

5. ἀκούων σου ^a τὴν ἀγάπην καὶ τὴν
 πίστιν ἣν ἔχεις ^b πρὸς τὸν κύριον
 Ἰησοῦν καὶ εἰς πάντας τοὺς ἁγίους. ^a

-a..a Represented here is an unusual speech figure, the chiasm, or reverted parallelism. Parallelisms are common in Greek as in Hebrew and this form is distinguished by the necessity of predicating its virtues to respective recipients when they are not interchangeable. A very clear example of this is Matthew 12:22, "the blind and the dumb both spoke and saw." It is easily noted that the blind saw and the dumb spoke, but these forms are reverted in the parallelism. So in this passage while Philemon could have love toward the Lord he could not have (reasonably) faith unto the saints. There is a reversion of the subjects and the feelings. Hence it may be read: "hearing the faith which you have for Christ and the love which you have toward the saints.." Faith and love should not be mingled as one feeling which Philemon has toward both.

-b..b This is an example of the aoristic present and shows the faith which Philemon has with no regard to progress. It is punctiliar in a present sense. Simply: he has it. It is not a progressive present for it is not viewed as something which progresses but something which as a matter of fact he has. This is an interesting contrast against the iterative present of "give thanks".

Resultant Reading:

..hearing the faith which you have for the Lord Jesus and the love which you have toward all the saints.