**Scripture** | Philemon 1:4-6 | Philemon’s love and faith

This scripture talks about mentioning how the recievers are in Paul’s prayers because of their reputation of LOVE! Paul is telling Philemon, Apphia and Archippus and the House different appeals/orders. Paul starts this verse by saying how they are already in his prayers and will continue to be in them, then he tells them why. He says that he hears about the love and faith towards Lord Jesus and all the saints! Notice how even though Paul is not their, the reputation is so strong that he hears about it in a time where communication wasn’t always easy! These verses are followed by more encouragement and thanking for their love and kindness towards him and others. Paul then says that he has confidence that he could order them and they would listen, but rather as a friend he appeals to them to do what is proper. Notice how the reputation precedes them so much that a prisoner with a ton of authority that is writing almost “rebuking” letters, rather appeals to them because of love for Christ and his Saints!

**Observation(s)**

* Paul starts out with addressing them, followed by a blessing over them and their lives
* Paul prays for them
* Paul thanks them for their love and kindness
* Paul addresses them as friends and not projects
* Their Love reaches all the way to prison

**Application**

* Always approach friend in a friendly way
* Pray for people!
* Don’t just say it, but actually bless them and pray for their well being
* People are not projects and should be treated as friends
* Let people know when they are doing good and doing God’s work!

**Prayer**

Dear Heavenly Father,

I pray that I would not just say it but would live it, I pray that I would keep my friends and those around me in my prayers. I pray that You would work through me that your love would have such a reputation! I pray that in everything that I do that I would pursue you and chase you! I thank you for my family and friends that show me love and show Christ’s kindess that I can get a glimpse of how amazing you truly are.

In Your Holy Amazing Name,

Amen.

Thanks!  
Koleman Parsley