

# Chesswood Baptist Church

Where Everybody is Somebody

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MINISTRY OF THE WORD

## IF THOU COUNT ME THEREFORE A PARTNER, RECEIVE HIM AS MYSELF

PASTOR HOWARD DANIEL JR.

SUNDAY EVENING, JULY 15, 2018

SCRIPTURE READING: **PHILEMON 1:10-25**

**Philemon 1: 17-18,** If thou count me therefore a partner, receive him as myself. **18:** If he hath wronged thee, or oweth thee ought, put that on mine account;

### 1. BACKGROUND

- a. The **Book of Philemon** contains only one chapter; however, it is very potent and remarkable.
- b. These letters in the New Testament provide a new form of Divine Revelation.
- c. Previously God used law, history, poetry, prophesy and the Gospel records to get His message out.
- d. Now He uses the epistles which appear to be more personal and direct.
- e. Many of the epistles were directed to individuals and to some churches. Those addressed to individuals are rather personal.
- f. This particular epistle of Philemon is like reading personal mail, however, we must remember that all Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is there for a definite purpose.
- g. Philemon lived in Colosse. If you were to look for it today it is in a country known as Turkey.
- h. There are only ruins there today. But in Paul's day this city was booming.
- i. If you recall, this was one of Paul's prison epistles.

- j. This story that is inspired by God has a twofold meaning.
  - 1. It speaks to slavery.
    - a. There were approximately sixty million slaves in the Roman Empire.
    - b. The total population was about 120 million.
    - c. Slaves were treated badly and served many times at the whim of their master.
  - 2. The second meaning is that an unbeliever is a slave to sin.  
**Romans 6:16**, *Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?*
    - a. When we come to know Christ Jesus as personal Saviour we are free indeed. **John 8:36**, *If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.*
    - b. We are also complete in Him. **Colossians 2:10**, *And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:*
- k. There was a very rich man in Colosse who had a slave, named Onesimus. Philemon had come in contact with the Apostle Paul and came to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.
- l. There were opportunities for this man to come in contact with Paul because Paul spent at least two years teaching at the school of Tyrannus. **Acts 19:9**, *But when divers were hardened, and believed not, but spake evil of that way before the multitude, he departed from them, and separated the disciples, disputing daily in the school of one Tyrannus.*
- m. People would come from all over the Roman Empire to hear Paul teach.
- n. There were millions of people in Asia Minor during this time.
- p. Philemon had a slave whose name was Onesimus.
- q. When Onesimus had the opportunity, he ran away and escaped and wound up in Rome.
- r. He was one of the people who visited the Apostle Paul during his prison time and came back bearing this epistle to

Philemon.

- s. As Onesimus encountered the Apostle Paul, he knew that Paul was in prison and in chains; however, he displayed a remarkable degree of freedom.
- u. When we come to know Jesus Christ as Saviour there is freedom. **John 8:36**, *If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.*
- v. One might be a slave to sin, but there is freedom in Christ Jesus; one might be a slave to religion, but there is freedom in Christ Jesus; likewise, one might be a slave to rituals, but there is freedom in Christ Jesus.
- w. Onesimus contacted the Apostle Paul and from that encounter Paul led him to a saving knowledge of Christ.  
**Philemon 1:16**, *Not now as a servant, but above a servant, a brother beloved, specially to me, but how much more unto thee, both in the flesh, and in the Lord?*
- x. Immediately he wanted to make things right, so he asked Paul if he should go back even though he had escaped as a runaway slave.
- y. Paul knew the area quite well and knew the church that was there in Colosse and he wanted to know who Onesimus' master was. The master that came forth was Philemon, whom Paul knew very well.
- z. Philemon was one of Paul's earlier converts.
  1. Onesimus followed Paul's advice and went back. **John 8:36**, *If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.*
  2. Onesimus returns to his slave master with a new heart, a saved soul and bears this epistle.

## 2. INTRODUCTION

- a. Please refer to the July 15, 2018 Morning Message for the Introduction.

## 3. ELEVEN POINTS TO THE MESSAGE

i. **I beseech thee for my son Onesimus.**

1. **Philemon 1:10, I beseech thee for my son Onesimus, whom I have begotten in my bonds:**
2. This is where Paul pleads for Onesimus.
3. Paul was not a married man, but he had many sons in the faith to include Onesimus, Timothy, Titus, all of which he lead to Christ. **1 Corinthians 7:8, I say therefore to the unmarried and widows, It is good for them if they abide even as I.**
4. Paul was molding these men to carry out the Gospel message.
5. These were the spiritual sons of the Apostle Paul.
6. He led Onesimus to a saving knowledge of Christ and he also became a prisoner of Jesus Christ.
7. Notice the way Paul enters his plea for Onesimus.

j. **Which in times past was to thee unprofitable.**

1. **Philemon 1:11, Which in time past was to thee unprofitable, but now profitable to thee and to me:**
2. The name Onesimus means profitable, however he was a runaway slave.
3. He was not profitable to Philemon on the previous occasion before he was saved and born again.
4. Paul is now sending him back and doesn't try to impress Philemon into believing that Onesimus was profitable when he was there.
5. As a matter of fact, he says, "**Which in time past was to thee unprofitable, but now profitable to thee and to me:**" I am sending him back as a new creature in Christ Jesus. **2 Corinthians 5:17, Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.**
6. He asks for Philemon to receive him not as a prisoner but as

a brother.

7. It does not make any difference what walk of life we are in.
8. I am so glad our slogan is "Where Everybody is Somebody."
9. We are no longer a slave but saints of God and brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus. **Philippians 3:13-14**, Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, **14:** I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

**k. Thou therefore receive him, that is, mine own bowels.**

1. **Philemon 1:12-13**, Whom I have sent again: **thou therefore receive him, that is, mine own bowels:** **13:** Whom I would have retained with me, that in thy stead he might have ministered unto me in the bonds of the gospel:
2. Paul is telling Philemon to receive Onesimus as if he were the Apostle Paul.
3. This reminds me that Jesus Christ took our place on the cross. **2 Corinthians 5:21**, For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.
4. When we get into that mind set, it is amazing what fellowship we can have with the Lord Jesus Christ.
5. Paul is telling Philemon in no uncertain terms not to focus on the past. **Philippians 3:13-14**, Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, **14:** I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.
6. This is an important lesson for the Church.
7. Chesswood Baptist Church needs to not focus on the past,

but what we can do in the present and what we are going to do in the future.

8. Many times, we tend to look at the past lives of people who come to Christ.
9. *"Whom I would have retained with me, that in thy stead he might have ministered unto me in the bonds of the gospel:"* – Paul tells Philemon how important Onesimus was to him.

#### I. **But without thy mind would I do nothing.**

1. **Philemon 1:14,** *But without thy mind would I do nothing;* *that thy benefit should not be as it were of necessity, but willingly.*
2. Paul says he wants him to willingly receive this man.
3. I believe Philemon did as Paul had asked.
4. I do not know if Philemon ever sent Onesimus back to Paul. I would think that as much as Philemon loved Paul, he would have done so.

#### m. **Not as a servant but above a servant.**

1. **Philemon 1:15-16,** *For perhaps he therefore departed for a season, that thou shouldest receive him for ever; 16: Not now as a servant, but above a servant,* a brother beloved, specially to me, but how much more unto thee, both in the flesh, and in the Lord?
2. Onesimus is a saved person; he is now a different man. **2 Corinthians 5:17,** *Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*
3. This is one of the best examples of substitution and imputation.
4. Some have a problem believing that once you are saved we are saved forever. **1 John 5:12-13,** *He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.* **13:** *These things have I written unto you that believe*

on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

5. There is not one thing that man can do that will cause him to lose his salvation. **John 10:28**, And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.
6. Not only has Christ Jesus substituted for us, but He has imputed unto us His righteousness. **Romans 3:22**, Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:
7. This is the same righteousness that He imputed to Abraham. **Romans 4:24**, But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead;
8. Abraham believed God and it was imputed unto him for righteousness. **James 2:23**, And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.
9. We are accepted in the beloved. **Ephesians 1:6**, To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

n. **If thou count me therefore a partner, receive him as myself.**

1. **Philemon 1:17**, If thou count me therefore a partner, receive him as myself.
2. Paul wants Philemon to receive Onesimus and give him the best.
3. To treat him just as he would treat Paul if he were to show up.

o. **If he hath wronged thee, or oweth thee ought.**

1. **Philemon 1:18**, If he hath wronged thee, or oweth thee

**ought, put that on mine account;**

2. Paul introduces us to his account with Philemon.
3. They knew each other well.
4. It reminds us that regardless of what we have done we come to Christ as we are. **Romans 5:8, But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.**
5. We do not clean up or make ourselves better.
6. Our Lord accepts us just as we are. Then we become beloved in the Lord.
7. Paul will take care of any business when he comes if Onesimus had wronged or owed Philemon anything.

**p. I will repay it.**

1. **Philemon 1:19, I Paul have written it with mine own hand, I will repay it:** albeit I do not say to thee how thou owest unto me even thine own self besides.
2. Paul reminds Philemon that he led him to the Lord.
3. There is a great debt when we lead someone to Jesus Christ.
4. We do not get anybody saved; it is the blood of Christ. But we are responsible to introduce people to our Saviour Jesus Christ.
5. Jesus paid it all. All to Him I owe. Sin had left a crimson stain. He washed it white as snow.

**q. Having confidence in thy obedience.**

1. **Philemon 1:20-21, Yea, brother, let me have joy of thee in the Lord: refresh my bowels in the Lord. 21: Having confidence in thy obedience** I wrote unto thee, knowing that thou wilt also do more than I say.
2. This is a great example for Chesswood Baptist Church.
3. It is not about being rebellious; it is about serving the Lord with gladness. **Psalms 100:2, Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing. 1 Samuel 15:23, For**

rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king.

4. The interesting thing is Paul knows that Philemon will do more.
5. When we truly love the Lord, our eyes are open at all times and we look forward to not only doing things but by going the second mile. **Matthew 5:41**, *And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain.*
6. People who really love Jesus Christ will get their eyes off of themselves and on Him.
7. This will make it possible for us to generously do the Lord's work to the glory of God.

r. **But withal prepare me also a lodging.**

1. **Philemon 1:22**, *But withal prepare me also a lodging:* for I trust that through your prayers I shall be given unto you.
2. The Bible says in **James 5:16**, Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. *The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.*
3. Paul is requesting prayer that he would be released from prison.
4. Notice that he already knows this is going to happen.
5. Paul eventually was released, and he probably did visit Philemon on a personal basis.
6. When we know Jesus Christ as our personal Saviour, we have the ability to live the abundant life.

s. **The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.**

1. **Philemon 1:23-25**, There salute thee Epaphras, my fellowprisoner in Christ Jesus; **24:** Marcus, Aristarchus, Demas, Lucas, my fellowlabourers. **25:** *The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.* Amen.
2. This is a beautiful ending to a very precious letter.

3. It is also by God's grace that we are saved. Do you know the Saviour Jesus Christ?

#### **4. CONCLUSION**

- a. If you do not know Him, come to the side of the Living Saviour today.
- b. **Romans 3:23**, *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*
- c. **Romans 3:10**, *As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:*
- d. **Romans 10:9-10**, *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10: For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*
- e. Would you please stand?

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