

Philemon: Reconciliation in the Kingdom

Background

Key verses (8-9)

Therefore, although in Christ I could be bold and order you to do what you ought to do, yet I appeal to you on the basis of love.

Outline¹

- 1) Paul's greeting (1-3)
- 2) Thanksgiving and intercession for Philemon (4-21)
- 3) Paul's plea for Onesimus (8-22)
 - a. Paul's return of Onesimus (8-16)
 - b. Philemon's reception of Onesimus (17-22)
- 4) Final remarks (23-25)

Major Themes and Message

- Reconciliation through the power of the cross
- Appealing on the basis of love

Conclusion

¹ Cf http://www.bible.org/page.php?page_id=1344

Core Seminars—New Testament **Class 18: Colossians & Philemon:** **The Sufficient King**



The Sufficient King: Overview of Colossians & Philemon

Introduction

I. Authorship:

II. Date:

Colossians: New Life in Christ

III. Purpose

Attack on the sufficiency of Jesus Christ.

- 1) Judaising tendencies deny the finality of Christ's work (2:16-17)
- 2) Preoccupation with angelic experiences deny the preeminence of Christ (2:18-19)
- 3) Asceticism denies the need for Christ. (2:20-23)

The life of the Kingdom is a cross-centered life.

Key verses: 2:6-7

So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

Outline

- 1) Introduction (1:1-14)
- 2) Christ is sufficient for attaining new life. (1:15-20)
- 3) Reconciliation of the Colossians to God (1:21-23)
- 4) The apostle Paul's labor for the gospel (1:24-2:3)
- 5) The worldly alternatives, and their dangers (2:4-23)
- 6) How to out our new life in Christ (3:1-4:6)
- 7) Personal notes and final greetings (4:7-18)

Major Themes

1. The source of their new life
 - a. From God.
 - b. Through Christ
 - c. Through Christ *alone*
2. The purpose of their new life
 - a. For God
 - b. For others
 - i. Family
 - ii. Colleagues
 - iii. Everyone
 - c. The need to persevere

Application:

What is it in our lives that might replace Christ in terms of how we live the Christian life?

- 1) Are we always looking to the next spiritual 'high'

- a. The great sermon
- b. The answered prayer
- c. The new Christian book

All these things are good only as much as they point us back to the gospel and to depend upon Christ.

- 2) Do we depend upon ourselves or Christ?

- a. How different would your day look if you decided that tomorrow you were going to stop trying to live for Jesus in His strength and start living in your strength?
- b. When things are going well, do we feel good about ourselves, or feel grateful to the Lord?