

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What lesson can we learn from this account?
2. Why was it necessary for Onesimus to return to Philemon?
3. Is it always possible to have peace with man?
4. How can we be profitable to our brother or sister?

SUMMARY:

Forgiveness is one of the central truths of the teachings of the Bible. It cannot be over-emphasized that God, through Christ, forgives us our sins and we, likewise, must seek forgiveness from those against whom we have transgressed.

Paul recognizes the fact that if Onesimus was to realize the fullness of this Christian life he must again be reconciled with one whom he had wronged. This passage teaches us the importance of having peace with man, if we are to have peace with God.

NOTES:

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #13

March 26, 2006

First Quarter

THE MINISTRY OF RECONCILIATION

LESSON TEXT: *Philemon 1-25*

LESSON SETTING: Written by Paul while imprisoned in Rome to Philemon who lived in Colosse.

TIME: Approximately 62 A.D.

I. PHILEMON THE MASTER. Philemon 4-7

- A. Filled with Love Towards Jesus and the Saints. (vs. 5) 1 Peter 1:8
- B. Manifests His Faith. (vs. 6)
- C. Shows Hospitality to His Brethren. (vs. 7) Malachi 3:16

II. ONESIMUS THE SLAVE. Philemon 8-16

- A. One of Paul's Converts. (vs. 10) Matthew 12:50
- B. A Changed Person. (vs. 11)
- C. A Servant and A Brother. (vs. 16) Ephesians 2:19

III. PAUL'S PLEA. Philemon 15-25

- A. For Forgiveness. (vs. 17) Matthew 6:14; 1 John 1:9
- B. For Freedom. (vs. 16) John 8:32; Romans 8:2
- C. For Prayers. (vs. 22) Matthew 7:7; John 16:24

GOLDEN TEXT: *BE YE KIND ONE TO ANOTHER, TENDERHEARTED, FORGIVING ONE ANOTHER, EVEN AS GOD FOR CHRIST'S SAKE HATH FORGIVEN YOU.* Ephesians 4:32

NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON: 2 Timothy 1:6-14; 3:10-17; 4:1-8
SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES: 2 Samuel 22:1-51; 23:1-7;
2 Chronicles 29:1-30

QUARTERLY THEME: Life and Writings of Paul

TOPIC: CLIMAXING A TRIUMPHANT MINISTRY

INTRODUCTION:

What a glorious, wonderful testimony Paul had when he arrived at the end of his life, knowing that he had done the will of God. What precious words he was able to write to Timothy: "*I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.*" He could enumerate all of his sufferings and persecutions for the sake of the gospel. He endured them all and the Lord delivered him at all times.

How thankful he must have been to know his life had been lived to glorify God. His was a life of supreme sacrifice, he died daily to self to bring the gospel to others. Not only were those of his day indebted to his work, but we today are blessed to know of Paul's life, lived for Christ's sake. How much we can learn of him and compare our lives with his?

Can we give a similar testimony of our lives when God calls us home? Can it be said of us as stated in a hymn "Ah, how much this world is losing, when the saints their glory win!" (Z.H. 275:1b)

CENTRAL TRUTH: The gospel enables us to treat other men as Christ has treated us.

GOLDEN TEXT: *I HAVE FOUGHT A GOOD FIGHT, I HAVE FINISHED MY COURSE, I HAVE KEPT THE FAITH.* 2 Timothy 4:7

Paul had encouraged Timothy, his son in the faith to "*be strong in the grace which is in Christ Jesus.*" (2 Timothy 2:1) He was also giving him a solemn charge concerning the care of the church, and also exhorting him to be a good example in all things. How wonderful it is that Paul could also cite his own example to encourage those who must carry one. He had met all persecution, discouragement, imprisonment and even stripes and stoning, yet could say, "I have kept the faith." What a source of strength this example must have been to Timothy when the way became rough.

Blessed are we if those who preach, teach and lead us also show in their lives that they laid all on the altar for the sake of Christ and His gospel.

O faithful be!
So shalt thine end be glorious;
God will uphold, and thou shall be victorious!
Though here the struggle may be long and hard,
Thy faithfulness is honor to the Lord!

Z.H. 172:1

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF March 27–April 2

M. *Stir up the Gift. 2 Timothy 1:1-11
T. *Hold Fast! 2 Timothy 1:12-18
W. *Turn Away from Evil. 2 Timothy 3:1-7
T. *Continue in the Faith. 2 Timothy 3:8-17
F. *Preach the Word! 2 Timothy 4:1-5
S. *Finish the Course. 2 Timothy 4:6-15
S. God is Faithful. 2 Timothy 4:16-22