

DATE: AUGUST 7, 2011

TEXT: Philemon 1:1-7

TITLE: "FAITH AND LOVE IN ACTION"

SERIES: "LIVING OUT YOUR FAITH IN THE REAL WORLD" (1 of 3)

INTRODUCTION: Are you the person others perceive you to be? Who are you, really? Are you a person of faith? Do the actions of your life reveal a life of faith and love in Christ? Are the words that others would use to describe you words that Christ declared describe a Christian?

Researcher, George Barna shared how two separate studies, conducted several years apart, concluded that only 10% & 9% of Evangelicals live lives different from non-Christians.— (George Barna, in his book, *Think Like Jesus*)

George Barna said, **"I'm afraid that applies pretty much across the board: religion, per se, is not really life-changing. People cite it as important, for instance, in overcoming depression—but it doesn't have primacy in determining behavior."** (George H. Gallup, "Vital Signs")

What we do should flow out of who we are in Christ Jesus. In this three week study of Philemon, we see Christianity in action. We will gain understanding as to what it means to live out your faith in Christ in the real world.

I. (v.1-6) FAITH IN ACTION

"Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, To Philemon our dear friend and fellow worker." (Philemon 1:1)

1. 13 of Apostle Paul's letters begin with Paul, but this is the only letter that begins with "Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus..."
2. It is a self-identification that describes who he is.
3. Paul wrote this letter while in prison, probably in Rome some 1,000 miles away.
4. Paul mentions his chains or status as a prisoner five times in this short letter.
5. He had long ago given up his privilege of position and achievement to pursue the driving passion of his life—to know Christ and to make him known.

"What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish that I may gain Christ." (Philippians 3:8)

6. Highlighting the importance of the relationships we have in and through Christ, he mentions Timothy, his brother in the Lord.
7. This, the shortest of his letters, with 335 words, is a personal but not private letter written to Philemon, one of two personal letters preserved in the New Testament.
8. One theologian says it is one of the most charming letters ever written.

9. Another commentator said it breathes the great-hearted tenderness of the apostle.
10. The apostle wrote this kind and uplifting letter to his friend Philemon, a wealthy slave-owner in Colossae, for the purpose of reconciliation to request that Philemon treat his runaway slave Onesimus with Christian kindness.
11. It seems from scripture that Paul had lead Philemon to the Lord and thus calls him a dear friend and fellow worker.
12. Philemon is a fellow worker because he is actively involved in the work of the gospel in Colossae.
13. The apostle Paul understood the mission of the gospel was bigger than he was and so he partnered with others in ministry.
14. One of these fellow workers who was partners in ministry was Philemon.
ILLUSTRATION: (*Picture of her) By the year 2000, Jenny Thompson had won more Olympic gold medals than any other American woman. She won ten medals in the previous three Olympics and eight of them had been gold medals. Despite her skill, Thompson could not have won any of these medals on her own. Why? The reason is simple. She had competed in each of these events as part of a team. Her victories were the result of a group effort.
15. This is also true of the Christian ministry.
16. We need each other, we need community in Christ.
17. It is my heart that everyone is in community with other Christians, and as I have said on several occasions, everyone has someone to call at 2 in the morning.
18. I don't want anyone to be alone.
19. It takes all of us working together, hand in hand, to do all that God calls for us to do.
20. This is why it is so important that we are connected together.
21. Paul's letter to Philemon, like so many of his other letters, begins by mentioning several of his co-laborers in ministry.
22. Apphia, described by Paul as a sister in the Lord, whose name meant something like "darling" or "sweetheart."
23. Some believe this could have been Philemon's wife who, according to custom of the day, she would have had responsibility for day-to-day oversight of household slaves.
24. Archippus may also have been a member of Philemon's family, perhaps his son, friend, or teacher.
25. It's possible that he was one of the leaders of the church that met in Philemon's home.
26. The apostle calls Archippus a "fellow soldier."
27. The only other person in scripture Paul defines in this way is Epaphroditus, a trusted messenger between Paul and the churches and a servant of the Lord who literally gambled his life to assist and bless the Philippians.

28. Paul also addressed this letter to the entire church that met in Philemon's home, extending his blessing to the church that met in their home.
29. One way Philemon demonstrated his faith in and love for the gospel was by opening his house for church meetings, for churches met in homes until A.D. 200.
30. In this letter, Paul uses his conventional greeting of grace and peace, but these are not meaningless words.

(v. 3) "Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ."

31. There is no grace unless God bestows it, and there is no real peace unless it flows forth from God's reconciliation with sinful man, provided through Christ.
32. In this letter, Paul expresses thankfulness for the people in His life and for those who were doing the work of Christ.

(v.4.) "I always thank my God as I remember you in my prayers,"

33. Paul models the importance of not taking the people God places in our life for granted and the importance of praying for one another.
34. We desperately need to intercede for each other, for we need the prayers of each other.
35. As I walk through the church, my vision is to see people off praying for one another, praying in groups for one another and then holding each other up in prayer during the week.
36. Praying for one another is simply love in action.

ILLUSTRATION: ** St Augustine said this nearly seventeen hundred years ago, "True, whole prayer is nothing but love."

37. Paul teaches us to extend our prayers for other people.
38. Would you increase your prayers for others this week?
39. In this letter, Paul points out two characteristics of Philemon. I would encourage you to circle these in your Bibles or notes.

(v.5) "...because I hear about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints."

40. We will focus first on faith, though the actual Greek text has love appearing first.
41. Faith is the source from which love is derived and the object of faith is the Lord Jesus.

ILLUSTRATION: **Prolific Christian author, Andrew Murray wrote, "Faith is the root and love is the fruit."

A. A FAITH THAT OTHERS HEAR ABOUT

1. Philemon had a faith that was public, for Paul had heard about it.
2. Do you have a faith that people hear about?
3. In other words, do you have a faith so real that that it cannot help be noticed by others?
4. **Example:** The Romans had a faith that others were hearing about.
5. Paul wrote, "**First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is being reported all over the world.**" (Romans **1:8**)

6. **Example:** The Thessalonians had a faith that others heard about. **“The Lord’s message rang out from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia-your faith in God has become known everywhere. Therefore we do not need to say anything about it, for they themselves report what kind of reception you gave us. They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God.” (I Thessalonians 1:8-9)**

7. Do you have a faith people hear about?

8. Do you live a life of authentic faith loudly?

ILLUSTRATION: (Lake with crocodiles) Keith Jackson is a friend of mine. He pastored at a church near my first pastorate. Keith went to be a missionary to Zambia. He tells a story about his first trip to the bush area. The pastor of the church there asked him to baptize the converts. The pastor could have done the baptisms, but he asked that the missionary would do them instead. They walked through the open market singing, with everyone watching. Down to a big lake that was very shallow, they all went. They walked about 40 yards to get to water deep enough to baptize. The pastor stayed on shore and hollered out the names. After it was over, the pastor said to the missionary, Keith Jackson, “Praise God! We have demonstrated that we Nazarenes have faith.” Keith agreed, saying, “That’s true; we have faith in Jesus.” The pastor then said, “You don’t understand how much we demonstrated faith.” He went on to say, “Of all the churches, we are the only ones that baptize in this lake. Everyone else uses the river.” When the missionary asked why, the pastor said, “This Lake is full of crocodiles. We are the only ones with enough faith to baptize in it.” Keith wasn’t sure that was the right use of faith, but the villagers heard about their faith In Jesus.**

9. Do you have a faith in Jesus that others hear about in a positive way?

B. A FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST

1. Philemon had a faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

2. It was not a general or generic faith.

3. He was not just a religious person.

4. He was not just known as a person who went to church.

5. He was known as a man with faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

6. He was sold out to Jesus Christ.

ILLUSTRATION: **History records that Katherine von Bora, the wife of reformer, Martin Luther, spoke these as her last words. “I will stick to Christ as a burr to a topcoat!”

7. She was sold out to Jesus Christ, believing that He alone was her salvation and hope.

8. The Apostle Paul was sold out to Jesus.

“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.” (Galatians 2:20)

9. Faith in Jesus was his method of life.

10. Everything he did flowed out of his faith in Jesus.

11. Philemon's life of faith was based on Jesus Christ.

12. It is Christ who changes lives.

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" (II Corinthians 5:17)

ILLUSTRATION: I have appreciated the ministry of Teen Challenge through the years. Teen Challenge is an evangelical Christian recovery program and a network of Christian social and evangelizing work centers. It is a 12-18 month program that serves drug addicts, alcoholics, gang members, prostitutes and people with other characteristics that the program considers to be "life-controlling problems", such as homosexuality. I recently read the testimony of Brad. "I am from Mankato Minnesota. Meth had destroyed my life; no one had hope for me, not even myself. I was a meth dealer and a meth user and I was constantly high. I was using three grams of meth every single day, and more on the weekends. In the last two years of my addiction, I averaged only seven hours of sleep a week. I'd sleep for a couple of hours and then skip sleeping for three or four days. I've also been homeless and lived out of my car."

He goes on to say, "While doing jail time, I hit rock bottom. Social services took my daughter away from me and planned to put her up for adoption. They told me that since I was on meth I couldn't change. But, on February 23, 2001, I did change. I came to Teen Challenge and God got a hold of my heart. He set me free! I'm not fighting urges or anything. The same social service workers who said I would never change now have me talk to clients for them. I've held down a steady job cleaning carpets and I'm good at it. I love going to work. I pay my taxes. And best of all, I've got my daughter back. I'm her legal guardian and we have a stable home life. The awesome power of God has changed my life."

13. Jesus did that.

14. Jesus can change or transform our lives and bring outward change from the inside out.

15. What do you believe about Jesus?

16. Do you believe He is more than a religious figure or a good example?

17. Do you believe He is Lord, Savior and Redeemer?

ILLUSTRATION: *(Words on screen) (* Play this in the background –just this part and then off. Have words on screen while being sung. Or, me play and sing) Marc Nelson, back in 1987, wrote a song that says:

"I believe in Jesus,

I believe He is the Son of God;

I believe He died and rose again.

I believe He paid for us all

(Chorus)

And I believe He's here now,

(I believe that He's here),

Standing in our midst,

**Here with the power to heal now
(With the power to heal)
And the grace to forgive.”**

**I believe in You, Lord,
I believe You are the Son of God;
I believe You died and rose again.
I believe You paid for us all.
(Chorus)**

18. Do you really believe in Jesus?
19. Do you believe He can heal, forgive, and save?
20. Are you known as a person who believes in Jesus Christ?
21. Do you have a faith in Jesus Christ that has made you into a new person, a disciple of the Lord?

C. A FAITH THAT IS SHARED

(v. 6) “I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ.”

1. Philemon’s faith is a definite substance – something that is visible and demonstrable to others.
2. Paul’s prayer was that His faith would be active.
3. Paul probably had in mind public demonstration of Christian faith.
4. Faith is to be visible.

ILLUSTRATION: Billy Graham, the well-known evangelist, tells of witnessing to a man about becoming a Christian. The man listened politely and then replied, “I’ll become a Christian when I see one.” Verbal witness is just not enough.

5. The fruits of his faith were to be communicated or shared with others.

ILLUSTRATION: ** My friend, Peter Lundell, in his book, *Armed for Battle*, wrote, “Our evangelism is no better than the Christian witness of how we live our lives.”

6. His prayer was that Philemon would make faith common to others.
7. Through his actions, he would enable others to partake of the fruits of faith.
8. The word “sharing” has to do with the whole range of our faith.
9. Sharing of the faith must not be something static, but dynamic; it must function effectually and reveal the full activity of a life of faith.
10. By fellowship and interaction with other believers, Philemon communicates his faith so that they become edified in the faith.
11. By sharing the gospel, he advances the cause of Christ.
His faith is not to remain inoperative but is to be shared and seen by its effects.

ILLUSTRATION: ** “In the midst of a generation screaming for answers, Christians are stuttering.” (Howard Hendricks)

12. Paul’s prayer is that Philemon would not stutter.

13. Paul wanted Philemon to be effective in sharing his faith in order that Christ might be increasingly visible through his life.
14. He was praying that his faith may become effectual, that it may have the power to accomplish the end.
15. Paul prayed that Philemon would be active in sharing his faith in order that he would have a greater understanding of all that was his in Christ.
16. Full understanding refers not to theoretical knowledge but to knowledge acquired by experience.
17. "He that gives for Christ's sake becomes enriched in the knowledge of Christ."
18. Faith is something to be shared.
19. Paul's prayer was that Philemon would so make common the proper fruits of faith by his good deeds towards others, that all might acknowledge it to be genuine and efficacious.

ILLUSTRATION: A few years ago, it was estimated that 95 percent of Christians today never lead a soul to Christ. George Barna's research has shown interpersonal evangelism is alive and evident. In one year, 60 million adults – one-third of the adult population, claim to have shared their religious beliefs in hope that the recipient might accept Jesus Christ as their personal Savior.

20. Faith is not to be kept to ourselves but is to be shared generously through our actions and our daily lives.

**"And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."
(Colossians 3:17)**

21. Don't be stingy with your faith.

ILLUSTRATION: (John draw a cartoon of person preaching in monastery chapel to group of men. First copy – "Neither do I. Let us stand for the benediction." Second copy – "There is no need for me to tell you. Let us stand for the benediction." Third copy with words, "Let those who know tell those who don't and let us stand for the benediction."**

Leith Anderson tells a story about an Abbot of a monastery that called a young novice into his office and told him he was to preach at the next morning's chapel. The young man pleaded to be released from the assignment, saying he was too frightened and inadequate to speak to all of the brothers there. However, the more he pleaded the more the Abbot was convinced he needed to speak.

The next morning, he stood at the chapel pulpit, knees knocking together and hands shaking, voice silent from fear. The Abbot was frustrated. At last, he said, "Do you know what I'm going to say?" The audience shook their heads no. He said, "Neither do I. Let us stand for the benediction."

The Abbot was upset and said he had to speak again the next morning. Finally, shaking, he said, "Do you know what I'm going to

say?” This time all the audience nodded their heads up and down. He said, “There is no need for me to tell you. Let us stand for the benediction.”

The Abbot was very angry. He said, “You will preach the next morning.” On the third morning, he stepped up to the pulpit. After a long pause, he asked, “Do you know what I’m going to say?” Half the heads nodded “yes” and half shook their heads “no.” Then he said, “Let those who know tell those who don’t. Let us stand for the benediction.”

22. The simplest definition of evangelism is those who know telling those who don’t.

23. To be biblical, it is making more disciples for Jesus, sharing Christ in all we do.

24. In one nationwide survey a few years back, 68% of those who said they were born-again Christians said they have a responsibility to share their faith with others.

25. Paul understood that all of us have a responsibility to share our faith.

ILLUSTRATION: D. L. Moody once said, “If this world is going to be reached, I am convinced that it must be done by men and women of average talent. After all, there are comparatively few people in the world who have great talents.”

26. Ordinary people have been given the extraordinary task of sharing the love of Christ to others.

27. The work of the sharing faith in Christ must be done by all of us and not left to a few.

ILLUSTRATION: Some years ago, the General Superintendent of the Church of the Nazarene in their *Pastoral Resources for the Mission in the Future* said, “The goal of evangelism is not the development of nominal Christians but of devoted Christians who become disciples, who make other disciples, and whose lives are enriched by their relationship with God.”

28. The Great Commission is for all followers of Jesus.

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” (Matthew 28:19)

29. We are called to be disciple makers.

30. My heart is so very heavy here.

31. We must all be out sharing our faith, *lifting up Jesus so all are drawn to follow Him.*

32. We are surrounded by opportunities.

ILLUSTRATION: **Donald MCGavran, who passed away 1990, was Dean Emeritus and former Senior Professor of Mission, Church Growth, and South Asian Studies at the School of World Mission, Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California, where I attended. His influence was strong there. He said, “The world has more winnable people than ever before, but it is possible to come out of a ripe field empty-handed.”

33. I would like to challenge us to personally lead at least one person to the Lord by 2012.

34. Will you accept the challenge?

II. (v.5-7) LOVE IN ACTION

ILLUSTRATION: Geoff Gorsuch suggests the question to ask at the end of life's race is not so much "What have I accomplished?" but "Whom have I loved, and how courageously?"

A. (v.5.) LOVE FOR THE CHURCH

"because I hear about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints." (Philemon 1:5)

1. Philemon's love for all the saints or the church was not a secret.
2. Philemon had expressed his love for others.
3. Paul was thankful for this kind of love.

"For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers." (Ephesians 1:15-16)

4. Paul teaches us to pray for one another that we would have love for all the saints.
5. The reality is that Christianity is nothing if it doesn't show itself in loving relationships
6. The hallmark of New Testament religion is that individual believers become a church family through the relationship that Christ creates.
7. Love is at the heart of relationships.
8. Love is at the center of a healthy community of believers.

ILLUSTRATION: ** Someone said, "Show me a church where there is love, and I will show you a church that is a power in the community."

9. We are to take care of each other.
10. Philemon had the kind of love that moved him to action.
11. This love or compassion is not to pity someone but to be drawn toward another in order to love and care for that person.

ILLUSTRATION: An elderly woman was noticed to be picking up something in the street- a poor slum street. The policemen on the beat noticed the woman's action and watched her very suspiciously. Several times he saw her stop, pick up something, and hide it in her apron. Finally, he went up to her and, with a gruff voice and threatening manner, demanded, "What are you carrying off in your apron?" The timid woman did not answer at first, whereupon the officer, thinking that she must have found something valuable, threatened her with arrest. The woman opened her apron and revealed a handful of broken glass. "I just thought I would like to take it out of the way of the children's feet," she told him.

12. She cared about what might hurt others.
13. Love is moving the things that might hurt others.
14. Love must be at the heart of everything we do and every relationship we encounter.

15. Philemon loved the church.
16. His love was not limited to a few people.
17. It was not a “pick and choose” love.

ILLUSTRATION: Love in the body of Christ is not like a box of mixed nuts, where you pick out the cashews and any other nuts you like and just leave the peanuts.

18. Everyone needs love.
19. His capacity of love for all the saints is confirmed.

ILLUSTRATION: **“You can give without loving, but you cannot love without giving.” (Amy Carmichael)

20. He had a love that flowed out of his faith.
21. A faith expressed in love.

“For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.” (Galatians 5:6)

22. He had a love that was seen in his actions.

“Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.” (I John 3:18)

23. It was an obvious love.

24. If we truly love, we will do loving things.

“By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” (John 13:35)

ILLUSTRATION: (Picture of her and the musical, South Pacific)

American actress, singer and Broadway musical star, Mary Martin was to go on-stage in the musical, *South Pacific*. A note was handed to her. It was from Oscar Hammerstein, who wrote the lyrics for *South Pacific*, who, at that moment, was on his deathbed. The short note simply said, “Dear Mary, A bell’s not a bell till you ring it. A song’s not a song till you sing it. Love in your heart is not put there to stay. Love isn’t love till you give it away.” After her performance that night, many people rushed backstage, crying, “Mary, what happened to you out there tonight? We never saw anything like that performance before.” Blinking back the tears, Mary read the note from Hammerstein and said, “Tonight, I gave my love away!”

25. Love is something we are to give away.

26. Will you pray that we will be more loving and give love away?

B. LOVE THAT GIVES JOY AND ENCOURAGEMENT

(v.7) “Your love has given me great joy and encouragement, because you, brother, have refreshed the hearts of the saints.”

ILLUSTRATION: * At Vineyard Community Church in Cincinnati, a simple mission statement is sandblasted into the front of the building in four-foot letters: “Small things done with great love will change the world.”

1. Philemon’s love had given Paul great joy and encouragement. .
2. He was a joy-maker not a joy-taker.

3. His love had contribution to the lives of others.
4. He had a love that left people encouraged.

“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another-and all the more as you see the Day approaching. (Hebrews 10:24-25)

5. Who has encouraged you and who have you encouraged?

ILLUSTRATION: Doug Fields says a litmus test to determine if one needed encouragement is, “If the person is breathing, he needs encouragement.” (Jany Dennis, in his biography of Wilson)

6. There are many things that can discourage and weigh us down.

7. Love in action can be an encouragement.

ILLUSTRATION: A child with an intellectual disability seated himself on the floor in a drugstore and began to play with some bottles he had taken from the shelves. The druggist ordered him to stop, then scolded him with an even sharper tone. Just then, the boy’s sister came up, put her arms around him and whispered something in his ear. Right away, he put the bottles back in place. “You see,” his sister explained, “He doesn’t understand when you talk to him like that. I just love it into him.”

8. Love should lift the load.

9. Christian love can lead people to make the changes they need to make in their lives through Christ.

C. LOVE THAT REFRESHES

(v.7) “Your love has given me great joy and encouragement, because you, brother, have refreshed the hearts of the saints.

1. Philemon opened his home to the church.
2. He had refreshed others.
3. God calls upon us to have a ministry toward God’s people.
4. We used to sing a song about this, “Make me a blessing to someone today.”
5. Warm someone’s heart today.
6. The Greek word translated here as ‘refreshed’ is rendered as ‘rest in Jesus’ invitation.”

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.” Matthew 11:28)

7. The word ‘refreshed’ literally means ‘brought to rest or come to pause.’
8. It suggests that all worries and tensions seem to subside in His presence and in His Spirit.
9. Love can be a breather in an exhausting world.

ILLUSTRATION: Have you ever taken a hike up a trail and seen a bench a long the way. A place to stop and rest.

10. On the journey, Philemon was a bench.
11. Your love can be a refreshing rest stop for people worn out from the journey.
12. Your care and your service and your refreshing heart brings solace to troubled folks.

13. Your love can make a difference in the lives of others.

ILLUSTRATION: In his book, *This Sacred Moment*, Albert Hasse tells about as a young priest in the mid-1980's, he was living at a Catholic church in the Bronx while doing doctoral studies at Fordham University. "Because of its large congregation, the church had four full-time priests. As a priest-in-residence, I was happy to help out when there was a need. I remember that the evening news typically opened with the latest information about a strange fatal disease that was affecting homosexual men. It seemed to have started in California but now had moved to New York. At that time, it wasn't called AIDS, and no one knew how it was being spread. Extreme caution was used around anyone who was affected. A telephone call came into the rectory. It was the father of a 21-year-old man named Doug. Doug had contracted this strange disease and was asking for a visit by a priest. Monsignor Henry, the pastor in his seventies, asked all three full-time priests to go; each refused, using the severity and unknown cause of the disease as an excuse. Monsignor Henry then approached me. I was hesitant and was going to use my studies as an excuse. However, when he agreed to accompany me, I decided to go. Once we arrived at the hospital, we were told to put on protective "moon suits" before going into Doug's room. He looked much older and sicker than I had expected. We talked softly for about fifteen minutes, when Doug began to cry. "What's wrong, Doug?" I asked. He looked at me and, with incredible sadness, replied, "It dawned on me that no one has even touched me in over three months." I let those words sink in and wondered how I would have handled life without a handshake or hug for three months. As I thought about that, I suddenly became aware of Monsignor Henry slowly removing the helmet and garb of the protective "moon suit." And then, I witnessed the elderly Monsignor Henry bending over and hugging dying Doug. A holy silence descended upon the room. I wondered how Monsignor Henry could be willing to risk his own life by responding to Doug that way. We drove home in virtual silence. As we approached the church in the Bronx, I turned to Monsignor Henry, but before I could say a word he simply said with tears in his eyes. "Years ago, I told Jesus that I would give Him everything. And, I mean everything. Today, I able to give to Jesus what He has given me."

14. Have you given Christ everything?

15. He gave His all to you.

16. We can only love as we respond to the love Christ has expressed to us on the Cross.

17. As we close in communion, we have an opportunity to reflect upon His great love to us and examine our faith and love.

CONCLUSION: Are you the person others perceive you to be? Who are you really? Are you a person of faith? Do the actions of your life reveal a life of faith and love in Christ? Are you living out your faith in the real world?

I. (v.1-6) FAITH IN ACTION

II. (v.5-7) LOVE IN ACTION

L:\Pastor David\Sermons\NT-Philemon\Philemon 1-7-number 1 in series
2011.doc