

Ready Obedience

Philemon 20-25

Introduction – When Knowing Isn’t Enough

Paul has made his appeal. Philemon knows what is being asked of him.
Now that appeal must become _____.

Willing Obedience Is Motivated by _____ – v. 20

“Yes, brother, I want some benefit from you in the Lord. Refresh my heart in Christ.”

Paul appeals to Philemon’s _____.

Philemon has refreshed the hearts of the saints (v. 7).

Paul has called Onesimus his own heart (v. 12).

Now he asks Philemon to refresh his heart (v. 20).

Paul is appealing to Philemon to _____ the grace that has already
_____ him.

Willing Obedience Goes Beyond the _____ – v. 21

“Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.”

Paul expresses _____ in Philemon’s obedience.

He knows Philemon’s character and expects him to respond _____.

Willing obedience doesn’t ask, “What is the _____ I can do?” but “How can I best
_____ Christ?”

Willing Obedience Is Sustained by _____ – vv. 22-25

“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.”

The letter ends where the Christian life must continue: in _____ upon the
grace of Christ.

God often ministers His sustaining _____ to us through the fellowship, prayers,
and encouragement of other _____.

Conclusion: A Heart Ready to Obey

Christ transforms not only what we _____, but what we _____.

Obedience is no longer merely a duty we reluctantly perform; it becomes the willing
response of a heart changed by _____.

Epilogue: Another Chapter in the Story?

Decades later, Ignatius wrote about a bishop of Ephesus named Onesimus and used
language that strikingly echoes Philemon 20. Christian tradition identifies him with
Paul’s Onesimus, but we cannot establish that they were the same man.

The gospel doesn’t merely change what we _____. It changes how we _____,
how we _____ one another, and ultimately, who we _____.

That’s *the shape of the gospel*.