

“The Useful Runaway”

Pastor Jeff Alexander + September 4, 2016

Where is Paul when he is writing this letter?

Who is Philemon?

What’s relationship between “love” and “faith” (v. 5)?

How has Philemon been an effective witness for Christ?

Who is Onesimus?

ONESIMUS = Useful

Paul appeals to Philemon on the basis of grace not compulsion.

Why do you think he does this?

How will Philemon now “have (Onesimus) back forever” (v. 15)?

When Paul appeals to Philemon for Onesimus, he literally puts himself in the place of Onesimus!

Jesus Christ does the same for us! He appeals to the Father in our place, and all of our wrongdoing is charged to His account.

Philippians 2:5-8

In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!

Why does Paul say to Philemon, “You owe me your very self” (v. 19)?

The Letter to Philemon is short but full of important teaching about grace, help and friendship.

How can your friendship with another be a means of sharing God’s grace with them?

What networks of support and fellowship do you have? Are you fully utilizing them?

How can the Lord use you this week to help and encourage someone else?