

PHILEMON

Lesson 16: Begotten

15 April, 2016

In verse number 10 Paul pleads with Philemon on behalf of Onesimus, calling him “**my son...whom I have begotten.**” Today we will discover the deeper meanings of “begotten.”

SEVEN LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE RELATIONSHIP OF PAUL AND ONESIMUS:

1. God’s hand was at work in their meeting. God graciously draws all men to the Savior (John 12:32) through various circumstances.
2. We learn of the power of Jesus in His salvation. Jesus can save anybody (Isaiah 59:1).
3. Christians ought to be peacemakers (2 Cor. 5:18). Paul aimed to reconcile the relationship between Onesimus and Philemon.
4. Christians must make restitution (pay what you owe, Luke 19:8).
5. Christians ought to forgive for Christ’s sake (Eph. 4:32).
6. We are one in Christ Jesus regardless of our social or financial status (Romans 12:5).
7. Good things can grow out of bad situations through the providence of God (Genesis 50:20, Rom. 8:28).

BEGOTTEN: has a twofold meaning:

1. **The obvious meaning:** to bring life; to give birth to; to generate (Genesis 5, Matthew 1, etc.).
 - a. The first birth is a natural birth. God formed you in your mother’s womb (Isa. 44:2, Psalm 102:18, Mal. 2:10, Job 10:8, Psalms 119:73, etc.).
 - b. The second birth is a spiritual birth (Jn. 3:6, Eph. 2:10, Jn 1:13).
 - c. In both cases, God is the one who gives life. In both cases He uses human agents for the delivery (Phillip to the Ethiopian Eunuch in Acts 8, Peter to Cornelius in Acts 10).
 - i. Nobody gets saved without somebody to witness to them and give them the Gospel.
2. **The obscure (not readily understood) meaning:** to give an exalted or an honored place.
 - a. Jesus Christ was not “begotten” in the obvious sense of the word. A body was prepared for Him, but He is the eternal Creator (Col. 1:16-17, John 1:3). He existed before the birth in the manger.
 - b. The Bible calls Jesus “begotten” on three separate and distinct occasions.

THE THREE BEGETTINGS OF JESUS CHRIST:

ACTS 13:29-34 Jesus was begotten on the day of His resurrection (vs. 33). He was exalted to a high and lofty position by God the Father on resurrection morning.

HEBREWS 1:1-4 Jesus was begotten (vs. 4) the day He ascended back to heaven (vs. 3). On that day He “**obtained a more excellent name**” than the angels.

HEBREWS 5:1-5 Jesus was begotten (vs. 5) the day when the Holy Spirit gave birth to the New Testament Church and began to minister to that church as their Great High Priest (vs. 5).

INTERPRETING OTHER SCRIPTURES IN THIS LIGHT

REVELATION 1:4-5 Jesus Christ is the “**first begotten of the dead.**” He wasn’t the first one to be raised from the dead (2 Kings 4:36, Luke 7:15, Mark 5:42, 2 Kings 13:21, John 11:44). But Jesus Christ is the first person to ever come out of death with honors and be magnified and exalted.

JOHN 3:16 Believing in the BIRTH of Jesus will not save a person. Therefore, “**only begotten Son**” must refer to the Lord’s exalted position as a result of His death, burial, resurrection, and ascension (which had already taken place at the time of the writing of John’s gospel). That’s the Jesus you must believe upon to be saved.

WHO ELSE ARE BEGOTTEN?

PHILEMON 1:10 Onesimus is much more than a lowly slave now.

ROMANS 6:4-11 Those who are “**dead with Christ**” (vs. 8), which have the assurance of being resurrected to live with Him. Believers have an exalted position in Christ as a result of the new birth.

COLOSSIANS 3:1-3 Those who are “**risen with Christ**” (vs. 1), which are raised with Christ and sit with him in heavenly places (Eph. 2:6).

1 TIMOTHY 2:1 Jesus is the one mediator between God and men (1 Tim. 2:5), but those who are in Christ are called to be intercessors.

REVELATION 1:6 Believers are made “**kings and priests unto God and his Father.**” That’s an exalted position! We have the same three things (in Christ) that God gave His Son (resurrection, heavenly residence, rule or dominion).

1 JOHN 5:5 Overcomers shall go to heaven (Rev. 2:7), shall not be hurt of the second death (Rev. 2:11), shall have a private name given from the Lord (Rev. 2:17), rule nations (Rev. 2:26), wear white raiment as the priests (Rev. 3:5), shall bear the Lord’s new name (Rev. 3:12), shall sit with the Lord Jesus in His throne (Rev. 3:21).

1 PETER 1:3 You’re not only born again (John 3:7, 1 Pet. 1:23), but you’re also begotten again. You came into this world at a certain status level. No matter what level that was, at your second birth you were exalted to a much higher status.
