

Philemon v1-7 “Transforming Grace”

Philemon v1-7

Paul’s Friend Philemon

- A Christian and a Slave Owner

Slavery in the Roman Empire

- 3 Ways to Become a Slave
- Practiced by Most Cultures and Exists Today

The Bible Records but Does not Condone Slavery

- Exo 21, Gen 15:2, Josh 9
- The Power of the Gospel to Change Society

The Story of Philemon and Onesimus

- A Runaway, Freedom and a Prodigal Slave
- The World’s Version of Freedom

Two Estranged Men

- Onesimus: Thief , Facing Consequences
- Philemon: Wronged Brother, Facing Forgiveness

How Jesus Changes Relationships and Institutions

Philemon v1-3

A Prison Letter but Prisoner of Christ Jesus

- Tough Circumstances but Fruitful
- Rom 8:28 Working but Not Approving

#1 God Uses Difficult Circumstances and People as Tools

- God’s Sovereignty: Paul and Onesimus
- The Worst Place Furthers His Plan

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Philemon v4-7

Complimenting Philemon

- V5 Love for God and People
- V6 Sharing His Faith and Resources
- V7 Refreshing the Saints

#2 God Will Use a Difficult Relationship to Heal and Free Us

- Dropping a Bomb, Battering Him Up
- Recognizing the Hand of God and Responding Right

Reminding Philemon

1. Everyone is Watching You

- Be Careful, This is a Incredible Opportunity

2. Bitterness is Poison

- God is Pulling Thorns to Heal You

The Hardest Thing You'll Ever Do But....

It'll be Your Greatest _____