Trusted to do the Right Thing

Philemon 1:8, 9

8 Therefore, though I have enough confidence in Christ to order you to do what is proper,

9 yet for love's sake I rather appeal to you--since I am such a person as Paul, the aged, and now also a prisoner of Christ Jesus--

Pronunciation:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Onesimus</th>
<th>o-NEH-sih-muhs</th>
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<tr>
<td>Philemon</td>
<td>Fih-LEE-muhn</td>
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Paul was writing this letter to Philemon a beloved brother and fellow worker, with a request, that he Paul believe that he could have ordered in Christ to fulfill the request but that he trusted them to do the right thing.

A runaway slave by the name of Onesimus had meet Paul, been converted and was now helping Paul out, Philemon was his master. Paul wanted Onesimus to continue to work with Paul in his captivity but he wanted everything above board and only to keep Onesimus with Philemon permission, so he sent him back with this appeal.

Paul trusted Philemon to do the right thing, Paul was the main man in the church by this time with persecution and imprisonment having taken their toll on the leaders which unlike Paul were not a Roman citizens and therefore did not have Paul rights. Paul as a Roman citizen appealed to the Emperor and was imprison during that wait. Paul’s imprisonment was more like house arrest and gave him much freedom to continue his work.

One must wonder if this was God’s way of slowing Paul down so that he could write letter addressing issues that has become part of the Bible.

But the key point of this is Paul trust of Philemon to do the right thing, including treating Onesimus as a brother in Christ and not a slave. This brings us to the main point of the sermon, can you be trusted to do the right thing or are you untrustworthy? Let look at three areas and ask that question.

Back in the 60ties and 70ties the saying became popular to "do your own thing" today I want you to think instead and then live by "do the right thing", in order to do the right thing we must know what the right thing is. So where do we find the right thing to do; let us start with what the uncreated creator has to say in His word.
Be Born Again

**John 3:3** Jesus answered and said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."

Ask yourself do you want to do the right thing in God’s eyes? Do you want to please Him or do you just want to avoid His punishment? Whatever you answer to those questions the underlying question is, will you do the right thing in God’s eyes?

What is the right thing in God’s eyes, what is He expecting of you? Too often we ask what can God do for us and don’t ask what does He want from us.

The first and number one thing is restoration of relationship between yourself and God. If you have not become born again you are in rebellion against God. You may say, preacher, I’m not against God, I’m not rebelling against Him, I believe in Him. But belief by itself is not enough, the devils believe and tremble but they are still in rebellion, you must do more than just believe that God exists, although that is a start, but you must bring yourself into obedience with His will.

You ask how may I do that? Step one, recognize your rebellion (sin) and repent of it asking forgiveness, then accept His mercy that is only available through Jesus the Son of God. Accept Him as the price for the penalty for your sins, accept Him as the Lord of your life, accept His new birth in which you will be changed from the sin nature of the first Adam to the righteousness of the second Adam, Jesus.

**Be filled with the Holy Spirit**

You may say preacher, I’m born again, what must I do now to do the right thing in God’s eyes? Be filled with the Holy Spirit. Jesus commanded His disciples to be filled with the Holy Spirit, to go into Jerusalem and want for the Holy Spirit to come and fill them with His power. Have you received the Holy Spirit since you believed, it wasn’t a suggestion to receive it, it was a commandment. If you love Jesus you will do His commandment. Without the baptism of the Holy Spirit you remain incomplete, lacking power, lacking the comforter, lacking the Holy Spirit leadership.

**Acts 1**

4*Gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, "Which," He said, "you heard of from Me;*

5*for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

6*So when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, "Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?"*
He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority;

but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."

The Ascension

And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.

As they were gazing intently into the sky while He was going, behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them.

They also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven."

Jesus after being baptized by John was filled with the Holy Spirit and was lead/driven by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness where He fasted 40 days and night, was tempted of the adversary, overcome him by the word of God and then entered His ministry. If you skip the Holy Spirit step you are not following the commandment of Jesus.

Be faithful in your communication with the Lord

Mark 1:35 In the early morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house, and went away to a secluded place, and was praying there.

What other things must I do to do that which is right in God’s eyes? Talk to Him. The bible says that we are the Church and the church is the bride of Christ, how would you like it if you were engaged and your fiancé didn't talk to you? Or if you would talk to them and they didn't respond? Not very good, you would think that you was being taken from granted or that they really didn't love you, they were just interested in you for something else like you could do for them. Also listen to hear what He has to say to you. Habakukk stated in the second chapter that He would stand his guard post, and keep watch to see what God had to say to him. Are you making time to get to a quit place and to listen to see what God want to say to you. Jesus was always praying.

Luke 3:21, 22

Now when all the people were baptized, Jesus was also baptized, and while He was praying, heaven was opened,

and the Holy Spirit descended upon Him in bodily form like a dove, and a voice came out of heaven, "You are My beloved Son, in You I am well-pleased."
After Jesus was baptized in water He prayed, and then he heard from God. He first was filled with the Holy Spirit and then the Father talked.

**Luke 5:16**

16 But Jesus Himself would often slip away to the wilderness and pray.

Jesus never stopped praying but always looked for a chance to talk to the father.

**Luke 11**

1 It happened that while Jesus was praying in a certain place, after He had finished, one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray just as John also taught his disciples."

Again we see Jesus praying and inspiring His disciples to also pray.

**Matthew 26:36**

36 Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and said to His disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray."

Right before going to the cross, Jesus stopped to pray, and receive strength for the journey ahead.

Jesus declared that He did nothing of Himself but only things He has seen the father doing.

**John 5:19**

19 Therefore Jesus answered and was saying to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless it is something He sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in like manner.

We have not seen the Father.

**John 6:46**

46 Not that anyone has seen the Father, except the One who is from God; He has seen the Father.

But we have seen the son.

**John 14:9**

9 Jesus said to him, "Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?

So to do what the Father has done we must then do what the Son has shown us, and Jesus has shown us the importance of prayer.
Be sure to trust Him.

To do the right thing in God's eyes you must trust Him. God is looking for a people that wants a relationship and will trust Him. Eve's choice in the Garden was a failure of trust, Israel failure in the wilderness was in trust;

1 Deuteronomy 1:31-33

31 and in the wilderness where you saw how the LORD your God carried you, just as a man carries his son, in all the way which you have walked until you came to this place.'

32 But for all this, you did not trust the LORD your God,

33 who goes before you on your way, to seek out a place for you to encamp, in fire by night and cloud by day, to show you the way in which you should go.

whereas Job was successful because he did not lose faith in God and trusted Him through it all.

After the split of Israel we find that the Northern 10 tribe failed in battle while Judah succeeded, the difference trust.

2 Chronicles 13:17-19

17 Abijah and his people defeated them with a great slaughter, so that 500,000 chosen men of Israel fell slain.

18 Thus the sons of Israel were subdued at that time, and the sons of Judah conquered because they trusted in the LORD, the God of their fathers.

Abraham trusted God with his only son. Joshua and Caleb trusted God to give them the victory. Gideon trusted God that he attacked the enemy with 300 men. [Unlike the Spartans he won] Peter trusted Jesus that he casted his nets one more time even though he had had failure all night long. David trusted God to give him the victory over Goliath when all of Israel was stopped in fear. David would trust Him enough to walk through the valley of the shadow of death. Nathan trusted God enough to put aside his dignity and dip seven times in the Jordan and received his healing. Noah trusted God enough to build a boat, while Peter trusted Jesus enough to get out of a boat, and Paul trusted God even when the boat was sinking.

God is looking for people to trust Him.

Be a worshiper
Worship is an act of love, worship is when we love God back. He first loved us, now let us love Him and show Him our love through our worship.

**John 4:24** God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.

**Philippians 3:3** for we are the true circumcision, who worship in the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh,

Worship is a spiritual act and we that wish to be worshipers must worship in the Spirit.

**Romans 12:1** Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.

However, we are physical creatures so we should also worship with our bodies, through music, singing and playing, through dance, through lifted hands, through prayer, through sermons, through the sacraments (water baptism, Lord supper, feet washing), through bended knee and prostrate heart.

**Psalm 149**

*Israel Invoked to Praise the LORD.*

1Praise the LORD!  
   Sing to the LORD a new song,  
   And His praise in the congregation of the godly ones.
2Let Israel be glad in his Maker;  
   Let the sons of Zion rejoice in their King.
3Let them praise His name with dancing;  
   Let them sing praises to Him with timbrel and lyre.
4For the LORD takes pleasure in His people;  
   He will beautify the afflicted ones with salvation.
5Let the godly ones exult in glory;  
   Let them sing for joy on their beds.
6Let the high praises of God be in their mouth,  
   And a two-edged sword in their hand,
7To execute vengeance on the nations  
   And punishment on the peoples,
8To bind their kings with chains  
   And their nobles with fetters of iron,
9To execute on them the judgment written;  
   This is an honor for all His godly ones.
   Praise the LORD!

**Be sure to love your neighbor as yourself**
Paul was trusting Philemon to make the right choice concerning Onesimus. The means Paul expected Philemon to put aside financial interest, cultural conditioning and pride to accept a slave as a brother in Christ.

Several years before Philemon had to make this change in his relationship with Onesimus there was a man that could not walk, unable to make it to the service that Jesus was having, so four of his friends and neighbors picked up his bed and headed to church. Once there it was overflowing no room, no way to the front, no problem. They climbed up on the roof removed the roofing and lowered the man down. Jesus forgave the man of his sin, and healed him. The friends would not be denied, they could have left their friend at home, but they decided to act and their action and faith worked together to see the man delivered.

\[\text{Mark 12:31}\]

31 "The second is this, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

If we love our neighbor as ourselves we will not kill him, steal from him, lie about him, covet his stuff, commit adultery with his wife and we will respect him. If we love our neighbor as ourselves we will spend time in prayer for him, we will be a witness before him, and we will lend a helping hand when we can.

Do you want to be "Right in God's eyes?" that is the definition of righteousness, then follow what He has told you to do. Paul trusted Philemon to do the right thing, can God trust you to "do the right thing?" Make that commitment today to "do the right thing in God's eyes"

Jesus will not cast you out, call on him now by praying a simple prayer. Such as:

Jesus, I have sinned and believe that you died for me. Forgive me of my sins and live in me as I will now live for you. Help me to know you better. Thank you for saving me as I confess you as my redeemer. Amen.

If you prayed that prayer then you now need to seek out the fellowship of other believers.

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1 Mark 2:2-12