

Released by Grace

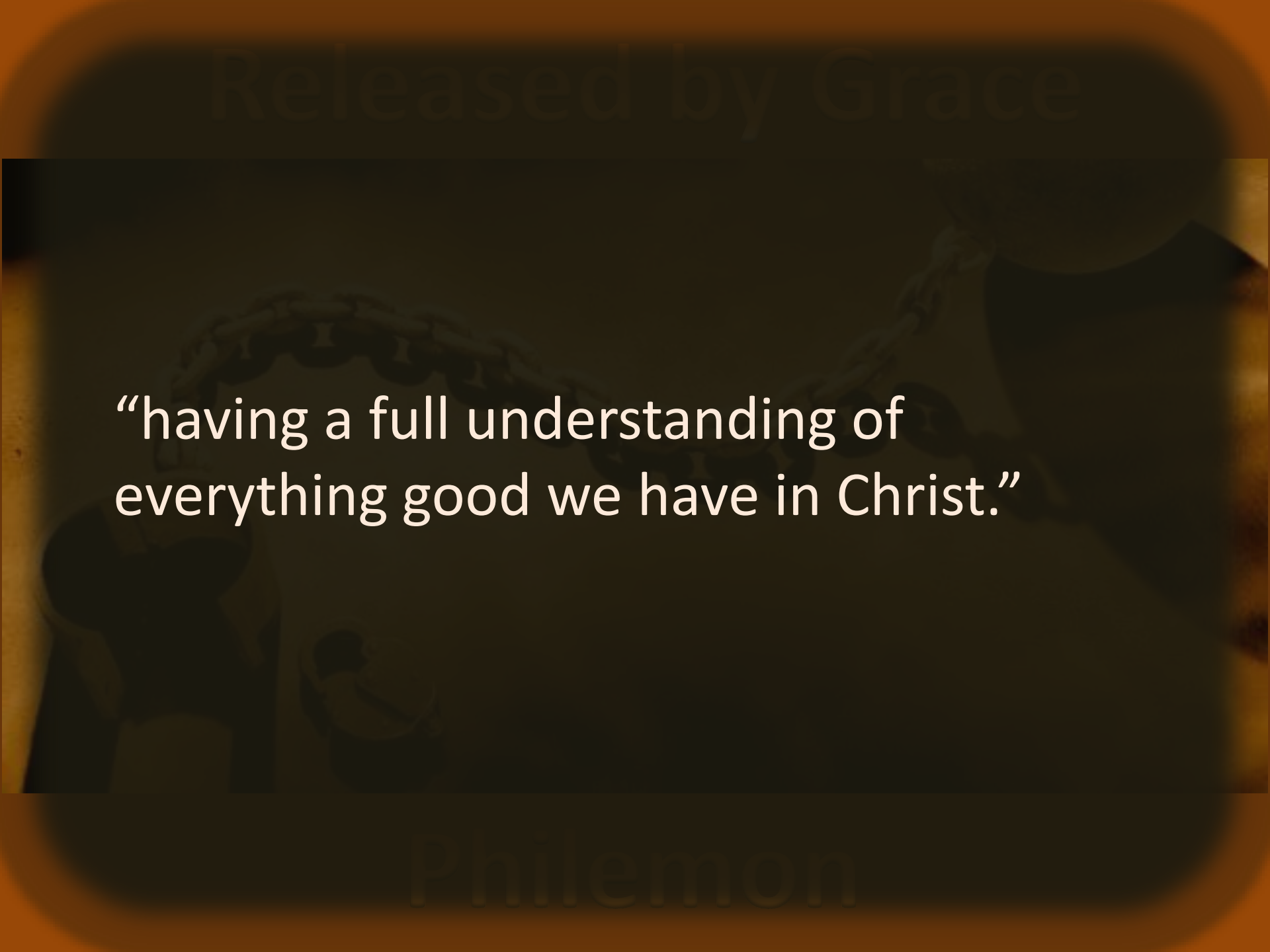


Philemon

³“grace and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ”

²⁵ The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be
with your spirit.

⁶ I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ.

A group of people, likely a church choir or congregation, is visible in the background, slightly out of focus. In the foreground, a person is holding a microphone, suggesting a performance or a service. The overall atmosphere is warm and spiritual, with a soft, golden light illuminating the scene.

“having a full understanding of
everything good we have in Christ.”

⁷ Your love has given me great joy and encouragement, because you, brother, have refreshed the hearts of the saints.

Observations:

1. Released by God's grace enables us to spontaneously love others.

⁸ Therefore, although in Christ I could be bold and order you to do what you ought to do, ⁹ yet I appeal to you on the basis of love.

¹⁴ But I did not want to do anything without your consent, so that any favor you do will be spontaneous and not forced.

Observations:

2. Released by God's grace enables us to be useful to Him.

¹⁰ I appeal to you for my son Onesimus, who became my son while I was in chains.

¹¹ Formerly he was useless to you, but now he has become useful both to you and to me.

Observations:

3. Released by God's grace enables change in the way we view others.

¹⁵ Perhaps the reason he was separated from you for a little while was that you might have him back for good-- ¹⁶ no longer as a slave, but better than a slave, as a dear brother. He is very dear to me but even dearer to you, both as a man and as a brother in the Lord.

Observations:

4. Released by God's grace enables us to forgive others.

¹⁸ If he has done you any wrong or owes you anything, charge it to me. ¹⁹ I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand. I will pay it back--not to mention that you owe me your very self.

Observations:

5. Released by God's grace enables us to treat others as we would want to be treated.

¹² I am sending him--who is my very heart--back to you. ¹³ I would have liked to keep him with me so that he could take your place in helping me while I am in chains for the gospel. ¹⁷ So if you consider me a partner, welcome him as you would welcome me.

Observations:

6. Released by God's grace enables us to have our house in order for His arrival.

²² And one thing more: Prepare a guest room for me, because I hope to be restored to you in answer to your prayers.

**25 The grace of the Lord Jesus
Christ be with your spirit.**

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