

Sun. Morning

COURAGE OF RECONCILIATION

LARRY CHAPPELL | OCTOBER 13, 2024

Text: Philemon

"Wherefore, though I might be much bold in Christ to enjoin thee that which is convenient, yet for love's sake I rather beseech thee, being such an one as Paul the aged, and now also a prisoner of Jesus Christ. I beseech thee for my son Onesimus, whom I have begotten in my bonds: which in time past was to thee unprofitable, but now profitable to thee and to me:" (Philemon 8-11)

INTRODUCTION

- letter from Paul to Philemon (slave owner)
 - * also addressed to church in Apphia & to Archippus home - many witnesses
 - + very public affair (Philm 1:1)
- letter written about runaway slave Onesimus (1:10)
 - * spiritual son of Paul
 - * new Christian
- greetings from Epaphros, Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, & Luke

1. THE GOSPEL Shapes OUR PERSPECTIVE. (v.1) - Christian in spiritual family

- Paul was a prisoner of Christ.
- Paul was also partner (coworker) of the gospel.
 - "fellow soldier"

What is reconciliation? where 2 people with opposing views come to agreement
- example - enemies becoming peaceful with each other

Source of slavery in Rome - a) war captive
b) debtors c) family members sold into slavery
d) punishment for crime

2. THE GOSPEL Enlarges OUR HEART FOR PEOPLE. (vs. 2-9)

- A. This was evident in Paul's prayer (1:4).
- B. This was evident in Paul's encouragement. (1:7)
- C. This was evident in Paul's plea (for Onesimus) - (1:10)

3. THE GOSPEL Transforms OUR POTENTIAL. (vs. 10-11)

- A. The gospel transforms our status (1:10).
Onesimus now spiritual brother - to Philemon
- B. The gospel transforms our service (1:11).
- play on name of Onesimus

4. THE GOSPEL Compels US TO EXTEND GRACE. (vs. 12-25) - requires to forgive

- A. The grace we have experienced, should be extended (1:17).
- receive grace, give grace
- B. Extending grace to others often comes at personal cost and risk. (1:18-19)
- "I will repay"
- C. Grace enables us to look forward with confidence (1:20-21)

CONCLUSION

- name of "Onesimus" means useful, beneficial, or profitable
* formerly "useless" slave
* but now he has become profitable to Paul
* Paul views Onesimus as becoming also profitable to Philemon