

INTRODUCTION.

TODAY ~ WE WILL CONTINUE OUR LOOK AT VERSES 17-20.

▶▶ As we know, ~ in this paragraph ~ Paul gets into specifics ~ regarding Onesimus.

▶▶ In *verse 17*, ~ which we looked at last week, ~ Paul specifically states ~ how he would like Philemon ~ ¶¶

▷▷ to handle the situation ~ of his returned slave

▶▶ Simply put, ~ Paul is asking Philemon ~ to ~ forgive and reconcile with ~ Onesimus.

TODAY, ~ WE'LL LOOK AT VERSES 18-19a.

IF ~ HE HAS WRONGED YOU AT ALL, ~ OR ~ OWES YOU ANYTHING, ~ CHARGE THAT ~ to my account. ~ I, ~ Paul, ~ write this with my own hand: ~ I ~ will repay it.

▶▶ In addition to running away, ~ Onesimus owed Philemon a great debt, ~ and it looks like ~ he confessed this to Paul.

AN INTERESTING SIDE NOTE HERE.

▶▶ Although Paul may have known ~ of the loss incurred by Philemon ~ and ~ of the debt owed to him, ~ ¶¶

▷▷ with tact ~ he describes the situation ~ hypothetically ~ in an open condition. ¶¶ 1/10

▶▶ He says, ~ If ~ he has wronged you at all, ~ or ~ if ~ he owes you anything.

▶▶ It was typical ~ of Paul's tact ~ to state a delicate fact ~ hypothetically ~ and therefore ~ gently.

▶▶ We see his tact also on display ~ in 2 Cor. 2. (CSB).

▷▷ If anyone has caused pain, ~ he has caused pain ~ not so much to me ~ but to some degree ~ not to exaggerate ~ to all of you.

### WE CAN LEARN MUCH FROM PAUL HERE.

▶▶ I.e., ~ in learning how ~ to verbally interact ~ with fellow believers.

▷▷ Paul = very tactful.

▷▷ We too ~ need to develop ~ the skill and sensitivity needed ~ ¶¶

↳↳ in dealing with others ~ or ~ with difficult issues.

▶▶ Eph. 4:29b (CSB), ~ Paul: ~ speak ~ only ~ what is good ~ for building up someone in need, ~ so that ~ it gives grace to those who hear.

▶▶ Speech that is "good" ~ refers to the kind of talk ~ that is ~ helpful, ~ constructive, ~ beneficial.

▶▶ Believers' words ~ should be well chosen ~ so that ~ ¶¶

▷▷ we may ~ edify others ~ and ~ have a beneficial effect ~ on them and our church as a whole. ¶¶ 2/10

▶▶ The conversation ~ of the follower's of Christ ~ 77

▷▷ should be ~ wholesome and beneficial ~ so that ~ it edifies others, ~ 77

↳↳ that builds them up rather than tears them down.

▶▶ My . . . ~ we should be characterized ~ by words ~ that help others.

▷▷ When we speak to our fellow believers, ~ we should always strive ~ to use words ~ 77

↳↳ that ~ build their confidence, ~ that ~ encourage them in their tasks, ~ that ~ promote their spiritual growth, ~ 77

→→ and that ~ foster goodwill in our local fellowship.

▶▶ The right words ~ can make an enormous difference ~ in people's lives.

▷▷ Prov. 16:24, ~ "Gracious words ~ are like ~ a honeycomb, ~ sweetness to the soul ~ and health to the body."

↳↳ Kind and pleasant words ~ are like honey, ~ sweet to the taste, ~ i.e., ~ enjoyable ~ and easy to accept.

→→ And they are good for our health, ~ both spiritually and, ~ we see, ~ even physically. ⇒⇒ Philemon refreshed believers.

▶▶ And notice ~ what Solomon says in ~ Prov. 12:18 (CSB).

▷▷ There is one ~ who speaks rashly, ~ like a piercing sword; ~ but the tongue of the wise ~ brings healing. 77 3/10

▷▷ "Rash words" ~ has the idea ~ of speaking ~ hastily and inadvisably.

▷▷ Conversely, ~ the words of the wise ~ bring healing.

↳↳ The words are healing ~ because they are ~ faithful and true, ~ ¶¶

→→ gentle and kind, ~ and ~ uplifting and encouraging.

### BACK ON TRACK NOW (vv. 18-19a).

▶▶ As noted, ~ it looks like Onesimus ~ owed a debt to Philemon ~ and confessed this to Paul.

▶▶ This ~ would cause Onesimus ~ to be extremely afraid ~ to return to Philemon.

▷▷ It was bad enough ~ that he had run away, ~ but it looks like ~ he had also incurred a great debt.

▶▶ Thus Paul's letter ~ served ~ as a buffer ~ giving Onesimus courage to return ~ ¶¶

▷▷ and ~ giving Philemon ~ the entire picture ~ so that ~ ¶¶

↳↳ he might deal kindly with his runaway slave.

▶▶ Paul asked ~ that Onesimus' debt ~ be charged ~ to his own account.

▷▷ IOW, ~ Onesimus would no longer ~ owe Philemon anything.

↳↳ But ~ Paul would. ¶¶ 4/10

NOW, ~ IT'S IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND, ~ ¶¶

▶▶ Paul was not ~ suggesting to Philemon ~ that he simply ~ ¶¶

▷▷ ignore Onesimus' crimes ~ and forget about the debt he owed.

▶▶ The wrong ~ needed to be ~ righted.

▷▷ So Paul took on that debt ~ on Onesimus' behalf.

▶▶ Onesimus got a huge dose ~ of true Christ-like love ~ through Paul's action.

PAUL DID THE WORK ~ OF RECONCILIATION.

▶▶ And no doubt ~ you can guess where we're going next.

▶▶ What Paul did ~ for Onesimus ~ parallels ~ what Jesus did ~ for us. ⇔⇔ Look at 5 ||

FIRST, ~ ONESIMUS ~ HAD WRONGED PHILEMON ~ AND THUS ~ was separated from him.

▶▶ Sinners have wronged God ~ and are thus ~ separated from him.

▶▶ Rom. 3:23, ~ For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

▷▷ "fall short" ~ no doubt refers ~ to human effort ~ to bridge the gap ~ between us and God.

↪↪ But it can't be bridged ~ by human effort. ¶¶ 5/10

▷▷ "the glory of God" ~ refers ~ ¶¶

↳↳ to the wonderful and awe-inspiring ~ but indescribable ~ presence of God himself.

▷▷ Sin ~ keeps us ~ from the presence of God.

▶▶ In Eph. 2, ~ Paul tells us that ~ when we were unsaved ~ we were ~ ¶¶

▷▷ separated from Christ ~ and without God in the world.

▷▷ Paul's statement, ~ without God in the world, ~ does not mean ~ that we were necessarily atheists.

↳↳ The word translated as ~ "without God" ~ refers to ~ not having a relationship ~ with the one true God.

▶▶ And in Col. 1, ~ Once ~ we were alienated.

▷▷ I.e., ~ we were once ~ far away from God.

▷▷ Now, ~ here's something extremely important to review.

↳↳ Alienation began in our mother's womb.

→→ More spec., ~ at second of conception ....

↳↳ Ps. 51:5 (NIV) ~ Surely ~ I was sinful ~ at birth, ~ sinful from ~ the time my mother conceived me ....

↳↳ Lost and separated from God ~ the moment we come into existence. ¶¶ 6/10

## THE SECOND PARALLEL ~ BETWEEN ~ WHAT PAUL DID FOR ONESIMUS ~ AND WHAT Jesus did for us.

▶▶ Paul had not been involved ~ with Onesimus' guilt.

▷▷ Jesus ~ was sinless, ~ separated from sinners.

▶▶ For we do not have ~ a high priest ~ who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, ~ but one ~ who in every respect ~ has been tempted as we are, ~ yet without sin. (Heb. 4:15).

▶▶ And according to Paul ~ in 2 Cor. 5, ~ ¶¶

¶¶ ▷▷ God the Father made Christ, ~ who never sinned, ~ to be the offering ~ for our sin, ~

↳↳ so that ~ we could be made right with God ~ through Christ.

▶▶ The sinless One ~ bore our sins ~ in his body on the tree.

## NOW THE THIRD PARALLEL.

▶▶ Paul wrote this letter to Philemon ~ to reconcile Onesimus and Philemon.

▶▶ Jesus' work on the cross ~ reconciled ~ sinners and God.

▶▶ While we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son; ~ and, ~ ¶¶

▷▷ God reconciled us to himself through Christ, ~ ¶¶

↳↳ Paul declares in Romans and 1 Corinthians respectively. ¶¶ 7/10

▶▶ Jesus' death on the cross ~ was not ~ martyrdom.

▷▷ It was ~ a substitutionary sacrifice. (Is. 53)

▶▶ Jesus' substitutionary sacrifice ~ satisfied God's righteous demands ~ ¶¶

▷▷ by paying in full ~ the penalty for sin.

▶▶ The enmity ~ that existed ~ between God and a sinful universe ~ has ceased ~ ¶¶

▷▷ because ~ Christ's death ~ made peace.

↳↳ As Paul says in Rom., ~ we have peace with God ~ through ~ our Lord Jesus Christ.

▶▶ Only those ~ who spurn Christ's offer in the gospel ~ are still ~ at war with God.

NOW, ~ WE NEED TO INSERT ~ A SIDE NOTE HERE.

▶▶ It's extremely important to understand ~ that reconciliation ~ ¶¶

▷▷ is not ~ equivalent ~ to salvation. ⇔⇔ Not universal ....

▶▶ Rather, ~ reconciliation ~ refers to ~ the removal of the barrier ~ ¶¶

▷▷ between God and humanity ~ through Christ's sacrificial work, ~ ¶¶

↳↳ so that ~ God ~ can deal with sinners ~ in a new way.

▶▶ ① Objective .... ⇔⇔ ② Subjective .... ¶¶ 8/10



▶▶ The NT doctrine of reconciliation ~ does not teach ~ universal salvation.

▷▷ It just means ~ that the way is open ~ for sinners ~ to have eternal life.

## MOVING ON TO THE 4<sup>th</sup> II, ~~

THE DEBT ~ Onesimus had with Philemon ~ had to be paid.

▶▶ The penalty for sin ~ had to be paid.

▶▶ It takes more than love ~ to solve the problem.

▷▷ Love must pay a price.

▷▷ God ~ does not save us ~ by His love.

↪↪ For though He loves ~ the whole world, ~~ the whole world ~ is not saved.

▷▷ God saves sinners by His grace.

↪↪ And grace ~ is love ~ that pays a price.

▷▷ God ~ in His holiness ~ could not ignore ~ the debt that we owed, ~ ¶¶

↪↪ for God ~ must be faithful ~ to His own Law.

→→ So He paid the debt for us!

▷▷ In Romans 3, ~ Paul tells us that God ~ is both ~ just and justifier. ¶¶ 9/10

## AND THE FIFTH ~ AND FINAL ~ PARALLEL.

▶▶ Paul took on a debt ~ that was not his own ~ by promising ~ to repay Philemon.

▶▶ Jesus ~ took on the debt of sin ~ that was not his own ~ and paid it ~ by his death.

▷▷ Behold, ~ the Lamb of God, ~ who takes away the sin of the world, ~ John . . . .

▶▶ Theologians call this ~ "the doctrine ~ of imputation." ⇔⇔ means: ~~ to put it on account.

▷▷ When Jesus died on the cross, ~ my sins ~ were put on ~ His account.

↪↪ And He was treated ~ the way ~ I should have been treated.

▷▷ When I trusted Him as my Savior, ~~ His righteousness ~ was put on my account.

↪↪ And now God the Father accepts me in Jesus.

## CONCLUSION.

ANOTHER WAY TO LOOK AT IT. ⇔⇔ HIS ROBES FOR MINE . . . .

▶▶ Zech. 3:1-5 . . . .

PRAY . . . . 10/10