

## NOTES

Your story is too valuable to lose. Your story is too important to keep silent. Your story is too surprising to sit on.

**Philemon 17-22 (NIV)** - So if you consider me a partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. If he has done you any wrong or owes you anything, charge it to me. I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand. I will pay it back — not to mention that you owe me your very self. I do wish, brother, that I may have some benefit from you in the Lord; refresh my heart in Christ. Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask. And one thing more: Prepare a guest room for me, because I hope to be restored to you in answer to your prayers.

"I am a great sinner, and Christ is a great Savior." (John Newton, *Amazing Grace*)

The message of Jesus Christ's atoning death appeals to all kinds of people.

When Onesimus came to Rome, he was a part of the problem. When he came to Jesus Christ, he was a part of the solution.

A prisoner in Rome's prison system was responsible for their own food, clothing and medical attention.

When a slave runs away from his master it is a capital offense.

Onesimus must take responsibility and return. Philemon must take responsibility and restore.

Paul offered to pay a debt that Onesimus could not pay.

What Paul did for Onesimus, Jesus does for everyone who puts their trust in Christ.

Philemon treats Onesimus like a brother in Jesus Christ.

**Philemon 17 (CEV)** - If you consider me a friend because of Christ, then welcome Onesimus as you would welcome me.

Your mistakes are a part of your story, and others can profit from them if you tell your story.



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