

GO DEEPER

use these questions for further study

Use the following questions below for individual or group study. Begin in prayer, inviting the Spirit to speak during this time.

Share with the Group

How has the Holy Spirit been speaking to you through this sermon series?

Read the Letter to Philemon

What stands out to you ? Why? Anything you didn't previously notice?

What questions do you have?

Focus on verses 18-25

How does Paul actively work to bring restoration to Onesimus and Philemon?

What effect do you think his words and actions had?

Why would Paul's heart be refreshed by Onesimus being restored by Philemon?

How would you explain Paul's theology of forgiveness and restoration?

Why does Paul tell Philemon to prepare a room for him?

What does this tell us about Paul's imprisonment?

What does it tell us about Paul and Philemon's relationship?

What effect might this request have on Philemon and the church?

Paul asks the Colossian church to pray for him so that he will be released (vs 22).

What does this teach us about intercessory prayer?

Epaphras was both a Colossian and one of the founders of the church meeting in Philemon's home. Why is it important that Epaphras gives his "thumbs up" to this letter? What effect would it have on Philemon and the church?

In verses 23-24 Paul names 5 other people who all form part of his community and "ministry team." Do a quick search on each of the 5 mentioned what do you learn about them (old, young, Jew, Gentile, experienced, faithful, etc.)?

What does this tell us about how the Gospel breaks barriers?

What does this model for us as we engage in ministry and community?

Notice how Paul and Timothy close the letter (vs25). How does it compare with the way they opened it? Is there any significance here? What might it be?

Live It

Pastor Adam talked about Accepting Forgiveness, Extending Forgiveness, and Facilitating Forgiveness. Which one of these is the Spirit inviting you to press into? How will you take concrete steps of obedience?

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