

# PHILEMON

## Lesson 17: Time Past, But Now

22 April, 2016

This morning we'll consider the statement in verse number 11, speaking of the new Christian Onesimus, "<sup>11</sup> **Which in time past was to thee unprofitable, but now— profitable to thee and to me:**"

If you've had a true conversion experience through faith in Jesus Christ, you will not be the same as you were in the past. God instantly transforms the believer into a better person who will now be a blessing to others (profitable). As Christians, we need to make sure that our past—stays in the past. We have a brand new life!

### **TITUS 3:3 In times past we WERE:**

1. Sometimes foolish; doing things without any thought of God (Psalm 14:1).
2. Sometimes disobedient (James 2:10).
3. Sometimes deceived (Gen. 3:1-6).
4. Sometimes serving divers (assorted) lusts (Gen. 3:6, 1 Jn. 2:16).
5. Sometimes serving pleasures (Heb. 11:25).
6. Sometimes living in malice. (Jonah, Matthew 5:43-44, Proverbs 24:17).
7. Sometimes living in envy (Genesis 37:11).
8. Sometimes hateful, and hating one another (Judges 11:7).

**"But after that..."** God saved us (vs. 4). There is a clear dividing line there. This strongly implies that we DON'T do ANY of those things anymore and have pleasure in them.

### **EPH. 2:1-3 Seven characteristics of our past:**

1. We were dead in trespasses and sins (vs 1).
2. We walked according to the course of this world (vs. 2). We used to go with the flow.
3. We walked according to the prince of the power of the air (vs. 2).
4. We followed the spirit of disobedience (vs. 2). This came naturally.
5. We had our conversation among the disobedient (vs. 3).
6. We fulfilled the lusts of our flesh (vs. 3).
7. We were by nature the children of wrath (vs. 3).

**EPH. 2:4-11 "But GOD...!"** After God stepped into our lives, we no longer followed the course of this world living a life of sin. That is "**in time past**" (vs. 11). Now we are living a life of good works.

**ROM. 6:20-21** We WERE the servants of sin; we were in bondage to sin. We were not free to do right. We may have tried to do right, but we always failed.

NOW if we commit any of the sins we USED to serve, we are terribly ASHAMED of ourselves. We no longer enjoy those sinful things we used to have pleasure in.

**PHILEMON** Onesimus WAS unprofitable, but NOW he is profitable (vs. 11). This took place as a result of verse 10 when he was begotten in a moment of time by placing his faith in Jesus Christ.

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