

## THE GOSPEL IN PHILEMON

The Gospel is illustrated in Paul's epistle to Philemon when we see that:

- 1) Philemon is a type of God the Father.
- 2) Paul is a type of the Lord Jesus Christ Who intercedes with the Father on behalf of Onesimus.
- 3) Onesimus is a type of us who are sinners.

Onesimus was fleeing from Philemon just as we as sinners have wandered far from God. Cf. Isa. 53:6. Remember Martin Luther's statement, "We are all the Lord's Onesimi." Cf. Rom. 3:9-18, 23.

Onesimus was begotten by the Apostle Paul just as we are begotten in Christ. Cf. John 3:3-8; 1 Pet. 1:23.

Paul interceded for Onesimus with Philemon just as Christ lives to intercede for us with the Father. Cf. Heb. 7:25.

By his new birth, Onesimus who had been unprofitable to Philemon, would now be a profitable servant. Cf. 2 Cor. 5:17.

For Philemon to receive Onesimus (v. 12), to receive him forever (v. 15), and to receive him as Philemon would have received Paul (v. 17). God receives us into His favor. He does it forever. And our reception with Him is in Christ. We have the same standing with God that Christ has. Cf. 2 Cor. 5:21; John 6:37.

The Lord has assumed the debt we owe to God because of our sins just as Paul agreed to pay Philemon everything that Onesimus owed him (vv. 18-19). The penalty of our sins was placed on Christ. He not only agreed to pay what we owed God, but He paid it! Cf. Rom. 4:24, 25; Isa. 53:4-5.

Paul was certain that Philemon would receive Onesimus, and would do more for him than Paul had asked him to do (v. 21). Cf. Eph. 1:3; 3:20-21.