

UNSHAKEABLE

Part 7 Philemon 12-16

Do the right **THING**, and do it the right **WAY!** vs. 12-14

- ‘Consent’ = Sincere **OPINION** 1 Peter 5:2; 2 Cor. 9:7
- Paul makes the **HARDER** choice, the less **CONVENIENT** choice, but the right decision
- Paul knows resolving this the right way is the only way to **FREE** both Onesimus and Philemon from their **PAST** and into God’s **FUTURE**.

God never makes a move without His **GRAND PLAN** in mind! vs. 15-16

- Paul sees divine **PROVIDENCE** in his life situations
- God is orchestrating **REDEMPTIVE** stories in the midst of our difficulties
- God’s plan resulted in everyone’s best **INTEREST**
- Interpreting life’s events through the lens of God’s **DIVINE** plan is a skill we **LEARN** Philippians 4:11-13

Auburn Grace Community Church – March 21, 2021

Life Group Discussion Questions – March 21, 2021

Philemon v. 20-21 *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.*

DISCOVER

1. In v. 15, Paul suggests a reason why Onesimus was separated from Philemon. What was the reason?
2. What is the benefit Paul refers to in v. 20?

EXPLORE

1. Does God’s timing disappoint people? Read Genesis 45:4-8; 50:20 and John 11:1-45. In these two accounts, what were the ultimate take-aways from those disappointed in God’s timing? How should we respond in our hearts while we’re waiting on the Lord in our difficult circumstances?
2. Why did Paul have confidence in Philemon’s response? What does it take to have trust in another’s character?
3. In v. 21, Paul indicated that he knew Philemon would do even more that what was requested. Why was this extra work expected of Philemon? How is this like “going the extra mile”? (see Matthew 5:38-42)

EXPERIENCE

1. Ultimately, Philemon exchanged a briefly lost wayward slave for a brother in Christ forever. Onesimus was grafted into the same family of God as Philemon had been grafted into. Being a family member requires love and commitment. How well are you doing at rightly loving your family?
2. God is so deliberate that He doesn’t do anything without His kingdom purposes in mind. With this in mind, identify some reasons why God would take someone out of your life in some way. Conversely, what are some reasons He brings new people into your life?
3. In Philemon v. 7 and v. 20, we see that Philemon refreshes people’s hearts. How do your words and actions invigorate others in their innermost parts? Is there someone you know that needs rest and refreshment right now? What will you say or do?
4. What virtues would you look for in someone so that you could have confidence in them? Are these your attributes as well? Describe a time when you failed in another’s trust in you. How was your relationship changed as a result?
5. How can assuming the best of others work to bring out good qualities in them?

PRAY

Admit that at times we are frustrated with God’s timing. Then thank God that He has shown us this distraction to trusting in His providence. Ask Him to help you to see His grace as you desire to accomplish His perfect and pleasing will; that He would open the eyes of your heart to see His perspective. Praise God for the people He has brought into your life; that every single one of them is a part of His kingdom plan.