

PHILEMON - CHOOSING A LEGACY OF LOVE

Lesson 1

INTRODUCTION: *Paul is under house arrest in Rome where he wrote the Epistles to the Ephesians, Philippians, and Colossians. This most personal of all the letters Paul wrote arrives in Colosse by the hand of Tychicus, who also delivered the letter to the church. Also present is Onesimus, Philemon's thieving, runaway slave, who had fled to Rome, and eventually was led to Christ by Paul. This letter is Paul's appeal for Philemon's forgiveness and acceptance of Onesimus.*

I. SOME POSSIBLE CONTRIBUTING FACTORS FOR HIS CRIME - Col. 4:1 / Eph. 6:5-9

- A) Christianity was changing the view of SLAVERY
 - 1) The influence of God's LAW - Deut. 15:12-15
 - 2) The influence of God's LOVE - Deut. 15:16-18
- B) Christianity was changing the view of SLAVES
 - 1) Targets of God's REDEMPTION
 - 2) Worthy of Grace's REFLECTIONS
- C) Christians were challenged to act SCRIPTURALLY
 - 1) Some chose to COMPROMISE
 - 2) Some chose to COMPARTMENTALIZE
 - a) SOCIALLY -- BOND / FREE
 - b) SPIRITUALLY -- LOST / SAVED

II. SOME POSSIBLE CONCERNS HE FACED FOR HIS CRIMES - Luke 4:16-22

- A) By all RIGHTS he could go to prison
- B) As a RULE, he could be scourged
- C) As a ROMAN subject, he could be crucified

III. SOME POSSIBLE CONCERNS THAT FORGED THIS CORRESPONDENCE

- A) This was an act that would cause great INSULT
- B) This was an act that would cause great INJURY
- C) This was an act that would cause great INDIGNATION
- D) This was an act that would create loss of INVESTMENT
- E) This was an act that would reflect INGRATITUDE