

PHILEMON

Lesson 1: Restoration

1 January, 2016

Particulars: 1 chapter, 25 verses, 445 words, 11 characters. Main characters: the apostle Paul, Onesimus the runaway slave, and Philemon, a born again believer who is the master of Onesimus.

Theme: Paul sends a runaway slave back to his master and asks the master to receive him as a newborn brother in Christ.

Subjects learned from this letter:

1. God will save anybody that will trust Him.
2. Those who are saved are equal in Christ.
3. Jesus worked within the social order of His time (obeying the laws) and teaches us to do the same.
4. Charity, kindness, and tact are good things when used for the cause of Jesus Christ.
5. Getting saved does not erase your obligations to correct your past actions.
6. Getting saved will not erase the temporal consequences of your past actions.
7. Salvation will change you. You won't be the same as before.
8. Christians ought to pray FOR each other, not AGAINST one another.
9. Things that start out badly can end up being glorious once God gets involved in it.
10. Christians ought to help new converts get established in the faith.
11. The joy of having brothers and sisters in Christ that you can count on to do the right thing.

Today's lesson: it is always the desire of God to restore us—not to destroy us; to save us—not to condemn us. God deals with men as needed, separating from them for a time, but He never intends to leave them in that condition (i.e. Adam, Israel, Samson etc.).

Biblical references:

Job 14:7-9

The example of a dead tree that can have life again. Every man is born with an understanding that there is a God. When that dies out over time due to sin and you lose that understanding and light, it will require the living water of God's word to bring it back to life again.

Gal. 6:1

As a Christian, it is your responsibility to RESTORE a brother or sister who has fallen, not condemn them and forget them.

2 Cor. 3:14-17

God promises that when Israel turns back to Him, He won't turn them away, but he'll take away the veil (spiritual blindness) and restore them.

2 Timothy 2:24-26

Believers have a responsibility to go get those who have been led astray and captured in the Devil's snare. We must try and lead them to repentance by the word of God so they can be restored.

Luke 23:39-41

The repentant thief on the cross was restored by the Lord and met Him in paradise.

Lam. 3:22-23

God's mercies and compassion never fail. They are new every morning. God's desire is to see you restored.