

Thursday

Pleading for Our Brethren

Today's Scripture Philemon

Today we open our Bibles to the book of Philemon. In the first few verses Paul begins with a prayer of thanks for the faith and love Philemon has shown toward all the saints (vs 5). Philemon is a wealthy slave owner and this letter is the shortest of all the letters sent by Paul, only 334 words. However, it answers so many questions about the practical side of Christianity working in the lives of people.

The reason for this letter is to plead for Philemon to forgive Onesimus, a slave, receive him as a brother, and Paul even offers to repay Philemon for anything that was taken by Onesimus. There is a great love between Paul and Onesimus so much Paul wanted to keep him with him (vs 13).

Have you ever had anyone plead for you on your behalf? Have you ever known anyone that would write a letter to someone with you as the subject? Have you ever had anyone raise their hand and speak highly about you to others? Have you ever had anyone who knew your faults yet still desired for you to be close beside them? What about Jesus Christ? This book is a beautiful message of forgiveness and love and an example all Christians should see and live.

Would we ever consider loving our brethren so much that we call them our own? Would we ever plead for someone else to forgive our brethren even if it wasn't our business? Would we ever send a letter pleading, "accept him as you accept me" (vs. 17) or "if he has wronged you in any way, charge it to my account" (vs. 18)? Isn't this what Christ has done for each one of us at the cross?

Paul is intelligent in the way he composed and closed this letter, slightly urging with authority, "Don't forget you owe me yourself" and "I know you will do more than I ask."

Today, I will...consider the level of love and encouragement to my own brothers and sisters in Christ.