

## ORDER OF SERVICE

October 2, 2022

Worship in Fellowship  
Worship in Baptisms  
Worship in Music  
Worship in Message  
Worship in Giving

Jeremy Mikeska

Wayne Braudrick

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### Love Keeps No Record Of Wrongs

*Philemon 1-11*

*Love In Action Series*

Life Change: We activate love in messy circumstances.

#### How do I love in this situation?

*Premise (why we are studying this):* The concept of love has been long misunderstood and misused; however, our era seems especially deft at abusing the idea. Love today is defined in primarily childish terms, akin to a small child exclaiming, “You don’t love me unless you give me everything I want!” How does a true lover of that person keep from reinforcing foolishness while expressing genuine care? Expressed in many variations, that dilemma is answered in the brief New Testament “love letters.” Studying these epistles from the past will transform our present action and change future results.

**Marvelous people are in a messy situation.**

**1-3, 9-10**

If Twitter had been Paul’s only method to write Philemon, this could have been the result: “Philemon, re the thing w/Onesimus. I, Paul, am DM’ing you from my own account. I will Venmo you. Plus, you owe me (kidding/not kidding 😊)! Epaphras says hi! TTYL.”

– Dustin Messer

#### How love activation works:

4-7

Love spurs and is spurred by prayer.

Love activates through faith.

Love grows through understanding.

Love spreads and remains.

#### Love changes our actions.

8-11

We lead with love.

Questions to help a Christian lead with love:

Is love the single most important thing on my mind as I work through the problems that plague every relationship?

In what areas do my actions regularly fall short when measured against the standard of agape – self-sacrificial, other-centered love?

Are there ways my love is fickle, fluctuating based on the responses of others? [adapted from “Putting Love to Work” by Charles Swindoll]

We surrender any record of wrongs.

We appreciate how the useless becomes useful.



LOVE IN  
ACTION

PLEASE SILENCE YOUR PHONE

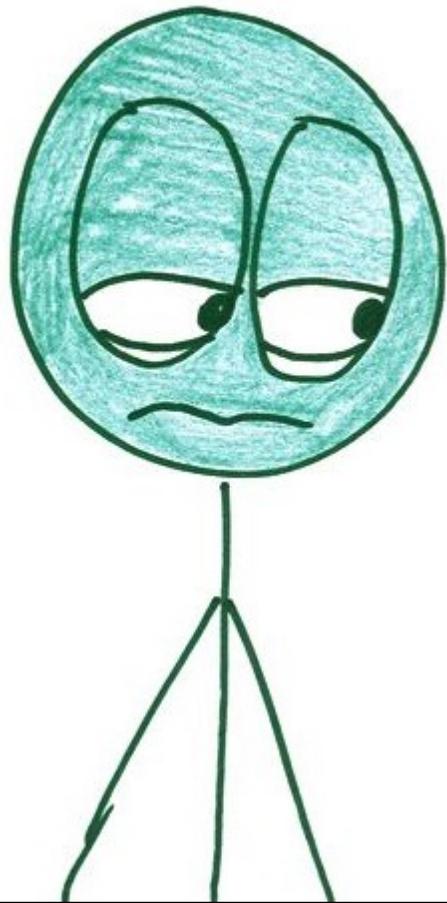
ARE WE  
**THERE**  
YET?



**WHEN DO WE**

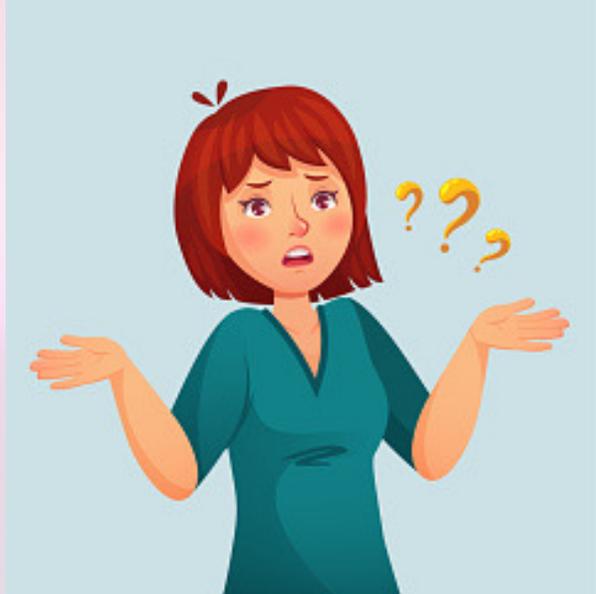


**EAT?**



Yes.

Yes it will.



**I recognize that whatever else I do, God has called me to love. I am supposed to love even my enemies. But how do I do that in this particular situation?**

This is for you.  
Yes!  
Yes!

***Premise (why we are studying this):*** The concept of love has been long misunderstood and misused; however, our era seems especially deft at abusing the idea. Love today is defined in primarily childish terms, akin to a small child exclaiming, “You don’t love me unless you give me everything I want!” How does a true lover of that person keep from reinforcing foolishness while expressing genuine care? Expressed in many variations, that dilemma is answered in the brief New Testament “love letters.” Studying these epistles from the past will transform our present action and change future results.

***Theme of the study (what the study is about):*** The recipients of these letters – and those they served – are living through changing, often difficult situations. Paul, John, and Jude send very brief letters with specific directions on how to live out agape love amid the challenges of this world. In short, the love letters answer these questions:

**Philemon** – how does love cut through societal/personal sin?

**2 John** – how is love expressed in the midst of manipulation?

**3 John** – how can one love under persecution?

**Jude** – how can love activate when biblical theology is being undermined?

***Objective (what we hope to see God accomplish in us through the study):***

**That we activate biblical love in every situation.**



## **Philemon**

**<sup>7</sup> I have great joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, brother. <sup>CSB</sup>**

# Philemon

<sup>1</sup> Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother:

To Philemon our dear friend and coworker, <sup>2</sup> to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church that meets in your home. <sup>3</sup> Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>9</sup> ...I, Paul, as an elderly man and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus, <sup>10</sup> appeal to you for my son, Onesimus. I became his father while I was in chains. <sup>CSB</sup>

Philemon

2 Th

1 Tim

2 Tim

Ti

Heb

Jam

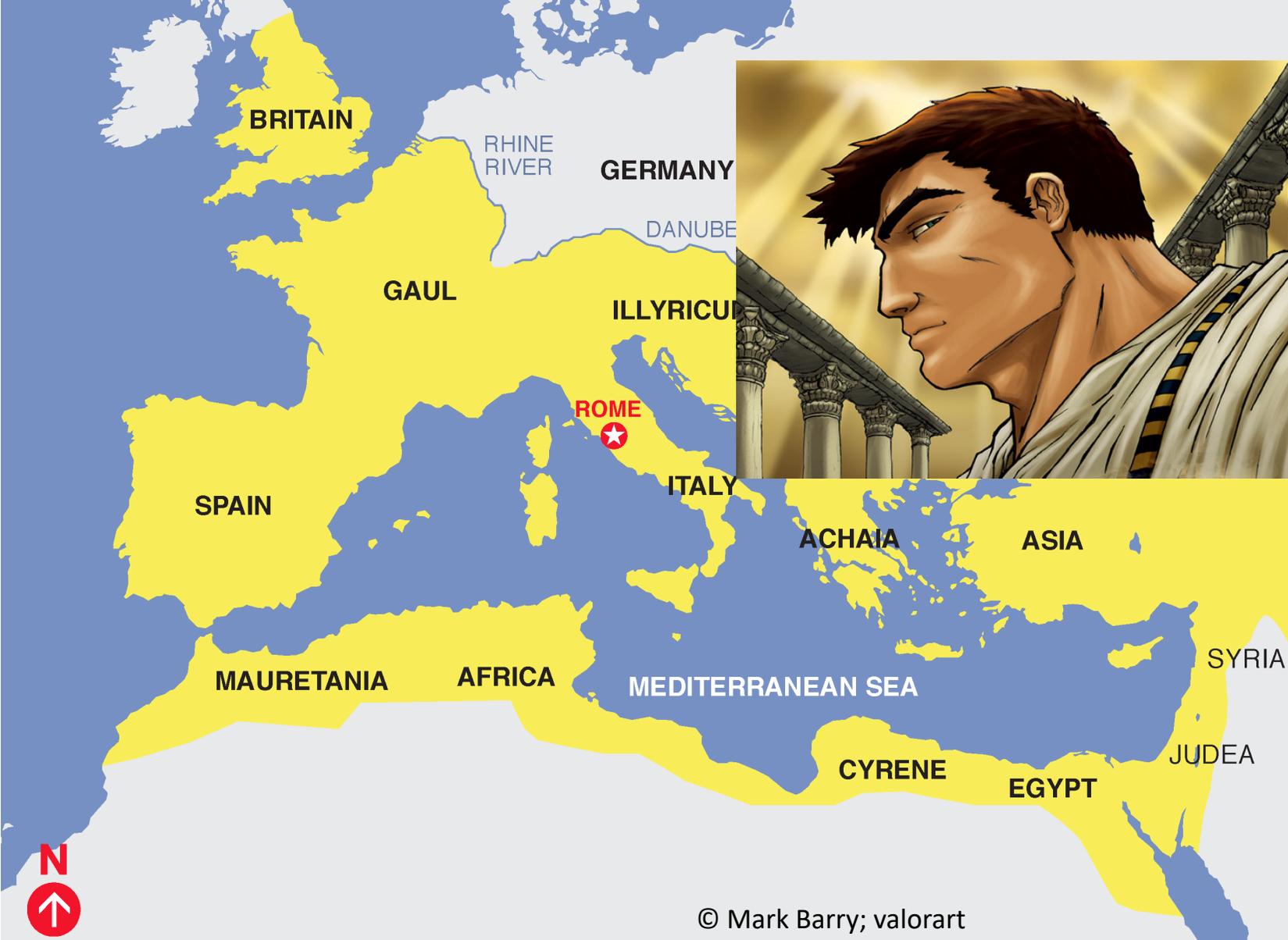
1 Pet

2 Pet



*Onesimus*  
Eikonic  
2007





*Philemon*  
**Eikonic**  
**2007**





*Onesimus*  
Eikonic  
2007



*Paul*  
**Eikonic**  
**2006**



*Onesimus  
returns*  
Eikonic  
2007

BRITAIN



GERMANY

DANUBE RIVER

ILLYRICUM

DA

ROME

MAC

ITALY

ACHAIA

ASIA



MEDITERRANEAN SEA

SYRIA

CYRENE

JUDEA

EGYPT

*Epaphras*  
*in prison*  
Eikonic  
2009



## big ideas in Philemon

- Onesimus is brave, and a full brother in Christ.
- Philemon is a wonderful man and should keep it up.
- Paul loves both men and sees Onesimus as a son.
- Paul could order Philemon to accept Onesimus as fully restored.
- Paul chooses instead to let Philemon respond to God's agape love.
- Paul offers to pay anything Onesimus owes.
- Epaphras and others send greetings, and Paul hopes to come visit soon.



**Dr. Dustin Messer: If Twitter had been Paul's only method to write Philemon, this could have been the result...**

**Philemon, re the thing w/ Onesimus. I, Paul, am DM'ing you from my own account. I will Venmo you. Plus, you owe me (kidding/not kidding )!  
Epaphras says hi! TTYL**



# Onesimus



# Philemon



BRITAIN

GERMANY

DANUBE RIVER

ILLYRICUM

MAC

ROME

ITALY

MAC

ACHAIA

ASIA

MEDITERRANEAN SEA

SYRIA

JUDEA

CYRENE

EGYPT

# Paul

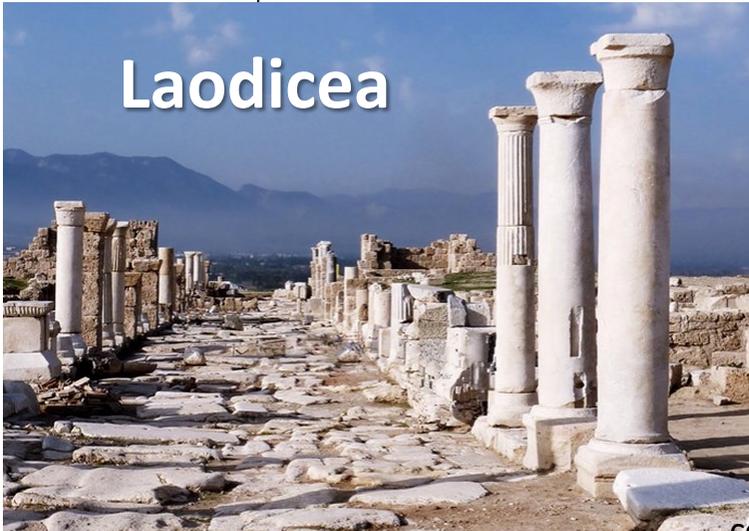


# Epaphras



# Philemon

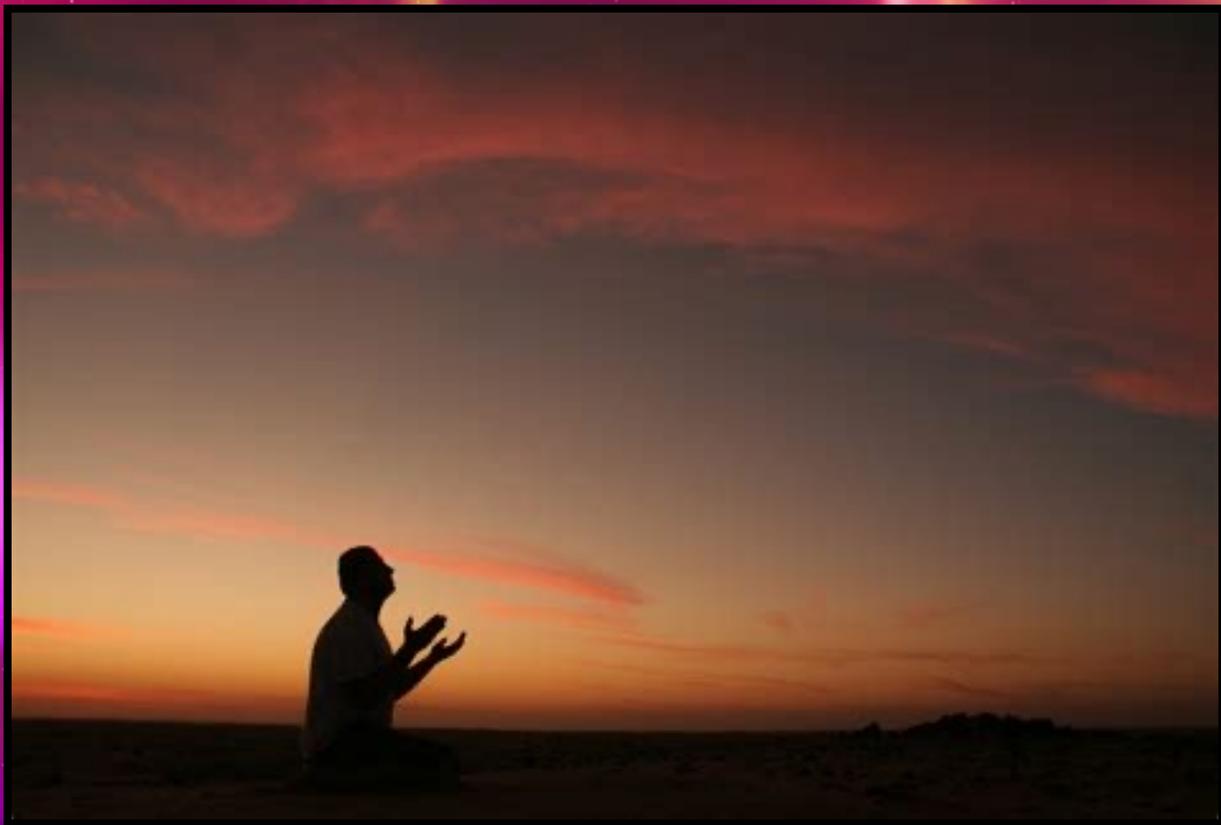
**<sup>4</sup> I always thank my God when I mention you in my prayers, <sup>5</sup> because I hear of your love for all the saints and the faith that you have in the Lord Jesus. <sup>6</sup> I pray that your participation in the faith may become effective through knowing every good thing that is in us for the glory of Christ. <sup>7</sup> For I have great joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, brother <sup>CSB</sup>**



# Philemon

**<sup>4</sup> I always thank my God when I mention you in my prayers, <sup>5</sup> because I hear of your love for all the saints**

- Regular. “I always” “my prayers” – imply a routine.**
- Grateful. “Thank” – speaks to a positive appreciation.**
- Personally connected. “My God” “you” – shows vertical & horizontal engagement.**
- Motivated by love. “Because of your love” – love = *agape*, self-sacrificial, other-centered choice.**



courtesy thewardrobedoor

***Temple Prostitutes***  
**Corinthian sculptor**  
**ca. 300 B.C.**



# 1 Corinthians 1

**<sup>4</sup> I always thank my  
God for you <sup>CSB</sup>**

# Philemon

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**IT IS UNDOUBTEDLY**



**A TRAP**

[mematic.net](http://mematic.net)

**LOVE  
YOURSELF  
FIRST**

**I'm great the way  
I am. I just need  
to love myself.**

**LIAR!**





courtesy MGM

# Philemon

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**<sup>6</sup> I pray that the faith you share with us may deepen your understanding of every blessing that belongs to you in Christ. <sup>NET</sup>**

# Philemon

**6 I pray that your participation in the faith may become effective through knowing every good thing that is in us for the glory of Christ. <sup>CSB</sup>**

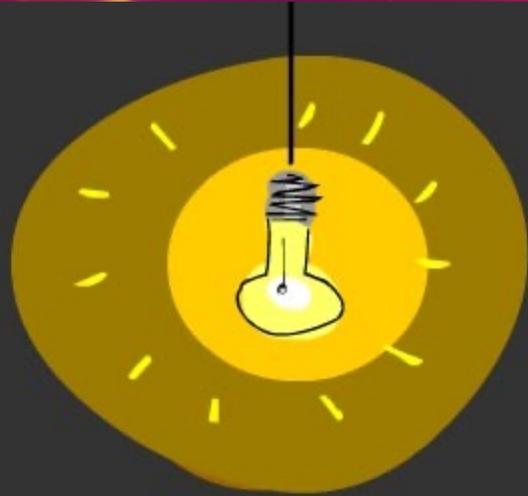
**6 I pray that the faith you share with us may deepen your understanding of every blessing that belongs to you in Christ. <sup>NET</sup>**



**These are gifts from the Father that Christians receive through the Son and Spirit. The more you know about these blessings in self & others, the better you can show love.**

*Pop's Light Touch*  
Babs Rodriguez





TURN OFF THAT LIGHT!



courtesy woodvlam



courtesy theconversation



courtesy hookedonhouses



courtesy US Air Force



courtesy antiquenow

**If you get homesick, Daughter,  
know I've always left a light on  
for you. – Pop**



# Philemon

**<sup>6</sup> I pray that your participation in the faith may become effective through knowing every good thing that is in us for the glory of Christ. <sup>7</sup> For I have great joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, brother <sup>CSB</sup>**

# Philemon

**7 For I have great joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, brother <sup>CSB</sup>**

**His house must have been like an oasis in a desert for, as Paul puts it, he had refreshed the hearts of God's people. It is a lovely thing to go down in history as a man in whose house God's people were rested and refreshed. – William Barclay, *Philemon***



**No one gets out alive  
Every day is do or die  
The one thing you leave behind  
Is how did you love? How did you love?  
– Scott Stephens & Brent Smith,  
“How Did You Love?”**

## Philemon 4-7

**Even in a difficult scenario, love can be activated.  
Agape can spread & remain. How?**

**Prayer.**

**Trusting God.**

**Understanding.**

# Philemon

**<sup>8</sup> For this reason, although I have great boldness in Christ to command you to do what is right, <sup>9</sup> I appeal to you, instead, on the basis of love. I, Paul, as an elderly man and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus, <sup>10</sup> appeal to you for my son, Onesimus. I became his father while I was in chains. <sup>11</sup> Once he was useless to you, but now he is useful both to you and to me. <sup>CSB</sup>**



Lead with  
love.

Lead with  
love.



courtesy Queensland Brain Institute

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In Greek: For love's sake, I appeal...  
Greek: ἀγάπη = self-sacrificial,  
other-centered love

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**Greek: παρακαλέω**  
parakaleo = passionate  
spurring from your side;  
exhort, beseech, comfort

**In Greek: For love's sake, I  
appeal...**  
**Greek: ἀγάπη agape = self-  
sacrificial, other-centered love**

## **Questions to help a Christian lead with love:**

- Is love the single most important thing on my mind as I work through the problems that plague every relationship?**
- In what areas do my actions regularly fall short when measured against the standard of agape – self-sacrificial, other-centered love?**
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# Philemon

**<sup>16</sup> No longer [view Onesimus] as a slave, but more than a slave—as a dearly loved brother. He is especially so to me, but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord...<sup>18</sup> And if he has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. <sup>19</sup> I, Paul, write this with my own hand: I will repay it—not to mention to you that you owe me even your very self. <sup>CSB</sup>**

**What Paul did for Onesimus reflects the infinitely greater intercession and redemptive act of Christ for us, who because of our sin are all indebted to God in a way we cannot ourselves repay. As Luther said, “Here we see how Paul layeth himself out for poor Onesimus, and with all his means pleadeth his cause...and so setteth himself as if he were Onesimus, and had himself done some wrong to Philemon. Even as Christ did for us with God the Father, thus also doth Paul for Onesimus with Philemon. We are all his Onesimi, to my thinking.” – Arthur Rupprecht, *Philemon***

# Philemon

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**Isaiah Jarvis, a very young man who makes the same appeal.**



**When I was ‘woke,’ I did not realize how much resentment I harbored...Everything was about racism all the time. If a white person did not see things my way, I convinced myself that their racial bias left them hopelessly blind to social injustice.”**

**– Edwin Ramirez,  
“When I Was Woke”**



**That's my sister in the Lord! I had been so blinded by an ideology that divided people by skin color, that I missed the blessing of the sufficiency of Christ's atonement...[Christians] examine your hearts. What effect is reading oppression into all of life having on your soul? Is it giving you a sense of moral superiority, or making you dependent on the righteousness of Christ? By God's grace, I have been set free. You too can exchange the suspicion and rage of wokeness for the love and joy of the gospel of Christ. – Edwin Ramirez, "When I Was Woke"**

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Greek: εὐχρηστον  
euchreston = good +  
serviceable

Greek: Χρηστος  
chrestos = a synonym;  
serviceable, useful

Greek: ἄχρηστον  
achreston = useless,  
worthless

Greek: Ὀνήσιμος =  
common slave name;  
profitability, usefulness



**Emperor Claudius expels all Jews from Rome  
because of disputes over “Chrestus” ca. A.D. 52**



**The road  
Eikonic  
2007**

**The name  
Eikonic  
2006**



**Aquila & Prisca  
forced from Rome;  
join Paul in Ephesus**

**Epaphras sent to  
plant the church  
in Colossae**





**Emperor Claudius expels all Jews from Rome  
“Impulsore Chrestus”**

**Jesus is *Christ*, but Claudius was inadvertently correct –  
the Lord is also useful, chrestus.**

# Philemon

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**Reclamation can be beautiful.  
This floor is made of old pallet  
wood gathered from a junk  
pile. – Cindy Sharp**



LOVE IN  
ACTION