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**Lighthouse Bible Church**

**Sunday, August 24, 2025**

## **Philemon 1:8-25**

**Title: A debt paid once and for all**

**We spent last week talking about a man  
named Philemon and the folks meeting  
in a church run from his home.**

**Paul — a prisoner of Jesus Christ —  
gave a series of greetings to brethren  
and commended Philemon for his love  
and faith toward those who love the  
Lord Jesus.**

**Today, we'll talk about a man named  
Onesimus and the way that Paul viewed  
him.**

**Paul (v. 8-9) made references to his age and his status as a man who was in prison for Christ's sake to make an appeal for Onesimus.**

**Onesimus was a slave who at another point in time belonged to Philemon.**

**Paul uses the term “child” in verse 10, which denotes their closeness.**

# 1 Corinthians 4:11-16



**Similarly, Paul called Timothy his “son”  
in the faith. 1 Timothy 1:1-4**

**Titus, too: Titus 1:1-4**

**Onesimus was a literal slave at a prior point, and Paul sends him back to Onesimus (verse 12).**

**We weren't slaves in the same way as Onesimus, but we were slaves to sin, and thus were absolutely hopeless.**

# **John 8:34-37**

# **Romans 6:16-22**

# 1 Corinthians 6:9-11

**In verse 15, Paul surmises that  
Onesimus might have left Philemon to  
the end that Philemon might recognize  
his changed status.**



Onesimus would return not as a mere slave, but as a brother, the letter says (v. 16) — a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, the same way Paul, Philemon and Timothy are.

**We have a very different status, too, to the glory of God. Instead of being slaves to sin, we have freedom in Christ.**

# 1 Corinthians 7:20-25

# Galatians 5:1-4

# Galatians 5:16-26

# Ephesians 1:5-12

# **Ephesians 5:6-16**

# 1 Timothy 1:12-17



# 1 Peter 2:13-20

**Paul asks Philemon receive Onesimus in the same way that he would receive Paul.**

**He is willing to pay any debt that Onesimus owes (v. 18-19), which would free him from other obligations.**

**The same way that Onesimus would be free after Paul's paid the debt associated with him, we are free in Christ.**

**We are free from the due consequences  
of our sin because of Christ.**

**2 Corinthians 5:14-21**

**Hebrews 9:11-15; Hebrews 9:23-28**

**In v. 20, Paul lets the reader know  
paying this debt would refresh him,  
same word as verse 7. Notice “prisoner”  
a little further down?**

**At one point, we were slaves to sin. We have liberty, eternal life and more today via our belief in Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**We have a responsibility to point people to Christ, who is the only One that can serve as a perfect sacrifice for our sin.**



**Praise the Lord that we can today serve  
of the One whom we obey, instead of sin.  
We are servants of righteousness, same  
as Onesimus became.**