**Philemon**

 God’s Love Story

Background

* 11 ….there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond *nor* free: but Christ *is* all, and in all. (Col 3:11)
* Onesimus means profitable

We Were Slaves

* 31 ¶ Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, *then* are ye my disciples indeed; 32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. 33 They answered him, We be Abraham’s seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free? 34 Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin. 35 And the servant abideth not in the house for ever: *but* the Son abideth ever. 36 If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed. (John 8:31-36)
* 14 For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace. 15 What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid. 16 Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? 17 But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. 18 Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness. (Rom 6:14-18)

We Were Fugitives

* As human beings you and I are God's property; but as sinners we have robbed Him and are fugitives. Our guilt is great, and our penalty heavy.

We Found Refuge in Christ

* He Intercedes for Us to the Father
	+ For *there is* one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; (1 Tim 2:5)
	+ Who *is* he that condemneth? *It is* Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us. (Rom 8:34)
* He Covers Our Debt
	+ But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. (Rom 5:8)
	+ ¶ My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: 2 And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for *the sins of* the whole world. (1 John 2:1-2)
	+ Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed. (1 Pet 2:24)
* He Reconciles Us to the Father
	+ And all things *are* of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; (2 Cor 5:18)
	+ And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in *your* mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled (Col 1:21)

We Obey Even When It’s Hard