

SUNDAY, JANUARY 2, 2021

MORNING MESSAGE

“Sharing Your Faith”

Philemon 6

INTRODUCTION

- A. Allow me to introduce you to the book of Philemon
 - 1. Philemon is the shortest and least known of the letters of Paul
 - 2. Philemon is the only letter of Paul addressed to a layman
 - 3. Philemon is a fascinating book
 - a. Ernest Renan called it “a masterpiece of letter writing”
 - b. Jerry Vines called it “a gospel masterpiece”
 - c. Kent Hughes said it is “the most brilliantly nuanced, compelling letter of reconciliation in ancient history”
- B. Allow me to introduce the main characters of Philemon
 - 1. Meet Philemon, the refreshing saint
 - a. Philemon was a businessman from Colosse
 - 2. Meet Onesimus, the runaway slave
 - a. Onesimus was a slave of Philemon
 - 3. Meet Paul, the redemptive soulwinner
 - a. Paul is the connection between Philemon and Onesimus
 - b. NIV, “I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith” (v.6)
- I. DEMONSTRATE YOUR FAITH
 - A. Philemon is a private letter from Paul to Philemon
 - 1. It is also addressed to his wife, son, and church
 - B. The world is watching to see what Philemon will do
- II. DECLARE YOUR FAITH
 - A. Philemon is being encouraged to declare his faith
 - B. Francis of Assisi said, “Preach the Gospel at all times. Use words if necessary.”
 - 1. A demonstration of faith without a declaration of faith will attract people to follow you instead of Jesus