

Big Lessons From Paul's Small Letter To Philemon

Scripture Reading: *Colossians 4:1-9*

Introduction:

A. There are a variety of ways we can relate to this small (and somewhat obscure) letter of Paul.

B. A little background...

1. Onesimus —

2. Philemon —

3. Paul —

I. What would you do...

A. ...if you were Onesimus?

B. ...if you were Paul?

II. Paul's optimism

A. The importance of focusing on the positive.

B. The importance of beginning with prayer.

III. Philemon: a man who cares

A. Do you know anyone like that?

B. The Biblical description of love.

IV. Philemon's motivation

A. Maturing from the "what-is-required" stage to the "for-love's-sake" stage.

B. "As a disciple, I choose..."

V. Why did it all happen?

A. The comfort of a providential God.

B. The message for us.