PHILEMON

GOD SPEAKS THROUGH HIS WORD LET'S LISTEN

TOGETHER

¹Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother: To Philemon our dear friend and coworker, ² to Apphia our sister,to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church that meets in your home. ³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴ I always thank my God when I mention you in my prayers,
hear of your love for all the saints and the faith that you have in the
Lord Jesus. ⁶ I pray that your participation in the faith may become
effective through knowing every good thing that is in us for the
glory of Christ. ⁷ For I have great joy and encouragement from your
love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you,
brother. ⁸ For this reason, although I have great boldness in Christ to
command you to do what is right, ⁹ I appeal to you, instead, on the basis

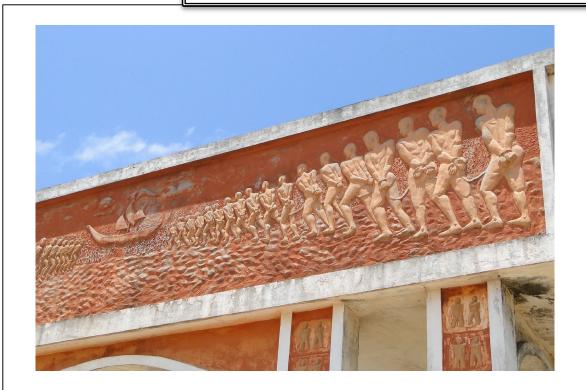
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of love. I, Paul, as an elderly man and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus, ¹⁰ appeal to you for my son, Onesimus. I became his father while I was in chains. ¹¹Once he was useless to you, but now he is useful both to you and to me. ¹²I am sending him back to you—I am sending my very own heart. 13 wanted to keep him with me, so that in my imprisonment for the gospel he might serve me in your place. 14 But I didn't want to do anything without your consent, so that your good deed might not be out of obligation, but of your own free will. 15 For perhaps this is why he was separated from you for a brief time, so that you might get him back permanently, ¹⁶ no longer as a slave, but more than a slave—as a dearly loved brother. He is especially so to me, but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord. ¹⁷So if you consider me a partner, welcome him as you would me. ¹⁸And if he has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account.

¹⁹I, Paul, write this with my own hand : I will repay it —not to mention to you that you owe me even your very self . ²⁰ Yes, brother, may I benefit from you in the Lord; refresh my heart in Christ . ²¹ Since I am confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say . ²² Meanwhile, also prepare a guest room for me, since I hope that through your prayers I will be restored to you . ²³ Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, sends you greetings, and so do ²⁴ Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke, my coworkers . ²⁵ The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit .



La Porte du Non-Retour (The Door of No Return), Benin, Africa



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Justification:

we have been saved from the penalty of sin.

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As a slave to Sin (one who has not yet experienced justification), we are:

In need of rescue from darkness	Colossians 1:13
Alienated from God;	Colossians 1:21
Dead in our sin	Colossians 2:13
Gratified our sinful nature	Eph esia n s 2:1
Far away from God	Galatians 2:13

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Implications of Justification in the life of Onesimus:

It changed His identity;

It changed His position;

It changed Hisfamily.

As a slave to God (one who <u>has</u> experienced justification), we are:

Madealivein God	Colossians 2:13; Ephesians 2:5
Rescued from darkness	Colossians 1:13
Brought near through the blood of Jesus	Galatians 3:13
God's workmanship	Eph esia n s 2:10
Part of God's household	Galatians 2:19-20

Summary

When Onesimus became a believer in Christ, Paul urged Philemon to recognize him under his new identity as a brother in Christ and no longer as a slave. When we experience justification, becoming followers of Christ, our dead self that was a slave to sin is gone and we are given a new identity, a new position before God, and a new family. Do we live within this new identity? Or do we continue to live as a slave to sin?

Interested in learning more about modern-day slavery? Take a look at the following organizations doing tremendous work in this area all throughout the world.

Internationally:

International Justice Mission www.ijm.org

<u>State-Wide</u>:

The Refuge for DMST www.therefugeaustin.org/

Locally:

Key 2Fr ee www.thekey 2free.org/