

## Runaway Slave, Onesimus, Finds Salvation

**This week** we learn how Onesimus ran away to Rome yet found faith in The Lord Jesus Christ.

*‘I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him,  
 “Father, I have sinned against heaven,  
 and before thee, and am no more worthy to  
 be called thy son: make me as one of  
 thy hired servants.”’ Luke 15v18-19*

**Bible Readings for this week**

*(Choose a regular time each day to read the bible and pray whether it be when you first wake up or just before you go to sleep)*

Day	Bible Reading	Tick When Read
Sunday	Philemon (Paul asks Philemon to forgive Onesimus.)	
Monday	Colossians 4 (The Colossian church is in Philemon’s house.)	
Tuesday	Luke 15v1-10 (Each soul is precious to the Lord.)	
Wednesday	Luke 15v11-32 (The parable of the Prodigal Son.)	
Thursday	Psalm 32 (Blessed is he whose sin is covered.)	
Friday	2 Peter 3 (The LORD is ready to forgive us)	
Saturday	Isaiah 55 (Seek ye the LORD while he may be found,)	

**Important Lesson for us today:** *There are only two ways we can live our lives – Our own way, selfishly following this sinful world, thinking we are free to do whatever we want, reaping the rewards of soul dissatisfaction, OR we can seek God’s help to live His Way. God’s Way is through obediently repenting and having faith in The Lord Jesus Christ. This brings real joy to our lives and gives us certain hope that we will enjoy God for ever.*

**Note:** *Onesimus only lived up to the meaning of his name (Useful) after he was saved.*

**If we are the Lord’s – We must ask ourselves, “Am I useful to Him?”**

**Hymn 379 - Believe that Jesus Christ died for you and make this your prayer.**

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|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Lord, I confess to Thee, | Purge Thou my sin away,     |
| Sadly, my sin;              | Wash Thou my soul this day, |
| All I have done and said,   | Lord, make me clean.        |
| All I have been.            |                             |

*EDT Bible/College Class Take Home Sheet*

*This sheet is given to remind you of the lesson and to encourage you to read your Bible.*

### Onesimus Runs Away and Meets Paul in Rome.

- **Paul is a Prisoner, Now Under House Arrest in Rome (AD60)**
  - He is allowed visitors, spends time writing letters – many in the New Testament.
- **Onesimus – A Slave to Philemon in Colossae: -**
  - Before his conversion under Paul’s preaching, Philemon was harsh and cruel.
  - After his conversion, Philemon was a kind and fair man, even to all his slaves.
  - Onesimus had also heard Paul preach but, in rebellion, he wanted to be ‘free’.
- **Onesimus Runs Away: -**
  - He steals money from his master and runs away – thinking, ‘I am free’.
  - But living in fear of being caught, he hid, slept rough, and stole to eat.
  - Things got progressively worse – So he decided to head for Rome.
- **Onesimus Comes To His Senses: -**
  - He realised being ‘free’ had made him a ‘slave of sin’ – sad and miserable.
  - He found the people around him to be cruel, unkind, greedy, and heartless.
  - Knowing that Paul was in Rome, he seeks him out and finds him.
- **Paul Treats Onesimus with Friendliness and Compassion: -**
  - Paul, fully aware of Onesimus’ sinful life, speaks to him of his need to repent and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, The Saviour of Lost Sinners.
  - Paul explains how God’s love in sending His Son to die on Calvary’s cross, was for all who repent, who recognise that they are living as ‘slaves to sin’.
  - Onesimus listens - is convicted of his sin, responds with repentance and faith – his heart is changed by God, so becoming ‘a new person in Christ’.
  - Paul sends Onesimus to Philemon with a letter – exhorting him to forgive Onesimus, to receive him back as a fellow believer – one who used to be ‘unprofitable’ would now, as a believer, be a ‘useful’ person.
  - Philemon welcomed Onesimus back as his slave and as a fellow believer.
- **Consider These Four Thoughts: -**
  1. We want to be free, our own boss, – BUT really, are ‘slaves’ to our sinful ways.
  2. Are you dissatisfied with life like Onesimus and The Prodigal Son? **Luke 15v17-21**
  3. This world offers many experiences but none of them satisfy our eternal souls.
  4. Has the Lord convicted you of your sinful ways? Is your soul troubled by sin? Such that you want to come to the Lord Jesus, the Saviour, for forgiveness, and new life; to live freely as His obedient servant and so enjoy Him for ever.

**Come now, turn from your sin.** Do not wait until sin has ruined your life and soul.

**David prayed, “I acknowledge my sin unto Thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin”.**  
 Psalm 32v5.