

**~ONESIMUS (152)**  
**(O-nes'i-mus) [Profitable]**

- A runaway slave whom Paul helped to become a Christian. **Onesimus** had been a servant of Philemon, a Colossian Christian, but had run away from Colossae to Rome. He may even have first robbed his master in order to make the journey.
- Along with **Onesimus**, my faithful and beloved brother, who is from among you. All the things here they will make known to you. (**Colossians 4:9**)
- Moreover, if he did you any wrong or owes you anything, keep this charged to my account. (**Philemon 1:18**)
- It is quite possible that he had met or at least heard of Paul through Philemon, for, though no visit of Paul to Colossae on the missionary tours is specifically mentioned, Paul did travel through the general area and was acquainted with Philemon.
- And came down to Caesarea. And he went up and greeted the congregation, and went down to Antioch. (**Acts of Apostles 18:22**)
- And when he had passed some time there he departed and went from place to place through the country of Galatia and Phrygia, strengthening all the disciples. (**Acts of Apostles 18:23**)
- As I keep hearing of your love and faith which you have toward the Lord Jesus and toward all the holy ones. (**Philemon 1:5**)
- I Paul am writing with my own hand, I will pay it back, not to be telling you that, besides, you owe me even yourself. (**Philemon 1:19**)
- But along with that, also get lodging ready for me, for I am hoping that through the prayers of you people I shall be set at liberty for you. (**Philemon 1:22**)
- At any rate, in some unstated way, **Onesimus** became associated with Paul in Rome, and he soon became a Christian.

- I am exhorting you concerning my child, to whom I became a father while in my prison bonds, **Onesimus**. (**Philemon 1:10**)
- In great contrast with his former uselessness to Philemon as a slave, he now became most useful to Paul as a minister, a faithful and beloved brother whom Paul calls **my own tender affections**.
- Along with **Onesimus**, my faithful and beloved brother, who is from among you. All the things here they will make known to you. (**Colossians 4:9**)
- Formerly useless to you but now useful to you and to me. (**Philemon 1:11**)
- This very one I am sending back to you, yes, him, that is, my own tender affections. (**Philemon 1:12**)
- Nonetheless, **Onesimus** was still a runaway slave, and the social order of the day obliged Paul to send him back to his owner, though with reluctance in view of how good a companion he had become.
- The apostle, however, had no way of forcing **Onesimus** to make the return, so it depended on and resulted from **Onesimus** own willingness to go. In dispatching **Onesimus**, Paul arranged for Tychicus to accompany him and for the two to carry a letter and a report to Colossae.
- All my affairs Tychicus, my beloved brother and faithful minister and fellow slave in the Lord, will make known to you. (**Colossians 4:7**)
- For the very purpose of your knowing the things having to do with us and that he may comfort your hearts, I am sending him to you (**Colossians 4:8**)
- Along with **Onesimus**, my faithful and beloved brother, who is from among you. All the things here they will make known to you. (**Colossians 4:9**)
- Additionally, Paul gave **Onesimus** his letter to Philemon, even though it was late enough in his imprisonment that Paul was expecting release and looking forward to visiting Philemon personally.
- But along with that, also get lodging ready for me, for I am

hoping that through the prayers of you people I shall be set at liberty for you. (**Philemon 1:22**)

- This latter letter might be termed one of reintroduction and recommendation for **Onesimus**, in which Paul assured Philemon of the good Christian ministry and new personality of **Onesimus**, and in which he pleaded that the reunion be more like that of two Christians than that of a slave and his master.
- Paul asked that any outstanding debt that **Onesimus** owed Philemon be charged to the apostles account.
- This very one I am sending back to you, yes, him, that is, my own tender affections. (**Philemon 1:12**)
- I would like to hold him back for myself that in place of you he might keep on ministering to me in the prison bonds I bear for the sake of the Good News. (**Philemon 1:13**)
- But without your consent I do not want to do anything, so that your good act may be, not as under compulsion, but of your own free will. (**Philemon 1:14**)
- Perhaps really on this account he broke away for an hour, that you may have him back forever. (**Philemon 1:15**)
- No longer as a slave but as more than a slave, as a brother beloved, especially so to me, yet how much more so to you both in fleshly relationship and in the Lord. (**Philemon 1:16**)
- If, therefore, you consider me a sharer, receive him kindly the way you would me. (**Philemon 1:17**)
- Moreover, if he did you any wrong or owes you anything, keep this charged to my account. (**Philemon 1:18**)
- I Paul am writing with my own hand. I will pay it back, not to be telling you that, besides, you owe me even yourself. (**Philemon 1:19**)
- Yes, brother, may I derive profit from you in connection with the Lord, refresh my tender affections in connection with Christ. (**Philemon 1:20**)

- **Trusting in your compliance, I am writing you, knowing you will even do more than the things I say. (Philemon 1:21)**
- **But along with that, also get lodging ready for me, for I am hoping that through the prayers of you people I shall be set at liberty for you. (Philemon 1:22)**
- **Incidentally, in the letter to the Colossians that Onesimus and Tychicus were carrying, Paul dealt with the Christian principles governing the relationship of slave and master.**
- **But along with that, also get lodging ready for me, for I am hoping that through the prayers of you people I shall be set at liberty for you. (Philemon 1:22)**