Philemon 1:8–16   Dr. John Niemelä   Water of Life   February 13, 2025

Introduction:

[Paul appeals to Philemon], despite having authority to command him to do what is best (1:8)

Paul's authority

What is best

[Based on his prayer for Philemon to gain a greater recognition of Christ's work in His body] Paul appeals to Philemon for Onesimus because of love and because he is now an aged prisoner (1:9–10)

Paul appeals to Philemon, rather than commanding him

Difference between *presbutēs* and *presb̲e̲utēs*

Presbeutēs means _____ (This is the word in the text).

Presbutēs means _____ or is an alternate spelling for _____

The argument from context:

Paul's emphasis on Onesimus

[10]I appeal to you for	**my son Onesimus,**	
	whom	I have begotten *while* in my chains,
[11]	**who**	once was unprofitable to you, but
	[who]	now is profitable to you and to me.
[12]I am sending	**him**	
back. You therefore receive	**him,**	that is, my own heart,
[13]	**whom**	I wished to keep with me,
that on your behalf	**he**	might minister to me in my chains for the gospel.
[14]But without your consent I wanted to do nothing, that your good deed might not be by compulsion, as it were, but voluntary.		
[15]For perhaps	**he**	departed for a while for this *purpose,*
that you might receive	**him**	forever,
[16]no longer as a slave but more than a slave—	**a beloved brother,**	especially to me
but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.		

[Paul appeals for] the once useless Onesimus, who is now profitable to Philemon and Paul (1:11)

Meaning of the name *Onesimus*

Paul is returning Onesimus, so for Philemon to receive him is Paul's desire, although his first thought was to keep Onesimus for ministry (1:12–13)

[Though Paul would have preferred to keep Onesimus] he did not want Philemon's good deed to be forced, but to be voluntary (1:14)

Why?

2 Corinthians _____:_____

[Explaining not compelling Philemon: Onesimus' absence may have been for the purpose that Philemon would receive him as more than a slave—as a brother loved by him and Paul (1:15–16)

Conclusion: Viewing the passage from different standpoints

Standpoint 1:

Standpoint 2:

Standpoint 3:

Application

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