

Seven Bible Studies 2017

Epistles

September 17: Philemon (Ryan Ingle)

Sunday, September 17 ~ Philemon

Paul is writing to Philemon regarding his former slave, Onesimus who were both from Colossi. From what I have researched, Onesimus had run away from Philemon at some point. Then while Paul was in prison, Onesimus had become very helpful to Paul as it's believed he helped deliver the letters from Paul to both the Ephesians and Colossians. Paul's wish was for Philemon to forgive Onesimus and accept him as a brother in Christ. Upon Onesimus's running away, it was believed not only did Philemon lose his slave but that items were stolen by Onesimus. Paul had a special relationship with Philemon so this letter coming from Paul would give greater meaning coming to Philemon.

Now Philemon was a leader in the church in Colossi. Paul speaks of how encouraged he is to know of Philemon's love for God and those faithfully serving God. Paul trusts that Philemon's love has deepened as well since he first was brought into Christ's body.

Paul states that instead of ordering Philemon to accept his message here, he appeals to him on the basis of love regarding Onesimus. Paul felt he should send Onesimus back to him even though he truly needed him to help continue his work from prison. In sending him back, he was hopeful that Philemon would see him as his slave who ran away, but now a brother to him through Christ.

Paul continues in stating that he wishes Philemon to welcome him back just as hopefully he would embrace Paul. If there are any debts Onesimus owes, Paul himself will make it right...and kindly reminds Philemon how much he owes Paul for all he has done for him.

This was going to be a true test for Philemon on whether he truly has accepted the love of Christ and is displaying it. Paul, had full confidence in Philemon to accept Onesimus as his brother in Christ.

Comment:

Butch O'Neal:
Thank you, Ryan!

Comment:

Ginger Hermon:
Such an amazing letter! Thanks, Ryan!