

Melbourne Community Church (MCC)

Sunday Service — November 5, 2023

Sermon Notes

Last Week: “God’s Perfect Priest to Perfect God’s People,” [Hebrews 7](#),

by Brandon Harris, Teaching Pastor

Old Testament Reading: [Psalm 110](#) ; New Testament Reading: [Romans 8:31-39](#)

- Jesus fulfilled the law of Moses, became the perfect sacrifice, ascended into heaven, and is the guarantor of a greater covenant. ([Hebrews 7:22-23](#))
- Jesus’ perfection as the perfect Priest assures our salvation is perfect.

This Week: “What Really Matters,” [Philemon](#), by Davis Hemenway

Old Testament Reading: [Genesis 50:15-21](#) ; New Testament Reading: [1 Corinthians 12:12-26](#)

Tools for reading the epistles (letters):

- Read it in one sitting
- Remember that it’s someone else’s mail
- Look for the occasion.

Broad overview of Philemon:

- Praise of Philemon, [vv. 1-7](#)
- Plea of Paul, [vv. 8-16](#)
- Pledge of Paul, [vv. 17-25](#).

What is Paul’s story?

- Who was he before belief in Jesus as Messiah?
- How was Paul called to the ministry?
- Where did Paul go as an ambassador for Jesus?

For what did Paul praise Philemon? ([Philemon 4-5](#))

(over)

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Ask yourself, “How am I encouraging growth in the body of Christ?”

([Ephesians 4:1-6](#))

Paul uses the term *partnership* (Greek: [koinonia](#)) in [verse 6](#) to describe the relationship Philemon and Paul have. Why might he have used this term?

For whom does Paul make a plea? What was his name?

What is the meaning of his name? What was the station of this man before?

What is his relationship with Paul at the time of the letter?

What is Paul asking Philemon to do for this man? ([Matthew 18:21](#); [Romans 5:8-11](#))

In what way did Paul want Philemon to consider this man going forward? ([2 Corinthians 5:19](#))

How confident is Paul that Philemon will do for Paul, and for Onesimus, what is asked? Why? ([Colossians 3:11](#))

Does Paul expect to return to Philemon and the local church?

Who else does Paul mention in his letter and why?

What have we learned?

- Regardless of who we were before, all believers are part of one body
- When life gives you lemons, ask God for wisdom
- We forgive because we have been forgiven.

Additional Notes:

Internet Resources: [Download Philemon Overview Poster](#); [The Bible Project Video: Philemon](#)

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