

# UNSHAKEABLE

part 2

Book of Philemon

Life principles:

- Remember, we are all on the same **TEAM** vs. 1-2
- Always enter the room with '**GRACE** and **PEACE**' vs. 3
- Cultivate a few **DEEP** personal relationships vs. 4-7
  1. A heart of **EXPRESSIVE** thankfulness vs.4-5
    - Paul links **PERSONAL** thankfulness and **PERSONAL** prayer
    - 'making mention' = present to someone to gain **BENEFITS**
    - Paul lists two **SPECIFIC** reasons he is thankful for Philemon
      - Philemon's **PERPETUAL** love and faith
      - Philemon's focus of **JESUS** and all the **SAINTS**
  2. A heart of **EXPLICIT** prayer vs. 6
    - Paul prays their common faith will be **PRODUCTIVE**
    - Paul prays their deepening knowledge will their **POTENTIAL**
    - Paul prays that Jesus' fame will be their **PRIORITY**
  3. A heart of **EXACT** appreciation vs. 7
    - Paul shares his **JOY** and **COMFORT**
    - The saints have been **DEEPLY** affected by Philemon
    - They have been **THOROUGHLY** encouraged by Philemon

## Life Group Discussion Questions – February 14, 2021

**Philemon vv.4-5** *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;*

### **DISCOVER (read Philemon vv. 1-7)**

1. What was always part of Paul's prayers? What specifically is Paul thankful for?
2. What exactly was Paul praying for Philemon in v.6? What did Paul suggest that Philemon would gain by actively sharing his faith?

### **EXPLORE**

1. In v. 4, Paul refers to "my God." What does he mean by this? Why didn't he say "our God?"
2. Read Philemon v.4, then Romans 1:8-10; 1 Corinthians 1:4; Philippians 1:4; Colossians 1:3; and 1 Thessalonians 1:2. What are the common denominators in these passages? What do they say about Paul's character? Contrast these qualities to those when he was known as "Saul."
3. From v. 5, we might conclude that Paul tended to pray more for those who were doing well, (the saints) than for those who weren't. Is this an accurate statement? Explain.
4. Discuss the contrast of this epistle's tone to the first letter that Paul sent to the Corinthian church? Was Paul more authoritative in 1 Corinthians? Why do you think so?

### **EXPERIENCE**

1. In this short letter, Paul emphasizes the good reputation of his brother, Philemon. How are reputations or opinions of us formed? What kinds of factors contribute to their accuracy? Does your testimony shine brightly like Philemon's? What might someone say about you?
2. Why could Paul give orders to Philemon? What did Paul decide to do instead of ordering Philemon? What does this teach us about using authority (having authority doesn't mean you always have to use it)? Describe a time when you deployed your authority and it only led to more hardship. What does a "re-do" of that circumstance look like today?
3. We call each other "brother" or "sister" often. What does this say about our relationship, our bonds, with each other? What does it say about the family of God?
4. Are you un-committal to a deepening relationship with one or two brothers or sisters? What would it take for you to pursue someone so that you could spiritually refresh each other?

### **PRAY**

Praise God for His intentionality in bringing specific people into your life, especially fellow believers. Ask Him to bring someone into your life that you can love with a pure heart, a good conscience and a sincere faith (1 Timothy 1:5); that you would love this person with expressive thankfulness, explicit prayer and exact appreciation.