

"Unfinished Business"
Philemon (NASB)

Dear Philemon,

Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, To Philemon our beloved brother and fellow worker, and to Apphia our sister, and to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. (v. 1-3)

I thank my God always, making mention of you in my prayers, because I hear of your love and of the faith which you have toward the Lord Jesus and toward all the saints; and I pray that the fellowship of your faith may become effective through the knowledge of every good thing which is in you for Christ's sake. For I have come to have much joy and comfort in your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, brother. (v. 4-7)

Therefore, though I have enough confidence in Christ to order you to do what is proper, yet for love's sake I rather appeal to you-since I am such a person as Paul, the aged, and now also a prisoner of Christ Jesus—I appeal to you for my child Onesimus, whom I have begotten in my imprisonment, who formerly was useless to you, but now is useful both to you and to me. (v. 8-11)

I have sent him back to you in person, that is, sending my very heart, whom I wished to keep with me, so that on your behalf he might minister to me in my imprisonment for the gospel; but without your consent I did not want to do anything, so that your goodness would not be, in effect, by compulsion but of your own free will. (v. 12-14)

For perhaps he was for this reason separated from you for a while, that you would have him back forever, no longer as a slave, but more than a slave, a beloved brother, especially to me, but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord. If then you regard me a partner, accept him as you would me. But if he has wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge that to my account; I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand, I will repay it (not to mention to you that you owe to me even your own self as well). (v. 15-19)

Yes, brother, let me benefit from you in the Lord; refresh my heart in Christ. Having confidence in your obedience, I write to you, since I know that you will do even more than what I say. At the same time also prepare me a lodging, for I hope that through your prayers I will be given to you. (v. 20-22)

Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, greets you, as do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, Luke, my fellow workers. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. (v. 23-25) Paul

Celebrate Recovery's Eight Recovery Principles

The Road to Recovery Based on the Beatitudes:

1. **R**ealize I'm not God; I admit that I am powerless to control my tendency to do the wrong thing and that my life is unmanageable. (Step 1) "Happy are those who know that they are spiritually poor." Matthew 5:3a TEV
2. **E**arnestly believe that God exists, that I matter to Him and that He has the power to help me recover. (Step 2) "Happy are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted." Matthew 5:4 TEV, NIV
3. **C**onsciously choose to commit all my life and will to Christ's care and control. (Step 3) "Happy are the meek." Matthew 5:5a TEV
4. **O**penly examine and confess my faults to myself, to God, and to someone I trust. (Steps 4 and 5) "Happy are the pure in heart." Matthew 5:8a TEV
5. **V**oluntarily submit to any and all changes God wants to make in my life and humbly ask Him to remove my character defects. (Steps 6 and 7) "Happy are those whose greatest desire is to do what God requires" Matthew 5:6a TEV
6. **E**valuate all my relationships. Offer forgiveness to those who have hurt me and make amends for harm I've done to others when possible, except when to do so would harm them or others. (Steps 8 and 9) "Happy are the merciful." Matthew 5:7a TEV; "Happy are the peacemakers" Matthew 5:9 TEV
7. **R**eserve a daily time with God for self-examination, Bible reading, and prayer in order to know God and His will for my Life and to gain the power to follow His will. (Steps 10 and 11)
8. **Y**ield myself to God to be used to bring this Good News to others, both by my example and my words. (Step 12) "Happy are those who are persecuted because they do what God requires." Matthew 5:10 TEV