

“Why Do We Pray?”
Philemon 1:21-25

- An overview of Philemon 1:21-25
 - *“Confident of your obedience”*: Paul was confident that Philemon would do what was right because Philemon had a history of obedience to God’s Word (Philemon 1:4-7). Paul knew that Philemon would obey, or do what was right, because he loved God (John 14:15; 1 John 3:7).
 - *“You will do even more than I say”*: The Christian worldview is not just simply to do or give. It is to do and give generously and with joy. This is how we show the joyful generosity of God (2 Corinthians 8:3 & 9:6-11).
 - *“Prepare a guest room for me....sends greetings to you”*: Paul desired to come and visit Philemon and see the fruitfulness of his obedience. Paul and the brothers desired to hold Philemon accountable to do the right thing. Every Christian has a responsibility and accountability to his brothers. No Christian operates above accountability (James 5:16; Matthew 18:15-17; Hebrews 10:24-25).
 - *“The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit”*: The means to do everything that we are called to do is the grace of God. Philemon would only be able to do what Paul requested by the grace of God. We can do nothing apart from Him (John 15:5; 2 Corinthians 12:9; 1 Corinthians 15:10; Ephesians 2:8-10).
- The main focus: *“I am hoping that through your prayers I will be graciously given to you”*:
 - *Prayer is never to promote, advance, or preserve self. Prayer is about God’s Name being glorified. Do whatever will make Your Name great. (Matthew 6:33; 1 Corinthians 10:31).*
 - 1 John 5:14-15
 - Because of the work of Christ we can draw near to God in prayer (Ephesians 3:12; Hebrews 4:14-16 & 10:22). This is a sacred privilege for the Christian.
 - We are to pray according to the revealed will of God. To do that we must know, believe, act on, and delight in the will of God. God will always ultimately accomplish His will and prayer is a means in which God accomplishes His will.
 - Matthew 6:9-13
 - It is God’s will that we enjoy God as *our Father*. We are His children, bought by the blood of Christ, and He will always give us what glorifies Him and is best for us (Matthew 7:7-11; Romans 8:14-17).
 - It is God’s will that *His Name be hallowed*. God is to be worshipped in both word and action (Romans 12:1-2; Hebrews 13:15-16). The worthiness of God and the supremacy of God is to be exalted above all things (Philippians 1:21-26 & 3:7-14; Psalm 9:10).
 - *Your kingdom come and Your will be done* is the desire of all Christians. To see Christ reign in our lives, others lives, and to anticipate when He will reign from His earthly throne. We do this by both proclaiming, practicing, and praying for His will to be done.
 - It is not God’s will that men sin. God patiently endures sinful men as He is accomplishing His will of saving men and women (Romans 2:4-5; 2 Peter 3:9).
 - God’s will is that we acknowledge that all provisions ultimately come from Him, thank Him for them, and trust Him to provide *our daily bread* (James 1:17; Romans 11:36; Philippians 4:19).

(continued →)

Worship: There is a Fountain (Citizens) 10,000 Reasons (Matt Redman)

Service Times: Sundays: Revelation Class 4/Prayer 4:30/Church 5:30; Tuesdays: (In-Home) Bible Study: Women 6:30/Men 6:30 & 7;
Thursdays: Prayer 6:20/Church 7

- It is God's will that we are people of immediate *forgiveness*. It is God's will that we immediately go to Him and ask Him for forgiveness when we recognize our sins (1 John 1:9) and that we immediately forgive others when they confess how they have sinned against us (Matthew 18:21-35). Pleas for mercy and forgiveness and offering of mercy and forgiveness keep us humble.
- It is God's will that we resist temptation. We are naturally led into temptation by our own desires (James 1:14). We are helpless without God's assistance to not be *led into temptation*. We need His grace to resist temptation (James 4:6-7) and to put sin to death (Colossians 3:1-5).
- 6 other things to pray that is God's Will for our lives and others...
 - That we live holy lives and are sanctified by His Word (1 Peter 1:14-15; John 17:17).
 - That we share the gospel of Jesus Christ (Romans 10:14-17).
 - That we hide God's Word in our hearts to fight against sin (Psalm 119:9-11; Hebrews 4:12).
 - That we encourage our brothers and sisters in Christ (1 Thessalonians 5:11).
 - That we are thankful in all circumstances (1 Thessalonians 5:18).
 - That we love God and neighbor as we ought (Mark 12:30-31).