
Philemon: Christianity In Action

04-13-25

Part 2

Introduction: Last week we started working through Paul's letter to Philemon.

1. It's an unusual story that challenges conventional thinking on several levels.
 2. So far, we have focused on:
 - Philemon – A wealthy Christian who owned slaves. One of his slaves had stolen from him and ran away. Paul writes this letter asking Philemon to forgive him.
 - Onesimus – The slave who stole and ran. In Rome he met Paul, turned to Christ, and now has carried this letter back to Philemon not knowing how he'll be received.
 3. It's a drama that challenges us to live our faith even when it's hard.
 4. Today we'll finish the story.
- I. Paul
 - A. An Authority
 - B. With Leverage
 - C. An Appeal
 - D. A Peacemaker
 - II. God
 - A. The Sovereign Of The Universe
 - B. A Personal Purpose/Plan For Each One Of Us
 - C. Life To It's Very Full

Conclusion: This story provokes some difficult questions to answer.

- It seems to endorse slavery.
 - Why would God and His servant Paul go along?
1. It took many years, but Christianity eventually abolished slavery.
 2. Now, once again let's ask what God wants us to do with this story.
 3. We'll start with Paul:
 - Are you allowing God to use you?
 - Do you look beyond the moment to what could be if Christ is given a chance to work?
 - Are you willing to sacrifice for the cause of Christ?
 4. Now, let's consider God:
 - Do you struggle with your circumstances?
 - Are you willing to trust Him?
 - Do you have an eternal perspective?
 5. This story demonstrates how trustworthy God is.
 6. Trust Him.
 7. Cooperate with Him.