

“More”
Philemon 21-25

Introduction:

1. Well - It's That Time Of Year Again:
 - Isn't It!
 - Thanksgiving Is Officially On Thursday:
 - Though - There Are Usually A Few Other Thanksgiving Meals Thrown In:
 - For Good Measure:
 - Aren't There!
 - Including One Tonight:
 - Here At The Church:
 - To Which All Of You Are Welcome!
2. But - As In Years Past:
 - You Will Probably Experience:
 - The Same Feeling After Each Meal You Enjoy!
 - The Feeling That:
 - You Ate Way Too Much!
 - That - When You Were Asked:
 - “Would You Like Some More!”
 - Without Hesitation - You Said - Yes!
 - And Yet - It's Not Something:
 - That You Regret All That Much!
 - Because - The Food Was So Good:
 - You Couldn't Help Yourself!
 - You Wanted More!
 - 3. Now - If This Happens With **Every** Meal:
 - Or - With **Every** Good & Enjoyable Thing In Life:
 - It Can Lead To Some:
 - Unfortunate Results!
 - Just Ask The Scale When January Comes Along!
 - Because - There Are Times In Life:
 - When You **Can** Have Too Much:
 - Of A Good Thing!
 - 4. But - As We Will See From Paul's Letter To Philemon This Morning:
 - This Is **Not** The Case:
 - When It Comes To The Things Of God!
 - It's OK - To Want “More” And:
 - To Aspire To “More” - In Your Faith:
 - And In Your Walk:
 - With The Lord!
 - So - If You're Not There Already:
 - Please Turn With Me In Your Bibles:
 - To The Last 5 Verses Of Philemon:
 - Where - After Making His Appeal To Philemon For Onesimus - Who Are Now, Both, Brothers In Christ:
 - The Apostle Paul Explains Why He Believed He Could Write Such A Letter About Such A Sensitive Matter In The First Place!
 - 5. It Was Because - He Believed:
 - That Philemon - According To The End Of 1:21:
 - Would - “Do More” - Than He Said!
 - “More” - Than He Suggested!
 - “More!”
 - Let's Look At These Verses Together!
 - 1:21-25 - “Having confidence in thy obedience I wrote unto thee, knowing that thou wilt also do more than I say. / 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!”

- Now - Even Though The Ending Of Philemon:
 - Is Similar In Many Respects:
 - To The Ending Of Colossians:
 - And To The Other Letters Of Paul:
- These Inspired Verses:
 - Are Still Skillfully Used:
 - By Him:
 - To Encourage Philemon:
 - To **Want More** & To **“Do More”** In His Christian Faith & Life!

6. And So - As We Look At These Verses:
- More Closely - This Morning - I Want You:
 - To Think About - Just How Much **More**:
 - There Is For You:
 - As A Christian! As A Child Of God!
 - Because - When It Comes:
 - To Your Own Faith & Your Own Life As A Christian:
 - You Can **Never** Have Too Much:
 - Of A Good Thing!
 - And - It’s OK To Want More!
 - Because - As We Read:
 - In 1:21 - There Is Still Room For:

1. More Growth!

- More Growth - In Your Walk With The Lord!
 - Even As Paul Explained To Philemon:
 - His Motivation For Writing This Letter!
 - It Was - 1:21 - “Having confidence in thy obedience I wrote unto thee, knowing that thou wilt also do more than I say!”
 - You See - Paul Was Optimistic:
 - That Philemon Would Fulfill His Desire:
 - For That Runaway Slave - Onesimus!
 - That He Would Forgive Him & Receive Him & Even Restore Him:
 - 1:16 - “Not Now As A Servant, But Above A Servant, A Brother Beloved!”
 - But - How Could Paul Be So Optimistic:
 - About This?
 - Because He Saw Great Potential:
 - For Spiritual Growth:
 - In Philemon!
 - **IE**: Isn’t This Why - Ladies - When Someone You Know Is Has A Baby - You Start Thinking About & Looking For Clothes That You Can Buy & Give! But - You Are Always Thinking Ahead! Not Just What The Baby Can Wear Now, But In 3 / 6 / 9 Months - Or A Year From Now! Why? Because You Believe That The Baby Will Grow! It’s Part Of The Nature Of A Baby To Grow! And In A Similar Way:
 - Paul Believed There Would Be:
 - More Growth In Philemon - First Of All:
- In Character!
 - In Philemon’s Character!
 - This Is Why Paul Could Say That He Had:
 - “Confidence In [Philemon’s] Obedience!”
 - As We’ve Seen Throughout This Letter:
 - Philemon Had Good Character &
 - And A Godly Reputation!
 - But - The Issue Paul Wrote To Him About Was A Sensitive Issue - And One That Would Stretch His Faith!
 - But - Paul Had “Confidence” In His “Obedience!”
 - And That His Character Would Continue To Grow!
 - But - How Could Paul Be So Confident About This? A Few Reasons:
 - Because Of The Transformation:
 - That Took Place In Philemon’s Heart & Life!

- You See - Paul Had Personally Witnessed To & Won Philemon To The Lord! And He Was An Eye-Witness To His Spiritual Transformation!
 - This Is, After All, What The Gospel Does!
- When You Turn From Your Sin:
 - And Trust In Jesus As Your Savior:
 - The Spiritual Seed Of Christ Himself Is Implanted In Your Heart!
 - And You Become A “New Creature!” You Are Transformed! And That Seed Will Grow!
 - Have You Experienced:
 - This Spiritual Transformation?
 - You Can! Romans 10:13 - “For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved!”
- And Then - The Lord Offers You:
 - Even More! But:
 - Paul Could Also Be Confident:
- Because Of The Tenderness:
 - Of Philemon - To The Will & To The Word Of God!
 - The Root Of The Word “Obedience” Means To “Listen & Submit!” And This Was The Testimony Philemon Had In His Hometown Of Colosse!
 - Paul Was Also Confident:
- Because Of The Truthfulness:
 - Of The Church - Who Were Eye-Witnesses:
 - To God’s Ongoing Work In Philemon’s Life! This Is Why - In 1:5 - Paul Wrote That He “[Heard] Of [His] Faith And Love!”
- There Was Genuine Spiritual Fruit:
 - In Philemon’s Life - And That Gave Paul:
 - Confidence - That The Fruit Was Real & Would Continue To Mature & Ripen!
 - Because - This Kind Of Growth & This Kind Of Fruit Is Only *Natural* For A Christian!
 - And So - Paul’s “Confidence” Was Really A “Confidence” In Christ & In The Power Of The Gospel!
 - As Paul Wrote In Philippians 1:6 - “Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ!”
- This Is Why You Can Be “Confident” That:
 - There Is Still Room For You To Grow:
 - In Your Character As A Christian!
 - Because God Is Not Finished With You Yet!
 - There’s More!
- But - Paul Also Believed That:
 - There Would Be:
 - More Growth:
- In Conduct!
 - In Philemon’s Conduct!
 - Which Is Why Paul Adds In 1:21:
 - “Knowing That Thou Wilt Also Do More Than I Say!”
 - Or - “Go Beyond” What He Suggests In This Letter!
 - You See - Paul’s “Confidence” & “Persuasion” About Philemon’s Obedience:
 - Led To Paul’s “Knowing” Or “Perceiving” Of Philemon’s Response!
 - That He Would “Do More!”
 - More Than Paul Asked!
 - More Than Paul Expected!
 - More!
 - **IE:** Just Like Children Are Able To “Do More” When They “Grow More!” Like A Boy Who Starts Out Riding A Tricycle - Then A Bicycle - Then A Motorcycle! But - Once Again - Where Does This Growth Come From?
- The “Confidence” & “Knowledge” Paul Had:
 - In The Growth Of Philemon’s Christian Character & Conduct:
 - Rested In The Power & The Promises Of The Gospel!

- Philemon Could “Do More” & Go “Above & Beyond” - Because Of What God Himself Is Able To Do!
 - As Paul Describes The Lord In Ephesians 3:20 - As The One Who “Is Able To Do Exceeding Above All That We Ask Or Think, According To The Power That Worketh In Us!”
- And This Is The “Confidence” & “Knowledge” That You Can Have:
 - In Your Own Potential For Growth:
 - If You Are A Child Of God Today!
 - There Is Still Room:
 - For More Growth:
 - In Both Your Character & In Your Conduct As A Christian!
- In Fact - Never Settle:
 - For Mediocrity In Your Christian Growth!
 - It’s OK To Want More - And Aspire For More!
- But - You Need To Remember Where Your Growth Comes From!
 - And Keep Your Trust & Confidence:
 - In The Power & The Work Of The Lord:
 - In Your Heart & Life!
 - Remember These Words Written By Cyrus S. Nusbaum:
 - “His Pow’r Can Make You What You Ought To Be! His Blood Can Cleanse Your Heart And Make You Free! His Love Can Fill Your Soul, And You Will See! ‘Twas Best For Him To Have His Way With Thee!”
- There Is Still Room For More Growth!
 - But We Can Also See That There Is Still Room For:

2. **More Giving!**

- More Giving - In Your Walk With The Lord!
 - Which Is What Paul Turns To Next:
 - In 1:22 - When He Writes - “But withal prepare me also a lodging: for I trust that through your prayers I shall be given unto you!”
 - This Verse Reveals To Us The Close Relationship That Paul & Philemon Must Have Had!
 - Even Though It Does Not Seem Like Paul Had Been To Colosse Before, He Was Looking Forward To The Opportunity To Go There:
 - And To Enjoy Philemon’s Well-Known Fellowship & Hospitality Himself!
 - And So - He Encourages Philemon - To Do Even More:
 - Than What He Described In His Letter!
 - To Keep Preparing For & Praying About:
 - Paul’s Arrival!
 - And This Shows Us Just How Much More *We* Can Give:
 - Of Ourselves, As Christians!
 - Like Philemon:
 - You Can:
- Give Yourself More:
 - To Service!
 - In 1:22 - When Paul Uses The Word “Withal” - He:
 - Is Offering Philemon Another Opportunity To Serve!
 - By - Not Only Receiving Onesimus - But By Receiving Paul As Well!
 - This Shows We Should Be Seeking Out:
 - More Opportunities To Serve!
 - Not Less!
 - And - With The Word “Also” - It’s As If Paul Is Telling Philemon:
 - To Serve Him *As* He Is Will Serve Onesimus!
 - That Is - Whatever You Do For Him:
 - Do The Same For Me! Make Up Another Bed! Set Another Plate At The Table! Get Everything Ready For My Arrival!
 - And I Believe Paul Could Ask Philemon To Do This:

- Because Of Their Special Friendship!
 - Only A Close & A True Friend Would Dare To Make This Kind Of Request!
 - But - He Also Asked This:
- Because Of Their Special Fellowship:
 - That Could Take Place In Philemon's Home! Not Just Between The Two Of Them! But Between All Of Them!
- This Is The Kind Of Reception:
 - And Service - There Can Be & Ought To Be:
 - Within The Family Of God!
 - Though There Should Be Service & Hospitality To Strangers:
 - How Much More Should There Be Within The Household Of Faith!
- We Need To Give Ourselves More:
 - In Christian Service To Others!
 - Putting Ourselves "Out There" To Meet Their Needs - In The Name Of Christ!
 - 1 Corinthians 15:58 - "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord!"
 - Then - Also - Like Philemon - You Can:
- Give Yourself More:
 - To Supplication & To Prayer!
 - Even Though Paul Wrote This Letter As A Prisoner In Rome - He Still Had Hope!
 - Hope To Be Released From His Captivity & Hope Even To Visit The Church Of Colosse For The First Time!
 - Paul Was A Man Filled With Hope! Always "Hoping" & Always "Believing" That There Was Something "More" For Him In The Plan Of God! Even If It Meant He Would "Depart, And Be With Christ, Which [To Him, Was] Far Better!" (Philippians 1:23)
 - But - Even Though Paul Had Strong Faith & Hope In:
 - The Sovereign Plan Of God For His Life:
 - He Also Had Strong Faith & Hope:
 - In The Prayers Of God's People!
 - This Is Why He Wrote:
 - In 1:22b - "For I trust [I Am Hoping] that through your prayers I shall be given unto you!"
 - Here, He First Describes:
 - The Prayers Of Philemon & His Church!
 - "Through Your Prayers!" (Of You All)
 - Paul Knew They Were A Praying Church & They Were Praying For Him & For His Release!
 - The Apostle Paul Believed That "The Prayers Of The Saints Avail Much With God!" (Gill)
 - So - He Wanted Them To Pray More!
 - But Then - At The End Of 1:22 - He Uses:
 - The Language Of Providence:
 - When He Uses A Passive Phrase - "I Shall Be Given Unto You!"
 - Paul Knew That He Had Absolutely No Control Over His Own Deliverance & Departure From Rome!
 - After All - He Was In Bonds!
 - But - Paul Still Had Hope & Trust:
 - That He Would See Philemon Once Again! This Time - In His Own Home!
 - Why? Because He Knew That:
 - ***Prayer Is An Instrument In The Providence Of God!***
- And When ***You*** Recognize This:
 - That God Still Works Out His Plan:
 - Through The Specific & Sustained & Shared:
 - Prayers Of His People:
 - You Too Will Give Yourself More - To Prayer!
 - Remember Today - That There Is Still:

- Room For More Giving:
 - In Your Life As A Christian!
 - Giving Of Yourself:
 - In Service & In Prayer!
- But Also - There Is Still Room For:

3. *More Grace!*

- More Grace - In Your Walk With The Lord!
 - Which Is What We See In The Closing Verses:
 - Of Philemon - 1:23-25 - “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!”
 - Once Again - Paul Finishes His Letter:
 - In His Customary & Rather Ordinary Way!
 - But - There Is Still Some Important Truth In These Words!
 - And So - I Think Paul Is Suggesting To Philemon That There Is Still More Grace To Be Found:
- In Christ!
 - And - In The Body Of Christ!
 - In 1:23-24 - Five Christian Brothers:
 - Add Their Names And Their Greetings:
 - In This Letter:
 - To Philemon!
 - All Five Of Them:
 - Are Mentioned In Paul’s Letter To The Colossians As Well!
 - Epaphras Is Mentioned First Here:
 - Probably Because He Was The Founding & Senior Pastor Of The Colossian Church!
 - But - Through Their Names:
 - And The Description Of Epaphras:
 - As “My Fellow-Prisoner” - And:
 - The Description Of The Others:
 - As - “My Fellow-Laborers!”
 - I Think Paul Is Showing Philemon:
 - That - Even The Loss Of Onesimus As A Slave:
 - Would Be More Than Made Up For:
 - By The Gain Of This Glorious Band Of Christian Brothers!
 - And As Christians:
 - We Need More:
 - Of These Kinds Of Relationships!
 - Not Less!
 - Relationships Where We:
 - Salute Each Other:
 - In Christian Love And Grace
 - As Well As:
 - Serve With Each Other:
 - And - When The Time Comes - Even Suffer With Each Other!
 - Knowing That:
 - Christians Are Not Just:
 - “Fellow-Laborers” With Other Christians!
 - Christians Are “Fellow-Laborers” With Christ Himself!
 - 1 Corinthians 3:9 - “For we are labourers together with God!”
 - There Is Still More Grace To Be Found:
 - In Christ! And - There Is Still More Grace:
 - To Be Found:
 - From Christ!
 - Which Is What We See In The Final:
 - Pronouncement & Prayer Of Paul:

- Not Just For Philemon - But For The Entire Church That Met In His House!
 - In 1:25 - "The Grace Of Our Lord Jesus Christ Be With Your [Plural] Spirit! Amen!" - Or - "The Spirit Of You All!"
- When You Recognize The Need:
 - In Your Own Heart & Life:
 - For More Growth!
 - In Your Character & In Your Conduct!
 - For More Giving!
 - Of Yourself In Service & In Prayer!
 - And - For More Grace:
 - Within The Body Of Christ!
- You Also Need To Realize That:
 - You Cannot **Get** More Or **Do** More:
 - Apart From - "The Grace Of Our Lord Jesus Christ!"
 - **You Need His Grace To Grow!**
- And This Is Why Paul Ends:
 - This Letter - And Most Of His Letters:
 - In This Way!
 - Because - Apart From This Grace From Christ:
 - You Will Always Settle For What Is Least In Your Faith & Walk With God!

Conclusion:

1. But - This Is Not What Paul Wanted:
 - For His Friend & Brother - Philemon!
 - He Wanted There To Be **More!**
 - **IE:** And - Even Though We Can't Know For Certain, It Appears From Church History, That Philemon **Did** "More" Than Paul Asked! A Bit Later In The First Century, There Is Record Of A Pastor In The Church Of Ephesus - Just About 100 Miles Away From Colosse - By The Name Of - Onesimus - Who Was Eventually Martyred For His Faith In Christ! Is This The Same Onesimus? Perhaps!
 - If So - Philemon Did "More" Than Paul Wanted Concerning Him!
 - From Runaway Slave To A Brother Beloved To A Christian Pastor To A Faithful Martyr!
 - Onesimus Had Been Given True Freedom In Christ!
2. And Is Not This What The Lord Wants:
 - For You & Offers To You As Well?
 - **"More!"**
 - This Is Why Peter Wrote:
 - In 2 Peter 3:18 - "But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ!"
 - Because - There Is Still Room For:
 - More Grace!
 - More Giving!
 - And - More Growth!
 - In The Lord!
2. Is This What You Want Today:
 - In Your Christian Faith & Walk?
 - Do You Want **More?**
 - Hopefully You've Seen Today That:
 - There **Is** More!
 - **Much** More!
 - So - Do Not Settle:
 - For Less!
 - Less Growth! Less Giving! Less Grace!
 - No! Aspire & Ask:
 - **For More!**
3. Because - You Can Never Have:
 - Too Much Of A Good Thing!

- When Its God's Thing!
- Because - It Is The Best Thing!

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