

God Pursues a Runaway

Philemon 1-16

Primary Characters

- Paul, the _____ (an Apostle, Missionary, and Church Planter)
 - writing from his prison _____ in Rome (Acts 28:30-31)
 - knows both Philemon and Onesimus _____
- Philemon, the _____
 - a _____ Colossian believer who hosts the church in his home (Phm. 2, 8)
 - spiritually _____ to Paul as a spiritual descendant of Paul (Phm. 19)
- Onesimus, the _____ and courier
 - _____ while in contact with Paul in Rome (Phm. 10)
 - a Colossian (Col. 4:7-9) and a _____ of Philemon (Phm. 12, 15-16)

I. Greeting (Phm. 1-3)

A. Senders (1a)

- Paul the _____ and Timothy the _____
- Application – Do you, believer, calibrate your circumstances by your relationship to Jesus Christ and to others in the family of God?

B. Recipients (1b-2)

- Philemon and his _____ and the _____

C. Opening benediction (3)

- God gives _____ and _____, and this is worth thinking about.

II. Commendation of and prayer for Philemon (Phm. 4-7)

A. Occasion for Paul's prayers (4-5)

- Philemon is a believer who is _____ to his Savior and to all the saints.

B. Request for Philemon's effective witness (6)

- God can be _____ through good works in the lives of believers.

C. Reasons Paul is thankful for Philemon (7)

- Philemon has a history of _____ the saints to the glory of God.

III. Appeal for Philemon to accept Onesimus due to his change (Phm. 8-16)

A. The choice to appeal rather than command (8-9, 14)

- Principle: God wants believers to _____ good voluntarily.

B. The man in question: Onesimus the changed (10-11, 16)

- he is now a _____ (referring to his salvation)
- he is now _____ (referring to his new potential)
- he is now a _____ (referring to his status in the family of God)

Key idea about salvation:

A significant _____ takes place when someone believes in Christ.

- Compare Col. 1:21 – no longer an _____
- Compare Eph. 2:1-10 – no longer _____ in sin

C. The appeal is to receive Onesimus (12-13, 15)

- Verses 12-13 show us that Paul's personal _____ would be to keep Onesimus with him in Rome.

Key idea about God:

He can use any _____ to accomplish something good.

- Compare Gen. 50:20 – God can use an _____ action to affect a good result.
- Compare Rom. 8:18 – God can use a temporary _____ for eternal good.

- Verse 15 was written to turn Philemon's mind to God's _____ of the circumstances:
 - perhaps
 - he departed for a while
 - that you might receive him forever