

**SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON**

Lesson for December 15  
**Golden Text**—Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.—2 Cor. 3:17  
**The Lesson as a Whole**  
 This Letter to Philemon has been said to be the finest specimen of early Christian correspondence extant. We need not wonder at this, seeing it was written by divine inspiration. And yet it has to do with a thieving, runaway slave, who had been converted through the ministry of Paul and was about to return to his former master. We need to remember that Christianity, in its inception, did not provide for the immediate overthrow of the evil system of human bondage, but eventually it was the means of driving it out of the civilized world. In the beginning, it simply regulated

the relation of master and slave where both parties were Christians, thus bringing untold blessing to those in bondage.  
 Every part of this beautiful Letter witnesses the grace that operated in the heart of the apostle and that which he felt sure was equally effective in the life of his convert Philemon. Paul did not issue commands by virtue of his authority as Christ's ambassador, but he pleaded for Onesimus on the ground of Christian love and brotherhood. He felt sure he could count on the full cooperation of Philemon in recognizing Onesimus as a child of God and one who evidently showed some evidence of fitness for Christmas service.  
 The Epistle enables us to understand something of the conditions which the believers scattered throughout the Roman Empire had to face in that day, and gives us, as

we ponder it, a new sense of the power of the Gospel of Christ and its influence over those who renewed it.  
**Philem. 1.**—"Making mention of these always in my prayers." How real was the interest that the apostle had in this friend and convert! He prayed frequently and regularly for him.  
**Verse 5.**—"Hearing of thy love and faith." The two went hand in hand. Philemon's genuine Christian character was well known. Paul rejoiced in the way the others spoke of his friend's true piety. Faith works (or is manifested) by love. Philemon was one to whom the Lord Jesus was precious, and so his heart went out in affection toward all who were in Christ.  
**Verse 6.**—"Thy faith... effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus." This was not fulsome flattery, but recognition of what the grace of God had wrought in the life and experience of this man. Because of this, Paul felt he could write with confidence as he was about to bring before Philemon the case of Onesimus. He would see every good impulse come to perfection in a practical way. Remember, he was about to plead for a brotherly reception for Onesimus, formerly a thieving, runaway slave.  
**Verse 7.**—"Great joy and consolation in thy love." Nothing is more precious than the manifestation of the Spirit of Christ in His people. Philemon's fine gracious spirit had made him a blessing to many. Now Paul was about to test him further. He adds, "The bowels of the saints are refreshed by thee." For "bowels" we might properly substitute "hearts" in English. The thought is that Philemon's love had cheered the inward being of many a believer.  
**Verse 8.**—"I might be much bold in Christ to enjoin thee that which is convenient." Because of the close tie that bound these two together in Christ, and also because of his apostolic authority, Paul might have been free to give definite command as to what would be befitting in the treatment of Onesimus on his return, now that he, too, had become a Christian.  
**Verse 9.**—"For love's sake I rather beseech thee." Yet he did not choose to exercise such authority, but preferred to lay the matter before his friend, reminding him that he was now "Paul the aged," in such a way as to give him the opportunity of manifesting that love which ever characterized him, freely, of his own volition and not as acting under stress of any kind.  
**Verse 10.**—"I beseech thee for my son Onesimus, whom I have begotten in my bonds." This makes it clear that Onesimus was Paul's child in the faith. He had won him for Christ, and he was naturally concerned as to his future. Where the grace of Christ rules in the heart, "I command" becomes "I beseech."  
**Verse 11.**—"In time past... unprofitable, but now profitable." It is a play upon words. Onesimus means "profitable" or "helpful." He had been anything but that in the past. Now all was changed, and he was living up to his name. We "are all gone-out of the way," we "are altogether unprofitable" (Rom. 3:12) in our sinful condition. It is grace alone that enables those who are saved to count for God.  
**Verse 12.**—"Whom I have sent again." Under existing conditions, because of both Roman law and Philemon's character, Paul felt it wisest and best that this slave should return to his master; so, rather than act on the letter of the Mosaic Law (Deut. 23:15, 16), he sent him back with this Letter of commendation.  
**Verse 13.**—"Whom I would have retained with me." Paul would have been glad if he had felt free to keep Onesimus with him, as he had proved useful in many ways, and he considered that he might have accepted such service as though it were done by Philemon himself.  
**Verse 14.**—"Without thy mind would I do nothing." He would not presume on Philemon's friendship, however, and as there was no opportunity to consult him in the matter, he preferred to have Onesimus return to his former home.  
**Verse 15.**—"That thou shouldst receive him for ever." Now that both master and slave were one in Christ, Paul trusted there might be no future rupture of their association, but rather a fellowship on much higher ground than in times past.  
**Verse 16.**—"Not now as a servant, but... a brother beloved." This gives us to realize what vast changes Christianity was working already in the early church. The one-time slave was now to be recognized as a beloved brother in the Lord. Onesimus in his wayward career pictures the course of all un-saved people. Repentant and truly converted, he goes home to his master. The great doctrine of substitution is illustrated by Paul's offer to pay his debt. The truth of acceptance is suggested when Paul intimates that they are to show their regard for him by the way they treat Onesimus. It is a delightful miniature of the evangel.  
**Verse 17.**—"If thou count me therefore a partner, receive him as myself." What a beautiful picture is this of our acceptance in Christ! In the case of every saved sinner it is as though our Lord presents him to the Father, saying, "If thou count me as a partner, receive him as myself." We "are complete in him" (Col. 2:10), for "as he is, so are we in this world" (1 John 4:17). He says to the Father, "Thou hast loved them, even as thou hast loved me" (John 17:23). How foolish Onesimus would have been if he had thrown Paul's Letter away and undertaken to plead his own case! There can be no greater folly than to ignore the mediatorial work of Christ and seek to approach God

**AUCTION SALE**

**REAL ESTATE HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE**  
 The undersigned has received instructions to sell by public auction at  
**STOUFFVILLE**  
**Sat., Dec. 14**  
 1946, the following property belonging to the estate of the  
**LATE JAMES MORRIN**

- Upright piano and stool
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- Couch
- Trunk
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- Oak Extension Table
- 2 Kitchen Tables
- Rugs and Stair Carpet
- Kitchen Cupboards
- Washing Machine
- Odd Dishes
- Washing Scales
- Lawn Mower
- Wheelbarrow
- Garden Tools
- Oil Lamps
- Lantern
- Stove-heater
- Kitchen Range
- Quantity Books
- Feather Tick
- Extension Ladders
- Step Ladder
- Set Sad Irons
- Bake Board and Flour Bin
- 3-burner Coal Oil Stove
- Carpenter's Tools
- Quantity of Gravel
- Quantity of Potatoes
- Numerous Other Articles

At the same time and place there will be offered the real estate consisting of the easterly 59 feet of Village Lot No. 21, and the whole of Village Lot No. 22, according to Plan 70 for the said Village of Stouffville. On the said lands there is erected a frame house. Immediate possession. Further terms made known the day of the sale. This property will be offered subject to a reserve bid. Real Estate will be offered at 2.30 p.m.

For further terms and particulars of sale apply to Margaret Green, 131 Kingsmount Park Road, Toronto, Ontario; H. R. Button, Stouffville Ontario, Executors.

Terms on Chattles, Cash Sale at 1.30 p.m.

W. D. Atkinson, Auctioneer

in one's own fancied merit.  
**Verse 18.**—"If ne... oweth thee ought, put that on mine account." It is evident that Onesimus had robbed his master. Paul offers to settle everything for him, even as our blessed Lord paid all our debt upon the cross that we might be justified from all things.  
**Verse 19.**—"Thou owest unto me even thine own self besides." Delicately, Paul reminds Philemon that it was through him that Philemon had been brought to know Christ. Thus Paul felt sure he could count on Philemon acting now in accordance with his wishes.  
**Verse 20.**—"Let me have joy of thee in the Lord." Loving compliance with the apostle's request on the part of Philemon would gladden the heart of him who was a prisoner for the sake of Christ's name. When one has been saved by grace, it is to be expected that he will walk in grace toward others, even toward those whom he feels have mistreated and deceived him.  
**The Heart of the Lesson**  
 We have a lovely Gospel meditation in this short Letter to Philemon. A poor, thieving, runaway slave, Onesimus, who had been saved through contact with the Apostle Paul in prison, was going back to his master and this Letter was to be his passport to favor. Paul undertook to stand surety for all the wrong done, even as the Lord Jesus Christ has made Himself responsible for our sins and iniquities. Then Paul requested that Philemon receive Onesimus as if he were the apostle himself. He was to be accepted according to his master's estimate of Paul. In this we see how all believers, though once lost sinners, have now been accepted in the beloved and are treated by the Father according to His thoughts of His own Son.

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**Sat., Dec. 14**

- 1—Reg. Holstein Cow, Segis Aggie Abbecker, No. 607734; sire, King Korndyke Hartog Pluto, No. 132527; dam, Segis Cavalier Sylvan Spring, No. 465782; bred to herd sire June 15, 1946
- 2—Reg. Holstein Cow, Rag Apple Dutchland Netherland, No. 547090; sire, Rag Apple Keyes Funderne, No. 133349; dam, Ida Evelyn Burke No. 273950; bred to herd sire August 9, 1946
- 3—Reg. Holstein Cow, Segis Cavalier Sylvan Spring, No. 465782; sire, Prince Roy Segis Abbecker, No. 118874; dam, Sylvan Spring Cavalier Aggie, No. 342102; bred to herd sire April 15, 1946
- 4—Reg. Holstein Cow, Rag Apple Segis Posch Dhu, No. 51283; sire, Rosewood King Posch, No. 131648; dam, Rag Apple Segis Dhu, No. 345462; bred to herd sire May 3, 1946
- 5—Reg. Holstein Cow, Rag Apple Dutchland Freda, No. 572275; sire, Rag Apple Keyes Funderne, No. 133349; dam, Dutchland Echo Etta, No. 312638; bred to herd sire Nov. 21, 1946
- 6—Reg. Holstein Cow, Inka Canary Plus, No. 449992; sire, Downkamdale Champion Plus, No. 124898; dam, Pabst Inka Canary, No. 387376; not bred
- 7—Reg. Holstein Cow; Ferney Banostine Baroness Spink, No. 543098; sire, Edgehill Banostine Baron V, No. 136780; dam, Daisy Matilda Spink, No. 409578; bred to herd sire May 25, 1946
- 8—Reg. Holstein Cow, Doris Rag Apple Dutchland, No. 556930; sire, Rag Apple Keyes Funderne No. 133349; dam, Dot Dutchland Schulling, No. 390119; bred to herd sire April 30, 1946
- 9—Reg. Holstein Heifer, Ferney Bonheur Rag Apple, No. 682459; sire, Armac Sir Bonheur Texal, No. 170761; dam, Doris Rag Apple Dutchland, No. 556930; not bred
- 10—Reg. Holstein Heifer, Pansy Pluto Texal, No. 664530; sire, Pine Orchard Texal Danny, No. 174468; dam, Pansy Champion Pluto, No. 297678; not bred
- 11—Reg. Holstein, Ferney Rag Apple Banostine, No. 628687; sire, Belmar Rag Apple Beau No. 145170; dam, Ferney Progressor Banostine, No. 507005; bred to herd sire April 25, 1946
- 12—Reg. Holstein Cow, Madge Rag Apple Keyes Funderne, No. 133349; dam, Mazie Abbecker Dekol; No. 468798; bred to herd sire, fresh
- 13—Reg. Holstein Heifer, Ferney Queen Rag Apple Belle, No. 677502; sire, Belmar Rag Apple Beau, No. 145170; dam, Whitby Alcartra Queen, No. 447684; bred to herd sire
- 14—Reg. Holstein Heifer, Ferney Johanna Rag Apple, No. 627501; sire, Belmar Rag Apple Beau, No. 145170; dam, Funderne Johanna Payne Paula, No. 474489; supposed to calf Jan. 3
- 15—Reg. Holstein Heifer, Ferney Jimima Posch, No. 622070; sire, Spring Farm Sir Jimima, No. 150175; dam, Ferney Posch Alcartra, No. 525770; bred to herd sire April 4, 1946
- 16—Reg. Holstein Cow, fresh
- 17—Reg. Holstein Cow, Mollie Rag Apple Dutchland, No. 523853; sire, Rag Apple Keyes Funderne, No. 133349; dam, Dot Dutchland Schulling, No. 390119; bred to herd sire Aug. 14, 1946
- 18—Reg. Holstein Heifer, Ferney Segis Posch Rag Apple, No. 622540; sire, Belmar Rag Apple Beau, No. 145170; dam, Rag Apple Segis Posch Dhu, No. 512836; bred to herd sire May 22, 1946
- 19—Reg. Holstein Heifer, Mollie Texal Rag Apple, No. 622069; sire, Edgewood Baron Texal, No. 150631; dam, Mollie Rag Apple Dutchland, No. 523853; bred to herd sire May 4, 1946
- 20—Reg. Holstein Heifer, Ferney Banostine Rag Apple, No. 622701; sire, Belmar Rag Apple Beau, No. 145170; dam, Ferney Segis Banostine, No. 525772; bred to herd sire April 5, 1946
- 21—1 Reg. Holstein Heifer, Ferney Abbecker Bonheur Texal, No. 682460; sire, Armac Sir Bonheur Texal, No. 170761; dam, Segis Aggie Abbecker, No. 607734; bred to herd sire Nov. 12, 1946
- 22—Reg. Holstein Heifer, Dollie Texal Pluto, No. 664529; sire, Pine Orchard Texal Danny, No. 174468; dam, Dollie Walker, No. 370863; not bred
- 23—Reg. Holstein Heifer, Ferney Mollie Texal, No. 705144; sire, Armac Sir Bonheur Texal, No. 170761; dam, Mollie Rag Apple Dutchland, No. 523853; not bred
- 24—Reg. Holstein Heifer, Ferney Segis Texal, No. 705142; sire, Armac Sir Bonheur Texal, No. 170761; dam, Segis Aggie Abbecker, No. 607734; not bred
- 25—Reg. Holstein Heifer, Ferney Spot Rag Apple Texal, No. 105143; sire, Armac Sir Bonheur Texal, No. 170761; dam, Rag Apple Dutchland Netherland, No. 547090; not bred
- 26—Reg. Holstein Heifer, Ferney Doris Rag Apple Texal, No. 695829; sire, Armac Sir Bonheur Texal, No. 170761; dam, Doris Rag Apple Dutchland Netherland, No. 556930
- 27—Reg. Holstein Heifer, Ferney Rag Apple Bonheur, No. 695830; sire, Armac Sir Bonheur Texal, No. 170761; dam, Rag Apple Dutchland Freda, No. 572275
- 28—Reg. Holstein Bull, Armac Sir Bonheur Texal, No. 170761; sire, Armac Sir Bonheur Posch, No. 144947; dam, Dunrobin Bessie Texal No. 483052

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