

Philemon

Onesimus – More than a slave, a beloved brother

Introduction

- Short letter but several valuable lessons for us today
- No deep theory here but practical applications of being a Christian for both master and slave to willingly obey
- Christianity changes individuals as each one applies the Word to his life in a corrupt society

2

Philemon

Background to Philemon
Main points of Philemon
Practical lessons for us today

3

Background to Philemon

Author – apostle Paul writing as prisoner in Rome

Phm 1:1 Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, To Philemon our beloved *brother* and fellow worker,

4

Background to Philemon

Written to Philemon – Christian living in Colossae

Phm 1:1 Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, To Philemon our beloved *brother* and fellow worker,

Phm 1:2 and to Apphia our sister, and to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house:

5

Background to Philemon

Written to Philemon – Christian living in Colossae

Col 4:17 Say to Archippus, "Take heed to the ministry which you have received in the Lord, that you may fulfill it."

6

Background to Philemon

Onesimus – Philemon’s slave who fled to Rome and became a Christian

Phm 1:10 I appeal to you for my child Onesimus, whom I have begotten in my imprisonment,

Phm 1:11 who formerly was useless to you, but now is useful both to you and to me.

Phm 1:12 I have sent him back to you in person, that is, *sending* my very heart,

7

Background to Philemon

Onesimus – Philemon’s slave who fled to Rome and became a Christian

Phm 1:13 whom I wished to keep with me, so that on your behalf he might minister to me in my imprisonment for the gospel;

Phm 1:14 but without your consent I did not want to do anything, so that your goodness would not be, in effect, by compulsion but of your own free will.

8

Background to Philemon

Appeals to Philemon to accept Onesimus

Phm 1:15 For perhaps he was for this reason separated *from you* for a while, that you would have him back forever,

Phm 1:16 no longer as a slave, but more than a slave, a beloved brother, especially to me, but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

Phm 1:17 If then you regard me a partner, accept him as *you would* me.

9

Background to Philemon

Letter presented by Tychicus and Onesimus

Col 4:7 As to all my affairs, Tychicus, *our* beloved brother and faithful servant and fellow bond-servant in the Lord, will bring you information.

Col 4:8 *For* I have sent him to you for this very purpose, that you may know about our circumstances and that he may encourage your hearts;

10

Background to Philemon

Letter presented by Tychicus and Onesimus

Col 4:9 and with him Onesimus, *our* faithful and beloved brother, who is one of your *number*. They will inform you about the whole situation here.

11

Main Points Of Philemon

Paul praises Philemon’s faith and love vs. 1-7

Paul appeals to Philemon on behalf of Onesimus vs. 8-20

Paul displays confidence in Philemon doing what is right vs. 21-25

12

Paul Praise Philemon's Faith and Love

Phm 1:4 I thank my God always, making mention of you in my prayers,

Phm 1:5 because I hear of your love and of the faith which you have toward the Lord Jesus and toward all the saints;

Phm 1:6 *and I pray* that the fellowship of your faith may become effective through the knowledge of every good thing which is in you for Christ's sake.

13

Paul's Humble Loving Attitude In Appealing To Philemon

Phm 1:8 Therefore, though I have enough confidence in Christ to order you *to do* what is proper,

Phm 1:9 yet for love's sake I rather appeal *to you*--since I am such a person as Paul, the aged, and now also a prisoner of Christ Jesus--

Phm 1:10 I appeal to you for my child Onesimus, whom I have begotten in my imprisonment,

14

Paul's Humble Loving Attitude In Appealing To Philemon

Phm 1:19 I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand, I will repay it (not to mention to you that you owe to me even your own self as well).

Phm 1:20 Yes, brother, let me benefit from you in the Lord; refresh my heart in Christ.

15

Onesimus Changed By The Gospel

Phm 1:10 I appeal to you for my child Onesimus, whom I have begotten in my imprisonment,

Phm 1:11 who formerly was useless to you, but now is useful both to you and to me.

Phm 1:18 But if he has wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge that to my account;

16

The Gospel Changes All Who Submit To The Lord

1Co 6:9 Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals,

1Co 6:10 nor thieves, nor *the* covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God.

17

The Gospel Changes All Who Submit To The Lord

1Co 6:11 Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.

18

Paul Hoping Philemon Would Be Changed By The Gospel

Phm 1:12 I have sent him back to you in person, that is, *sending* my very heart,

Phm 1:13 whom I wished to keep with me, so that on your behalf he might minister to me in my imprisonment for the gospel;

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19

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20

Paul Hoping Philemon Would Be Changed By The Gospel

Phm 1:17 If then you regard me a partner, accept him as *you would me*.

Phm 1:21 Having confidence in your obedience, I write to you, since I know that you will do even more than what I say.

21

Philemon Must Forgive If He Was To Be Forgiven

Mat 6:14 "For if you forgive others for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.

Mat 6:15 "But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.

22

Becoming A Christians Does Not Make Troubles Disappear

Act 25:11 "If, then, I am a wrongdoer and have committed anything worthy of death, I do not refuse to die; but if none of those things is *true* of which these men accuse me, no one can hand me over to them. I appeal to Caesar."

23

Becoming A Christians Does Not Make Troubles Disappear

Mat 19:9 "And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for immorality, and marries another woman commits adultery."

24

Becoming A Christians Does Not Make Troubles Disappear

Php 4:6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

Rom 8:28 And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose.

25

Society Changed As Individuals Changed By The Gospel

Eph 6:5 Slaves, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in the sincerity of your heart, as to Christ;

Eph 6:6 not by way of eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart.

26

Society Changed As Individuals Changed By The Gospel

Eph 6:7 With good will render service, as to the Lord, and not to men,

Eph 6:8 knowing that whatever good thing each one does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether slave or free.

Eph 6:9 And masters, do the same things to them, and give up threatening, knowing that both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him.

27

Philemon

Background to Philemon

Main points of Philemon

Practical lessons for us today

28