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Daily Bible Notes/Highlights Genesis through Revelation 2014

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Philemon

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C1 the letter is to Philemon and Apphia and Achippus. Apparently Philemon has the ministry giving among other virtues.

Paul calls in him to favor Onesimus another son in the ministry. Appaparenrly. Philemon dispatched Onesimus to provide support for Paul. Paul has learned that Omesimus is tantamount to a slave for Philemon.

Now, this is a book everyone needs to read who ever thought Paul supports the institution of slavery. No Hebrew was ever to enslave another Hebrew though a Hebrew could be indentured for not more than seven years (). Paul brings this understanding to the Church.

“Investing in People for Eternity”

As a slave it may be that Onesimus has been very reluctant, but clearly Paul has convinced him to serve Philemon in testimony of his (Onesimus) relationship to The Lord and Onesimus has committed to do so. Paul admits that previously Onesimus may have been rather useless, but now he's of great value to both Paul and Philemon (1-12).

Perhaps Onesimus desired not to return, but Paul returns him with this letter. Paul asks Philemon to view him as a brother, and to do so with the same spirit that he used to send him to Paul. Now, Onesimus represents a test for Philemon.

Paul calls on Philemon to treat him as a brother--in other words free him. This is the same Paul who tells Timothy that slaves need to be submissive. Now it is clear. They are to be submissive to represent The Lord and not as an expression that they desire to be slaves.

Paul does not desire to see any believer enslaved. We can see this here and were he clearly states that slaves should seek freedom if possible in the same way he does not desire to be in chains.w

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