

PHILEMON

Lesson 13: Who Do You Owe?

25 March, 2016

Today's lesson is from verses 8-9 and 17-19.

DEFINITIONS

Bowels (vs. 7): the interior of anything, esp. the body; *Arc* the seat of pity or the gentler emotions; *fig* compassionate feelings or tender emotions.

Enjoin (vs. 8): to urge or impose with authority and emphasis; command; order.

Convenient (vs. 8): appropriate; suitable; fitting.

Beseech (vs. 9): beg, entreat, implore, ask (someone) earnestly.

When Paul asks Philemon to receive Onesimus, he offers to pay anything owed by Onesimus. Then Paul reminds Philemon that he owes him a spiritual debt.

We all owe a debt of gratitude to many people who have influenced our lives in one way or another since we were born. We have been shown grace and mercy all through our lives by others who cared for us.

THREE DEBTS WE OWE, ACCORDING TO THE HOLY BIBLE:

1. We owe everyone an opportunity to hear the Gospel (**Romans 1:14-16**).
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2. We owe the Holy Spirit (**Romans 8:1-14**). You do not owe the flesh. Mortify your flesh and allow the Holy Spirit to continue to lead you in the right paths.
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3. We owe everyone love (**Romans 13:8-10**). Real love will naturally fulfill all the commandments.
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PAYMENT OF THE DEBT (Philippians 2:1-9)

1. Humility is important (vs. 3). If you think you're better than others, you won't feel compelled to pay them the love that you owe, you won't give them the gospel that you owe, and you won't yield to the Holy Spirit if you love yourself more than you love God.

2. Jesus Christ is our example (vss. 4-8). He proved His love when He put everyone above Himself by coming to this earth, taking the form of a man, and dying for our sins. We ought to love others even if it costs us greatly.

3. Humility leads to exaltation (vs. 9). We can humble ourselves in this temporal life knowing that we shall be exalted for eternity.

WHAT DOES GOD SAY WE OWE HIM? ---Nothing! He's given us the free gift of salvation and does not demand anything in return. It is reasonable that we OUGHT to serve God (Rom. 12:1), but God doesn't command it.

How do you pay the debt you owe? By God's example: with no demand or expectation for any compensation. Give the gospel freely. Give love freely. Remember you're giving a gift. A gift is not conditional. Others may treat you badly or not respond as you hope, but they don't owe you for your gift.

Don't stop following the leading of the Holy Spirit when bad times come. Obey His commands—I trust His guidance—I live by His word. You owe Him that.
