that Paul might enhance the glory of the gospel he was preaching.**"

Paul was in touch with people coming into his house, guards included, talking about the glories of the gospel that transform and change people's lives. This gospel not only gives you eternal life, but it also makes an impact on your whole personality.

He is saying here, "Philemon receive Onesimus so there is profit that comes to the gospel. If you refuse to receive him, you discredit and bring shame to the gospel I am preaching."

The gospel of God's grace is designed not only to save us, but to also change us. That is to make us the kind of people:

that are more **LOVING**,
that are more **CARING**,
that are more **GIVING**,
that are more **FORGIVING**,
that are more **SUPPORTING**, and
that are more **UPHOLDING** whenever the opportunity presents itself.

In I Peter 2:9 we read, "**But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light;...**"

We are to be a peculiar people, a very different kind of people whose principles and ideas are not the same as those in our secular society around us.

It is one thing to exercise this kind of Christ-likeness when we are at church. But Paul wants this kind of Christ-likeness to be extended in the home as well. Paul wanted Philemon to bring Onesimus right into his home as a brother. He is asking Philemon to be Christ-like in the spiritual matters as indicated by the twice used phrase in verse 10, "in the Lord."

Let me pause to share a personal testimony of one who truly exemplified Christ- likeness not only in the church but also at home. He was profitable to the gospel. He was one whose principles and ideas were not the same as those in our secular society around us.

I speak of my very godly father who was a profit to the gospel of Jesus Christ. I say “was” since after 92 years, he stepped into glory in 2002.

He was the real deal. What you saw in church you also saw in our home. It was my father who led our family in prayer, in Christ-likeness, in godly hospitality, in soul-winning, in godly convictions, in godly living and in family devotions. He was a profit to the gospel of Jesus Christ. My desire to walk with God is because of the example and testimony of my father.

In Titus 2:10 we read, “**that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things.**” We are to adorn the gospel by the testimony of our lives that people who witness it will also embrace the gospel of Christ.

Now that’s exactly what Paul was asking of Philemon. Receive Onesimus so that the gospel becomes more beautiful, as I testify of its power and scope that others will come to Christ. All of us are called upon to adorn the gospel by our Christ-like reactions to life’s situations.

But here, the hope in Philemon is that primarily it may be adorned by the man – the head of that Colossi house-hold. Now let me pause to say something that needs to be said in love. Now here me out.

I think, there is nothing more pathetic and tragic then to have a family where a mother and father are born again, but the wife carries the whole weight of spiritual responsibility. I believe the reason for spiritually wayward children and teenagers is because the father does not take on the responsibility that is his.

The Bible says in Ephesians 5:4 “**And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.**” Notice It did not say mothers, it said fathers. I may not gain too many points here, nevertheless it is biblical and it needed to be said.

Paul was saying, Philemon let me have **JOY**, let me have **PROFIT**, not physical, not financial, not for material gain, but “**in the Lord**” spiritual gain and let it bring rejoicing to my heart.

In verse 19 we have the Biblical principle of **FORGIVENESS**.
In verse 20 we have the Biblical principle of **PROFITABLE**.

THIRD: In verse 21 we have the Biblical principle of **EXPECTATION**. Here we read, “**Having confidence in thy obedience I wrote unto thee, knowing that thou wilt also do more than I say.**”

I believe when God’s people begin to grow spiritually – and there is evidence of it in the home and there is evidence of it in the church, the under-shepherd, the pastor should have great expectation of his people.

Paul said I have confidence in you Philemon and I know that you will do **MORE** than I requested of you.

There are some Bible writers who believe the what of the MORE here was not only to receive Onesimus into his home, reinstate him as a brother, remit all that he owed, but

also to emancipate and set him free. Now Paul was not asking for that, but that would have been the MORE.

Now as this message is drawn to a close, let me tell you a goal of your pastor.

The goal is simply this: that whenever the Word of God is proclaimed and God's people hear it, that they might not only hear it, appreciate it and apply it, but with God's help their determination would be that they would do MORE than I say. To do even MORE not for my sake, but for Christ's sake. That they would enhance and beautify the glorious gospel that not only has brought them into the family of God, but shall someday transport them into the very presence of God.

In closing in review:

In verses 16-18 we observed three principles of what God has done for us: **ELEVATION**, **RESTORATION** and **SUBSTITUTION**.

In verses 19-21 we find 3 principles of what we are to do for God:

In verse 19 we have the Biblical principle of **FORGIVENESS**.

In verse 20 we have the Biblical principle of **PROFITABLE**.

In verse 21 we have the Biblical principle of **EXPECTATION**.

Now with that in mind, may you be challenged to do even **MORE** for the glory of God.

If God has spoken to your heart after reading the sermon, "**FORGIVENESS, PROFITABLE, EXPECTATION**", right now talk to God about what He has spoken to you.

Do you have the assurance that one day you will go to heaven? If you have no assurance that you know Jesus Christ, then I trust you will decide to accept Him as your personal Savior. The Bible tells us in

Acts 16:31, "...**Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved...**"

Romans 10:13, "**For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.**"

This prayer is here for those who need to ask Jesus to be their personal Savior: "**I do want to go to Heaven. I know I am a sinner, and I do believe Jesus Christ died for me. I realize I cannot buy this great salvation, nor can I earn it. Knowing Jesus died on the cross and arose from the grave to pay my sin debt and to purchase my salvation, I do now trust Him as my Savior, and from this moment on I am completely depending on Him for my salvation.**"

If you made the decision to accept Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, please let me know. Please send an e-mail to **pastormiklas@aol.com** and I will send you some literature that will help you in your Christian life.

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