

Great Little Letters
Week's Reading: Philemon
Discussion Guide, October 24, 2021

CHECK UP:

Memory Work Review: Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful
- Hebrews 10:23

- How did you hold unswervingly to the hope you profess this past week?

OPEN:

- If you were to guess, how many times have you read the book of Philemon?
 - o Are you familiar with the book?
 - o Did you learn or find anything new from this past week's reading?
 - o Did you make any significant observations or have any questions in relation to the reading?

READ and ASK: Philemon, Col 3:11

- What is the primary focus in your prayers?
 - o How does that compare with Paul's prayers in this text?
- What lesson or lessons do you see for the church in this short letter?
- Why should Philemon fully embrace Onesimus in his return?
 - o How well do you think the "average Christian" today would embrace someone who had wronged them and then later become a Christian? Do you think most would expect retribution?
- What is radical about Paul's view of Onesimus?
 - o How should someone else's new commitment to Christ change our relationship with them?
- What role should we play in helping people be reconciled to others with whom they have had conflicts?
- How does the gospel impact and influence the relationships within this text? (Paul-Philemon, Paul-Onesimus, Philemon-Onesimus)

APPLY:

- Which of the qualities listed for Philemon in verses 4-7 do you wish to develop for yourself? How could doing so help you grow in being and making better followers of Jesus?
- How does the gospel impact the way you see and interact with others? Other believers? Non-believers?
- How do you think you would respond if you were Philemon?
- NEXT STEP(S): How do you need to see all relationships through gospel lenses this week?

Memory Work:

Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all. - Colossians 3:11

Next Week's Reading:

2 John