GREAT LOVE XIX

PHILEMON 1:18 If he hath wronged thee, or oweth *thee* ought, put that on mine account;

This is the second week that I have referenced the Book of Philemon. It has only one chapter but this chapter is full of love. Paul is either asking Philemon to love Onesimus or wanting share a special love for Onesimus with Philemon or showing a special love to Philemon.

Today I would like to focus on this special love for Onesimus as it was shown to Philemon.

It was pretty obvious that Onesimus had wronged Philemon or at the very least Philemon felt he had been wronged by Onesimus. Paul suggest to Philemon that if Onesimus had done anything bad toward him to put it on Paul’s account. If Onesimus had stolen anything or left owing a debt, Paul told Philemon he would take care of the debt. He said in so many words, “It’s on me.”

This is such a beautiful picture of what Jesus offers to do for each of us. When we trust him with our heart and we ask forgiveness for our sins, Jesus approaches the Father and says to God “If he hath wronged thee, or oweth thee ought, put that on mine account.” Jesus not only does that for our past but for our future too. Another beautiful story, the story of the Good Samaritan, tells about the Samaritan who found a man beaten and left for dead on the side of the road. He treated his wounds and bandaged him then put him on his own beast and transported him to an inn where he could be taken care of. As he left the inn he told the inn keeper that if there were any more charges he would also take care of them. That is just like Jesus. He takes the sins of our past and the sins of our future and says “It’s on me.”

He not only takes our wrongs but also the debt that we owe. All of us would surely say that we owe God a debt that we could never pay. As Christians we may never see a transaction for our debt take place but when we get to Heaven and if we are allowed to look at the ledger we will only see those beautiful words “PAID IN FULL.” As Christ and the Father look at the ledger and see the volumes of our sins Christ may look at the Father and say “This one has come to me in repentance and faith, it’s on me. His debt is paid in full. Lay it to my account.”

What Paul was willing to do on behalf of Onesimus was great love. What Jesus has done and is willing to do for each of us is greater love. Greater love hath no man than that he would lay down his life for his friend. If you have never experienced this great love that Jesus has for anyone who will receive it come to Jesus repenting of your sins and believing that he will take your sins and put them on his account.

Yours in Christ,

Brother Randy Burtram