

PHILEMON 1:1-5, 23-25 (NLT). ¹This letter is from Paul, a prisoner for preaching the Good News about Christ Jesus, and from our brother Timothy. I am writing to Philemon, our beloved co-worker, ²and to our sister Apphia, and to our fellow soldier Archippus, and to the church that meets in your house. ³May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace. ⁴I always thank my God when I pray for you, Philemon, ⁵because I keep hearing about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all of God's people...²³Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, sends you his greetings. ²⁴So do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke, my co-workers. ²⁵May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit."

 **THE BIG IDEA** 

FAITH DEVELOPMENT IS A _____ SPORT

PHILIPPIANS 2 12-13. "Work out **your** own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure."

- "your" = _____ work out your salvation together
- Faith development is a _____ activity

COLOSSIANS 3:16. "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish **one another** in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God."

I. Paul _____ his letter by identifying some of his faith community

- | | | |
|-------------|------------|---------------|
| • Timothy | • Philemon | • Apphia |
| • Archippus | • Church | • Epaphras |
| • Archippus | • Mark | • Aristarchus |
| • Demas | • Luke | |

II. Paul identifies his _____

1 CORINTHIANS 12:27. "All of you together are Christ's body, and each of you is a part of it."

- "Our brother... our beloved co-worker ...our sister ...our fellow soldier... my fellow prisoner... coworkers..."
- Uniquely _____ by God for ministry

III. _____ we fulfill the Great Commission

"There is nothing more unchristian than a solitary Christian."
JOHN WESLEY

MATTHEW 28:19-20. "Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

- We _____ in ministries together
- Not as _____ of religious programming
- But participants playing _____ in the fulfillment of Jesus' mandate to make disciples.

HEBREWS 12:1-2. "Therefore, since **we** are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let **us** strip off every weight that slows **us** down, especially the sin that so easily trips **us** up. And let **us** run with endurance the race God has set before **us**. **We** do this by keeping **our** eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects **our** faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne."

HEBREWS 10:25. "And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near."

"[Christ] works on us in all sorts of ways . . . But above all, He works on us through each other." C.S. LEWIS

MAKE FAITH YOUR TEAM SPORT!