



I. Two Christian Men

- A. Philemon
- B. Onesimus

II. A Broken Relationship

III. Choosing Forgiveness

Forgiveness mends broken relationships.

Forgiveness hurts before it heals.

- A. You need to ask for it.
- B. You need to offer it.

Forgiveness offered is faith becoming effective (6) so that we might experience the fullness of the good planned for us in Christ

- C. The Fellowship of Faith (6)

We share a fellowship of the faith where forgiveness regularly happens.

IV. The Purpose of God (15-16)

- A. To have him back forever.
- B. As a beloved brother.

Jesus reconciles us to God and each other. We can't experience everything good God has for us in Jesus if we don't ask for and offer forgiveness.

How does this apply to me?

INTRO FOR NEXT WEEK

THE PREEMINENT JESUS

HISTORICAL TIMELINE:

Paul was a prisoner, probably in Rome, as he wrote to a church he had not planted. Epaphras is the one who had taken the gospel to the Colossians (1:7). Colossae was a town located in the Lycus River Valley of what is now southwestern Turkey. It was a thriving town that had an economy centered around textiles and wool. The letter was carried by Paul's co-worker, Tychicus (4:7-9), who was accompanied by Onesimus, Philemon's former slave.

PASSAGE OVERVIEW:

The over-riding theme of Colossians is the preeminence of Jesus Christ. Heretical teaching had quickly arrived in Colossae that threatened to derail the truth of the gospel they had received. It seems to have been derived from Jewish philosophy that emphasized special knowledge (Gnosticism) which led to legalism in the attempt to please God. This kind of gnostic thought created many levels of supernatural powers in which angels and even Jesus were ordered according to power and influence. Jesus became less than fully God, used instead as a means to an end in their quest for knowledge of the unseen.

The Spirit of God, through the pen of Paul, immediately corrects this heresy. The deity of Jesus and His preeminence comprises this first section of teaching. When Jesus is properly understood as fully God and fully Lord, every other thought, philosophy, and power must take its rightful place below Him.

But the preeminence of Christ is not just theological truth. It is that. But it also determines how followers of Jesus live. It is truth that leads to practice. It is doctrine that provides the only hope of salvation and propels us to sanctification.

Jesus is preeminent. Not just barely. Supremely! Does the way you live recognize that He is God and Lord? Do your actions bow before His preeminence?

READING FOR NEXT WEEK

Colossians 1:1-23

