

THE RUNAWAY SLAVE AND FREEDOM IN CHRIST

The Apostle Paul's Letter to Philemon

Victor Sohmen

ROXBOROUGH BIBLE CHAPEL

www.roxbiblechapel.net

Nov. 19, 2017

OUTLINE

- The apostle Paul's Letter to Philemon is a prison letter, and the shortest in the NT. (Phil. 1-25)
- Greco-Roman slavery is contrasted here with freedom through redemption in Christ. (Phil. 17)
- Philemon's slave Onesimus runs away, and finds redemption and liberty in Christ. (Phil. 15-16)
- Paul who led Onesimus to Christ then persuades Philemon to grant legal redemption. (Phil. 16-18)
- In contrast to Onesimus, Demas, Paul's "fellow-laborer" later forsakes him (Gal. 5:1; 2 Tim. 4:10).
- Our true freedom from Sin is by the gift of salvation through redemption in Christ (John 8:32).
- As disciples, the more we 'enslave' ourselves to Christ, the more freedom we have (Gal. 2:20).
- We are brought to a clear understanding of the meaning of fellowship of Christ (Gal. 6:1-2).
- "Fellow-laborer", "Fellow-soldier", and "Fellow-prisoner": Triplet of Christian fellowship. (Phil. 1,2,23)
- From Demas we can learn that finishing the race is critical to Christian discipleship (Luke 8:13).
- **Let us be compassionate soul-winners and disciples of Christ, leading slaves of sin to freedom!**

HYMN # 47

*Oh to grace how great a debtor,
Daily I'm constrained to be,
Let Thy goodness like a fetter,
Bind my wandering heart to Thee.
Prone to wander, Lord I feel it,
Prone to leave the God I love,
Here's my heart Lord, take and seal it,
Seal it for thy courts above.*

--Robert Robinson (1735-1790)