

**FOR LOVE'S SAKE...REFRESH MY HEART**

PHILEMON: LESSONS FROM PAUL'S LETTER TO A FRIEND

**PART 3**

**"THE RUNAWAY RETURNS"**

*"From Slavery to Sonship: A Story of Amazing Grace"  
(The Story of Onesimus)*

**INTRODUCTION:**

**REVISITING THE HEART OF THE LETTER**

- **It's Focus:** "Receive Onesimus and refresh my heart."

*"If then you regard me a partner, accept [receive] him as you would me.... Yes, brother, let me benefit from you in the Lord; refresh my heart in Christ."*

- **It's Force:** "For loves's sake..."

*"Therefore, though I have enough confidence in Christ to order you to do what is proper, yet for love's sake I rather appeal to you...*

- **The ultimate motive for service and gospel obedience is not obligation, but affection.**

**REVISITING PAUL'S ROLE IN THE MATTER**

- **Philemon is the offended. Onesimus is the offender. And Paul is the Intercessor. His is a ministry of reconciliation.**

- **He is temporarily in prison, but continually on mission.**

*"Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus,..." (v. 1, 9)*

- **Question: How do you handle life's uncertainties and unexpected turns?**

1. Life and ministry may not unfold the way you planned. Stay \_\_\_\_\_.

2. Life and ministry may not unfold the way you planned. Stay \_\_\_\_\_.

- **God is more interested in \_\_\_\_\_  
than He is in \_\_\_\_\_.**

3. Life and ministry may not unfold the way you planned. Stay \_\_\_\_\_.

- **God's purpose is always the \_\_\_\_\_.**

# ONESIMUS, FROM SLAVERY TO SONSHIP!

## 1A. NEVER UNDERESTIMATE...

...THE \_\_\_\_\_ . (V. 10)

"I appeal to you for my child Onesimus, whom I have begotten in my imprisonment..."

- Hoping to get \_\_\_\_\_, he gets \_\_\_\_\_!

## 2A. NEVER UNDERESTIMATE...

...THE \_\_\_\_\_ . (V. 11-13)

"...who formerly was useless to you, but now is useful both to you and to me. I have sent him back to you in person, that is, sending my very heart, whom I wished to keep with me, so that on your behalf he might minister to me in my imprisonment for the gospel..."

- Deserving of \_\_\_\_\_, he finds \_\_\_\_\_!

## 3A. NEVER UNDERESTIMATE...

...THE \_\_\_\_\_ . (V. 15, 16)

"For perhaps he was for this reason separated from you for a while, that you would have him back forever, no longer as a slave, but more than a slave, a beloved brother, especially to me, but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord."

- Longing for \_\_\_\_\_, he finds \_\_\_\_\_!

## CONCLUSION: