

PHILEMON

Lesson 21: Repay Once Saved

20 May, 2016

In **verses 18 and 19**, the Apostle Paul promised to pay Philemon whatever is owed to him by Onesimus. This teaches us the importance of making things right after salvation. This is a lesson on biblical restitution.

Restitution: the act of restoring; the stated of being restored; restoration of something to its original owner.

Your new life in Christ does not erase the consequences of your former actions. You are still obligated to repay debts, reconcile your marriage, take care of your children, and correct any wrongdoings of your past to make sure that you establish a good testimony as a Christian.

LUKE 19:1-10

Zacchaeus was the chief publican (public servant). He collected taxes from the people.

Zacchaeus was rich (vs. 2). How does a public servant get rich? Dishonestly.

Zacchaeus received Jesus joyfully (vs. 6).

All the people counted Zacchaeus as **“a sinner”** (vs. 7). He had a bad reputation.

Zacchaeus immediately vowed to the Lord to make amends with everyone he ever cheated and give back what he stole with interest (vs. 8). He was going to work hard to change his reputation.

The change in this man revealed the fact that he'd been saved (vs. 9). He wanted to be profitable (to others) **“in the flesh and in the Lord.”** (Philemon 16). He was going to love his neighbor, do unto others..., and live peaceably with all men (Lev. 19:18, Mt. 19:19, Lk. 6:31, Rom. 12:18).

EXODUS 22:1-4

Here is the commandment to restore what you stole with interest. It's not enough to give back only what you stole. You must pay for every inconvenience and loss of income or productivity that you caused.

Leviticus 6:1-7

Notice these sins against your neighbor, defined as a **“trespass against the Lord”** (vs. 2).

1. You were trusted **“to keep”** something for somebody, but you lost it, spent it, or traded it.
2. You trespassed **“in fellowship.”** You broke an agreement and put someone in a difficult situation or hardship. This is a sin against the Lord.
3. **“In a thing taken away by violence.”** Theft by violence.
4. **“Or hath deceived his neighbor.”** Theft by deceitfulness. Con men.
5. You **“have found that which was lost, and lieth concerning it”** (vs. 3).

There are two things necessary for full restitution.

1. You must seek God's forgiveness (vss. 6-7).
2. You must restore what you stole plus Interest (vs. 5). (See Luke 15:18-19)
 - a. This goes further than just property. You may have to restore someone's reputation if you sought to ruin it. You may need to restore relationships with your children or family members.

1 SAMUEL 12:1-5 Samuel had a good reputation and a good testimony. Nobody could find fault with him concerning his honest life and right dealings with the people.

All Christians should strive to leave this world with a good name (Proverbs 22:1).

ISAIAH 42:17-24 When a nation declines and falls into ruin, "**none saith, Restore.**" Today's preaching is lacking a clear message of repentance before salvation and restoration after salvation. This is the result of ministers trying to cater to a self-loving generation. Everything is about "me, me, me..." with no consideration for others whom we've sinned against.

JUDE 1:3-4 To teach that saving grace allows you to continue sinning is a rejection and a denial of Jesus Christ and His gospel. It turns "**the grace of our God into lasciviousness**" (looseness, lustfulness).

Restitution is a powerful witnessing tool. —When you go back and try to make things right from your former life before your salvation, people will see a change in you and it will honor the Lord and open a door to witness to someone.
