

“What Makes a Philemon?”  
Philemon 1:4-7

*“Praise feeds virtue and provides motivation to put to death sin in our lives.”  
(John MacArthur)*

- The characteristics of a *Biblical Christian*:
  - Other Christians are filled with thankfulness when they pray for you (1 Corinthians 1:4-7; Philippians 1:3-5; 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3; 2 Thessalonians 1:3-4).
  - You have a renowned (Colossians 4:12-13 & 17) faith in Christ; when people think of trusting in Christ, they think of you.
  - You have a renowned love for all of the saints; when people think of you, they think of someone who loves the Church.
  - You are known for building up the community of believers for the glory of God/Christ’s sake.
  - You are known as someone that brings joy and comfort to the Church. You live and speak the truth.
  - You are known for your generosity towards the saints, both financially and with your time; you refresh the saints.

*“I should pray that God would give me the desire and the ability to give away more and more, and invest in others more and more, so that I would build up treasure in heaven. I should pray that I use what I have, all of me, for the glory of God and the good of others, namely, the advancement of the gospel.”*

*“That I beware, beware, beware, because it is hard for the rich to get into heaven and that the desire to be rich is fatal to my soul. I should be asking God regularly to sanctify my comfortability and my contentment.”  
(John Piper)*

- The mindset of a *Biblical Christian*:
  - Matthew 6:19-21 & 24
    - We are given a direct command to not build up treasure on the earth because all earthly treasure is temporary.
    - We are given a direct command to build treasure in heaven because all heavenly treasure is eternal.
    - Where we are building treasure is what will have our emotions and our commitments.
    - We cannot have two masters, that is, two things that we are fully committed to.
  - Luke 18:22-30
    - An unregenerate person cannot build treasure in heaven because they are emotionally and physically committed to this world.
    - It is difficult for the rich to get into heaven because they do not have to deny themselves their fleshly desires, they do not have to resist covetousness, and they don’t have to resist pride (1 John 2:15-17).
    - Leaving and losing the things of this world are a legitimate and inevitable reality in the Christian life. But treasure in heaven is supreme to all the things of this world.
  - 1 Timothy 6:6-12/1 Timothy 4:7-8
    - Seeking holiness regardless of my circumstances is great gain. The richest person is the one who doesn’t need anything else or the richest person is the one who desires the least of this world.

(continued →)

**Worship:** Grace Alone (Kings Kaleidoscope)    O Lord My Rock and My Redeemer (Sovereign Grace Music)

**Service Times:** Sundays: Prayer 4:30/Church 5:30; Tuesdays: (In-Home) Bible Study: Women 6:30/Men 7; Thursdays: Prayer 6:20/Church 7

- Those who desire the riches of this world run towards ruin and destruction. This is senseless and harmful because of the supreme worth of Christ.
- The love or desire for more money/the world (beyond what I need) have led to people wandering away from the faith.
- Flee the things of this world. Ask God to desire righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, and gentleness, like those that are the most worldly pursue more of the world. Take hold of the contentment/satisfaction of eternal life.
- The generosity of the *Biblical Christian*:
  - What does it look like to advance the gospel?
    - Give generously so that your local pastors have more time to give to equipping the saints for ministry.
    - Give generously of your time and money so that local missions are effectively sharing the gospel.
    - Give of your time for the building up and encouragement of the saints.
    - Give generously to global missions and be willing to go if God leads.