

**ONESIMUS: A MAN GREATLY TRANSFORMED BY CHRIST  
PHILEMON 8-25**

- I. Paul's Appeal for Onesimus** (vv. 8-9)
- A. Philemon was a wealthy slaveowner** as well as a godly Christian man.
  - B. Paul shared the Gospel with Onesimus who became a Christian.**
  - C. At some point, Onesimus informed Paul that he was a runaway slave.**
  - D. In this letter to Philemon, Paul asked Philemon to forgive Onesimus.**
- II. The Conversion of Onesimus** (vv. 10-11)
- A. "My Son"** (v. 10a) – Paul served as Onesimus' spiritual father, his mentor
  - B. "Begotten"** (v. 10b) – means born again – Onesimus was a changed man.
  - C. Paul led Onesimus to Christ while he was in prison** – "in my bonds" (v. 10c)
  - D. Onesimus means Profitable/Useful** (v. 11)
- III. The Restitution of Onesimus** (vv. 12-14)
- A. Paul sent Onesimus Back to Philemon** (his master)
  - B. As a Christian, Philemon was to Right his Wrong**
  - C. Onesimus was very dear to Paul**
  - D. Paul wanted to keep Onesimus with him in Rome**
  - E. Paul did not want to do anything without Philemon's wholehearted consent** (v. 14)
- IV. The Restoration of Onesimus** (vv. 15-16)
- A. Paul asked Philemon to welcome Onesimus back as a Beloved Brother** (v. 16)
  - B. Paul believed that the Providence of God was at Work**
- V. The Brotherhood of Onesimus** (vv. 17-21)
- A. Paul urged Philemon to receive and trust Onesimus** (vv. 16).
  - B. Paul asked Philemon to receive Onesimus as a Partner and Brother in the Ministry.**
  - C. Paul informed Philemon that he would pay whatever money or goods Onesimus had stolen** – Paul told him: Put that on mine account" (v. 18).
  - D. Paul advised Philemon to always remember the debt he owed for his own Salvation.**
  - E. Paul said he would be filled with joy in his heart if Philemon received Onesimus as a Partner and Brother in the Lord** (v. 20)
  - F. Paul said he had great confidence that Philemon would honor his request and do more than he is asking for** (v. 21)
  - G. "We are the Lord's Onesimus" – Martin Luther**

**Conclusion:**

- A. "And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins" (1 Pet 4:8)**
- B. Since Jesus Came Into My Heart**
- C. Romans Road (Rom 3:10, 23; 5:8; 10:9, 13)**

From the Preaching ministry of:  
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**"... the word of our God shall stand for ever" (Isa 40:8).**