

"Colossians & Philemon"

~ Philemon 1:7-11 ~

"Made Useful!"



Philemon

¹ Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,
To Philemon our dear friend and fellow worker— ² also to
Apphia our sister and Archippus our fellow soldier—and to
the church that meets in your home:

³ Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord
Jesus Christ.

⁴ I always thank my God as I remember you in my prayers,
⁵ because I hear about your love for all his holy people and
your faith in the Lord Jesus.

Read by: Christine Pense



Philemon

⁶ I pray that your partnership with us in the faith may be
effective in deepening your understanding of every good
thing we share for the sake of Christ. ⁷ Your love has given
me great joy and encouragement, because you, brother,
have refreshed the hearts of the Lord's people.

⁸ Therefore, although in Christ I could be bold and order
you to do what you ought to do, ⁹ yet I prefer to appeal to
you on the basis of love. It is as none other than Paul—an
old man and now also a prisoner of Christ Jesus—

Read by: Christine Pense



Philemon

¹⁰ that 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.

Read by: Christine Pense



Philemon -

- One of the "**Prison Epistles**," written while a prisoner in Rome. (Others: Ephesians, Philipppians, and Colossians).
- Written with Timothy.
- It's Paul's shortest letter (only 335 words in the original Greek).
- This letter is his most personal one.
- **Focus:** a "runaway slave."
- **Players:**
 - Onesimus (the offender: Runaway slave)
 - Philemon (the offended: Master)
 - Paul (the mediator)



Philemon -

- Addressed to a wealthy Roman citizen (Philemon) living in Colossae.
- Philemon was a believer and a leading elder of the church in Colossae.
- One of his slaves (Onesimus) had "wronged" him, run away, and subsequently crossed paths with Paul.
- Through his encounter with Paul, Onesimus had become a believer and then, become a helper to Paul in his ministry.



Paul intended to send Onesimus back to Philemon as required by Roman law

But...

Slaveowners had the right to punish or even execute runaway slaves!

Thus, Paul's letter to Philemon with a delicate request:
Welcome Onesimus back as he would welcome Paul, not as a runaway slave but as a brother (v. 17).

Darryl Dash - <https://www.preachingtoday.com/awagists/philemon/preaching-on-philemon.html>

6 I pray that your **partnership** with us in the faith may be effective in deepening your **understanding** of every good thing **we share** for the sake of Christ.

Koinonia

Fellowship, sharing, community, participation, partnership, contribution, generosity, or communion.

Sharing jointly and equally in the same gift

Koinonia

... is a gift we are called to live in fully!

It includes the "fellowship of faith" within the family of God!

... and "partnership in ministry"

v7

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

v8-9

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

It is as none other than Paul—an old man and now also a prisoner of Christ Jesus...

v10

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

It is as none other than Paul—an old man and now also a prisoner of Christ Jesus...



It is as none other than Paul—an old man and now also a prisoner of Christ Jesus...

V10

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



V10-11

¹⁰ that 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.

An unprofitable slave!

Acted wickedly against his master!

Stolen something perhaps...

In rebellion!

Fleeing from his master!

Hiding in a foreign land!

Useless!

V10-11

¹⁰ that 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.

Useful!

A life renewed!

Value restored!



V10-11

¹⁰ that 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.

In reality, **EVERYONE** in this story has been, and is still being transformed and is different than he was have before encountering Jesus!

V10-11

¹⁰ that 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.

“Anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!”

2 Corinthians 5:17

V10-11

¹⁰ that 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.



Galatians 4:4-7

"When the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, 'Abba, Father.' So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir."

"Like Onesimus of old, many today are still running from their Master having stolen from Him the glory, praise, and sacrifice that is due to His name."

Iain Gordon - <https://jesusplusnothing.com/series/post/onesimus>

JESUS ANSWERED THEM,
"MOST ASSUREDLY, I SAY TO
YOU, WHOEVER COMMITS
SIN IS A SLAVE OF SIN. AND
A SLAVE DOES NOT ABIDE IN
THE HOUSE FOREVER, BUT A
SON ABIDES FOREVER.
THEREFORE IF THE SON
MAKES YOU FREE, YOU
SHALL BE FREE INDEED.

JOHN 8:34-36

Incidentally...

"Onesimus"

*"beneficial, profitable,
to be of use or to be of profit"*