

# PHILEMON

## Lesson 23: Confidence in Thy Obedience

3 June, 2016

In verse 21 Paul said he had full confidence that Philemon would go beyond mere obedience and do more than he asked him to do. This is what God desires from us also, as we'll see in this study.

The Bible contains commandments for Christians. However, we need to understand that we are not confined to those commandments. Once we have met the minimum requirement, God would be pleased to see us go beyond that and look for more ways to serve Him. In fact, there shouldn't be any need of a command if our hearts are right.

---

---

**PHILIPPIANS 2:12** Christians ought to have this kind of character: We ought to have the reputation of one who will be obedient and trustworthy whether we're being observed by a superior or not. Paul knew that the Philippian believers didn't need any supervision to make them do right. They didn't have to raise their standards when Paul visited; their standards were always above par.

---

---

**2 COR. 10:6** This verse instructs the Christian to go beyond obeying [reluctantly] the commands to cease from sinful practices—and to set yourself AGAINST the things that God considers disobedience.

A reluctant abstainer (*"have to"*) is more likely to return to their old sinful practices than a believer who now counts themselves the enemy of anything which God says is wrong (*"want to"*).

---

---

**MATTHEW 5:27-42** Jesus states the commandment (the bare minimum requirement)—and then tells us how we can go beyond the command—and make it a matter of the heart.

### THE COMMAND

No adultery (vs. 27)

Fulfill your oaths (vs. 33)

Equal treatment for all (vs. 38)

### BEYOND THE COMMAND

Don't even look... (vs. 28)

Don't swear an oath (vs. 34)

Treat others better than expected (39-42)

---

---

**LUKE 17:5-10**

In response to the apostles' request, "Increase our faith," the Lord said that a servant who does merely what he's supposed to do should not expect any thanks or reward. The key to increasing your faith—is to go above and beyond what is commanded in the Bible and serving the Lord without need of a commandment.

---

---

**2 THESS. 3:14-15**

Some Christians will hinder you in your Christian growth and ability to serve the Lord as much as you want to. Do the people you spend your time with encourage you to serve the Lord—or discourage you and get in your way? You need to separate from that person, "**not as an enemy, but admonish *him* as a brother.**" Spend your time with people who love God and want to obey God like you do.

---

---

God could really do something in a community where He had some Christians who loved him so much that they wanted to do MORE than they had to do for His glory.

**Having confidence in thy obedience I wrote unto thee, knowing that thou wilt also do more than I say.**

**Philemon 1:21**