

An Appeal for Faithful Faith

March 4, 2018 – Dr. Micheal S. Pardue, Sr.

- I. Introduction** – Philemon is the shortest of Paul’s letters preserved for us in Scripture. Philemon is an apparently a wealthy man who is supportive of Paul’s ministry. Onesimus is a bondservant of Philemon who has run away, ended up with Paul, and has been saved. Paul sends him back with this letter. The letter is an appeal to show Christian love and see Onesimus as a brother in Christ, understanding that in Christ, everything has changed. Paul can make tis appeal because he knows that Philemon is faithful. He is faithful in his faith. The entirety of Paul’s appeal is dependent on Philemon being a true man of faith and obedient to the Lord. I wonder if the same can be said of us. What does it look like when someone is faithful? This morning we are going to see **3 Patterns of those who are faithful in their faith.**
- II. Pattern 1: The Faithful are Known as Faithful** (vv. 4-7)
 - a. They are known for love (v. 5)
 - b. They are known for faithfulness to the Lord and His church (vv. 5-6)
 - c. They are known for kind generosity (v. 7)
- III. Pattern 2: The Faithful are Motivated by Love** (vv. 8-16)
 - a. They can be appealed to in love (vv. 8-11)
 - b. They can be trusted to respond with love (vv. 12-14)
 - c. They rest in the love of God’s sovereignty (vv. 15-16)
- IV. Pattern 3: The Faithful have a Heart Focused on Ministry** (vv. 17-22)
 - a. They partner with others for the work of the ministry (vv. 17-20; 22)
 - b. They have a heart to obey Christ commands (v. 21)
- V. Challenge** – Does the pattern of your life reflect you being faithful to your faith? Are you motivated by love? Do you have a heart that is focused on ministry? If these things are not true about you, the question is, why? Would Paul have been able to appeal to you to do the right thing and obey Christ? Friends, the Lord calls us to a faithful faith. He gave his life in faithful service to our heavenly father. We are called to faithfulness. If faithfulness does not mark your life, today is the day to repent and pursue a life of faithfulness.