Philemon: Reconciling Grace REV. ERIC WALTER NEPC SERMON SERIES SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2024

Sermon Title: "An Effective Fellowship of Faith" (#2 in the Sermon Series)

Scripture text: Philemon 4-7

Main Points:

- 1. What He Had
- 2. What He Needed
- 3. What We Need

Questions:

- 1. What is the necessary implication about Philemon's faith if Paul has heard about his love and faith? What does that mean for us? How can we grow in this way?
- 2. Discuss why Eric said the "order" of faith and love is important. Why would this be important to the overall purpose of the letter?
- 3. Why is the "sharing of your faith" in verse 6 NOT about witnessing?
- 4. What are some ways in which NEPC can be more "sharing in our faith" and less individualistic? Go beyond simple answers about being more united and not having divisions.
- 5. As Paul is telling Philemon to take the "next step" in spiritual maturity (what is that next step for Philemon?), in what areas do you need to take the next step? Knowing this answer can be difficult to identify because of our own blind spots; how can you find out? How do you know what areas of your life you need to grow in?
- 6. Describe a time you have been refreshed (v.7) by another Christian. Tell what was it that they did, and give specifics on what you experienced as a result (Paul said he experienced much joy and comfort how would you describe it?).

