

Notes:

A Changed Life

Philemon

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Masters, be just and fair to your slaves. Remember that you also have a Master—in heaven. ⁷Tychicus will give you a full report about how I am getting along. He is a beloved brother and faithful helper who serves with me in the Lord's work. ⁸I have sent him to you for this very purpose—to let you know how we are doing and to encourage you. ⁹I am also sending Onesimus, a faithful and beloved brother, one of your own people. He and Tychicus will tell you everything that's happening here. Colossians 4:1;7-9 (NLT)

Lessons From A Changed Lives:

1. Change May Be _____, But It Doesn't Mean It Is _____.

I have sent him (Onesimus) back to you in person, that is, sending my very heart. Philemon 12 (NAS)

"Change does not roll in on the wheels of inevitability, but comes through continuous struggle" – Martin Luther King

It Takes _____.

2. Change Demands I Am _____ With Myself And _____ My _____.

I appeal to you to show kindness to my child, Onesimus. I became his father in the faith while here in prison. ¹¹Onesimus hasn't been of much use to you in the past, but now he is very useful to both of us. ¹⁸If he has wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge it to me. Philemon 10, 11, 18 (NLT)

Every _____ begins with a _____.

SO, WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM?

And he said, "Listen, all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem and King Jehoshaphat: thus says the LORD to you, 'Do not fear or be dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours but God's. ¹⁷You need not fight in this battle; station yourselves, stand and see the salvation of the LORD on your behalf, O Judah and Jerusalem ' Do not fear or be dismayed; tomorrow go out to face them, for the LORD is with you."

II Chronicles 20:15; 17 (NAS)

It Takes _____.

Slaves, in all things obey those who are your masters on earth, not with external service, as those who merely please men, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord. ²³Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men, ²⁴knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance It is the Lord Christ whom you serve. ²⁵For he who does wrong will receive the consequences of the wrong which he has done, and that without partiality. ¹Masters, grant to your slaves justice and fairness, knowing that you too have a Master in heaven. Colossians 3:22-4:1 (NAS)

3. *Change Requires Me To _____ Of My _____; And _____ On What I Am _____.*

I appeal to you for my child Onesimus, whom I have begotten in my imprisonment, ¹¹who formerly was useless to you, but now is useful both to you and to me. ¹²I have sent him back to you in person, that is, sending my very heart, ¹³whom I wished to keep with me, so that on your behalf he might minister to me in my imprisonment for the gospel. Philemon 10-13 (NAS)

Onesimus = " _____ "

For you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light. Ephesians 5:8 (NAS)

Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. ²²But now He has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in His sight, without blemish and free from accusation. Colossians 1:21-22 (NIV)

Remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. ¹³But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

Ephesians 2:12-13 (NIV)

But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God's OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; ¹⁰for you once were NOT A PEOPLE, but now you are THE PEOPLE OF GOD; you had NOT RECEIVED MERCY, but now you have RECEIVED MERCY. I Peter 2:9-10 (NAS)

It Takes _____.

I am not what I ought to be —
ah, how imperfect and deficient!
I am not what I wish to be —
I abhor what is evil, and I would cleave to what is good!
I am not what I hope to be —
soon, soon shall I put off mortality, and with mortality all sin and
imperfection.
Yet, though I am not what I ought to be,
nor what I wish to be,
nor what I hope to be,
I can truly say, I am not what I once was;
a slave to sin and Satan;
and I can heartily join with the apostle, and acknowledge,
"By the grace of God I am what I am."
(John Newton, as quoted in The Christian Pioneer)

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and
the Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁵The grace of the Lord
Jesus Christ be with your spirit.
Philemon 3, 25 (NAS)