

**Study Questions for the September 12, 2021 Sermon:
“Praying for Your Joy”
Philemon 4-7**

1. Philemon, like all of us, was a mixed bag of virtues and vices.
 - a. Can you recall any verses that reassure us that God can use us now, even though we are flawed?
 - b. Share a Bible story in which God used someone who was flawed.
 - c. Share a story from history or personal experience in which someone who was flawed was mightily-used by God.
2. In verse 4, Paul states that he cannot recall Philemon without thanking God for him. If there is anyone like that in your life, share the story.
3. Pastor Paul made a point that many preachers have made: As we grow in love for Jesus, we will love others better. Try and explain why loving Jesus more makes us love people more. If possible, support your explanation with scriptures.
4. Pastor Paul encouraged us to refrain from discussing why our denomination is better than other denominations. What are some ways we can fellowship with other denominations, and affirm that we are all part of the body of Christ, without compromising on important doctrines?
5. Why might Paul have opened the letter by reminding Philemon that Paul was in jail because of his faith?
6. Why might Paul have opened the letter without mentioning that he was an apostle?