

GULFSHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST
Sermon by Ray Reynolds
The Unsung Heroes of the New Testament: Onesimus
FORGOTTEN SERVANTS OF GOD

Introduction :

1. Paul often spoke of the men that encouraged him and spoke of their servanthood (Luke, Timothy, Barnabas, and John Mark – we have studied).
2. But he also spoke about others that we have not studied, even though they were equally profitable to Paul's ministry.
3. Their names may sound like some terrible disease or a foreign country.
4. However, they are the most dedicated disciples in all of the Bible, and are treasures in God's eyes (pearls of great price).
5. They were genuine servants of God and their characteristics teach us some very valuable lessons.
6. Likewise, the gospels speak of some great men that may go unnoticed.
7. Please open your Bible and let's study about one of those unsung heroes
8. **ONESIMUS** – Colossians 4:9, **Philemon 10-20**, is usually overshadowed by the story of his former master, Philemon.
9. While you're finding our text let me read an excerpt about him. . . .

Discussion :

I. Onesimus Was CONVERTED

- A. One of the key things we need to remember is that Onesimus had changed.
- B. Paul had converted him through his prison ministry.
- C. This change made him willing to pursue unity with all men.
- D. It made him want to make things right with Philemon, even financially.
- E. If he was unable to pay everything back, Paul was willing to bear it.

II. Onesimus Was CONVICTED

- A. His heart was moved to do the right thing.
- B. This may have happened after Paul's teaching.
- C. However, he was convicted to do the right thing (Acts 2:37).
- D. We desperately need Christians that are convicted.
- E. He understood that repentance meant a change in lifestyle and that he had to go back and make these things right.
- F. Was he cleansed of all sin at baptism? – Yes!
- G. But he still had to repent and make things right with his old master.

III. Onesimus Was CONFIDENT

- A. He knew he was about to do the right thing.
- B. He did not care if Philemon decided to take his life or imprison him.
- C. Paul's letter was sent to persuade Philemon to refrain from harm.
- D. However, Onesimus was willing to go anyway.
- E. Imagine if all Christians were this confident to do what was right.

IV. Onesimus Was COMMENDED

- A. Paul commended Onesimus and praised him.
- B. He knew that Onesimus would do the right thing.
- C. Could your friends commend you to someone else?
- D. Can they depend on you to do the right thing?
- E. Paul really stepped out on a limb here for this individual, but we can rest assured that he knew what he was doing.

Conclusion :

1. We desperately need Christian servants today that are willing to work and serve, but not for praise, glory, or honor from men.
2. We need Christians that will practice these characteristics.
3. We need people that are humble.
4. We need to study more of the “unsung heroes” of the Bible.