**BUT NOW PROFITABLE**

**Philemon l0 – l6**

**INTRODUCTION:**

1. [We] all realize when one becomes a child of God, there will be some changes in [our] LIFE.

A. I have never met one ***NOT*** needing to make some changes after becoming a Christian.

2. Granted, some will need to make more changes than others.

A. But, all will need to make changes they had previously been slaves to sin **and now** are

slaves to righteousness (Rom 6:17, 18).

3. Since [we] understand becoming a slave to righteousness involves work on behalf of the

Christian, [we] easily realize the need to change from unrighteous to righteous acts (Mt 5:6).

1. This indicates more than a passive attitude of becoming righteous in the eyes of God.

B. It indicates actively *seeking* (cov­eting earnestly, striving) after righteous (Mt 6:33).

4. Paul to Philemon concerning Onesimus once being *unprofitable*, “**BUT Now Profitable**”.

**BODY:**

**1. TO HELP US SEE THE NEED FOR CHANGE IN HIS LIFE**

A. First, [we] find Onesimus was a runaway slave.

1. ***NO*** doubt [we] can all understand the unprofitable state of Onesimus in this case.

2. Being absence from his master enable him to render unto Philemon which he should.

B. Secondly, ***NOT*** a Christian, he failed to live up to all expected of him as a servant.

1. Perhaps, herein, is one of the greatest areas he would need to make several changes.

2. As a Christian, changes were needed to treat Philemon as his master and do as told.

3. It appears at his conversion of several areas he needed to work relative to Philemon:

A. First: Obedience (Eph 6:5)

B. Second: Respect (1 Tim 6:1)

C. Third: Pleasing his master (Tit 2:9)

**2. WILLING TO MAKE CHANGES TO PLEASE PHILEMON (THEREFORE GOD)**

A. Col 4:7 – 9 [Notice several things concerning this in these passages].

1. First, Paul recognized him as a faithful and beloved brother.

A. [We] can understand from this, he had already shown himself to be trustworthy as

a servant to Paul even to the point of Paul desiring to keep him (Phi 13).

B. He proved his goodness and fidelity to Paul and, therefore, Paul had ***NO***

reservations at all concerning his recommendation of Onesimus.

2. Secondly, Paul refers to Onesimus as "one of you" as he writes to the Colossians.

A. Perhaps this ***NOT*** only refers to him as being a Christian **BUT** also a Colossian.

B. However, whatever it means [we] do know for sure, he was to be received by the

Colossians, ***NOT*** as a slave, BUT as a brother beloved in Christ (Phi 16).

3. From what [we] have already seen, [we] can see the changes in this man’s LIFE.

A. At first, [we] see him nothing more than a useless, runaway slave.

B. Then, confronts Paul and becomes a Christian (trusted, beloved brother in Christ).

4. But what has all that got to do with us?

A. In our reflection of the LIFE of Onesimus, compared to our Spiritual LIFE, [we]

are ***NOT*** all that much different from him.

1. [We] need to make changes in [our] LIVES to conform to God’s Standard.

B. [We] realized in our being out of Christ [we] were/are, *unprofitable* to God.

1. Even now, as Christians, [we] are in a sense: *unprofitable* servants (Lk 17:10).

2. But, how much more [we] are, *unprofitable* to God, if outside of Christ.