

Good News From Chardon

Church of Christ
440-286-5505

1 2 8 M A P L E A V . C H A R D O N , O H I O 4 4 0 2 4

Schedule of Services

Greeting: Mark

Song Leader: Mark

Opening Hymn:

23—Sweet Hour Of Prayer

Opening Prayer: Robert

Hymn:

**572—Christ For The World
We Sing**

Scripture Reading: Tom

Philemon 1:1-8

Hymn:

299—Lead Me To Calvary

Lord's Supper: Dale

Hymn:

173—He's My King

Sermon: Mark

Invitation Hymn:

625—Why Not Now?

Closing Hymn:

656—Blest Be The Tie

Closing Prayer: Ryan

An Introduction to Philemon

Paul's letter to Philemon has often been overlooked. Some people even wonder why it is even included in the Bible. Truthfully, it's a short letter comprised of only 25 verses but it's a letter filled with heart and message of Jesus. From beginning to end, it's concerned with showing love, second chances, and mercy to those who need it most.

Apparently, Onesimus had run away from his Philemon, ended up in prison for it, and probably stolen things from him (Philemon 18). Yet, God in his wonderful providence and grace, had brought him to the precipice of a new and better life. While in prison he met a man named Paul who preached Jesus to him and then spent time mentoring and teaching the runaway. As it turns out, Paul knew Philemon and strongly felt that reconciliation was in order.

Throughout this short letter four themes stand out for us to learn.

First, is the message of reconciliation. As I mentioned earlier, reconciliation is a main part of the gospel message. By faith and obedience Onesimus has been reconciled to God and now another reconciliation had to take place. To live his new faith in Jesus, it was necessary for him to return to Philemon.

Second, true Christian love stands out for us. Instead of demanding he accept Onesimus back or even release him to work with Paul, he appeals to Philemon reminding him of his love for Jesus and Paul. Then he recommends that he extend that same level

of love to his new brother.

Third, the importance of repentance is seen clearly. Repentance plays an important role in Philemon. True repentance always rights wrongs, seeks to correct the sins of the past, and to generally improve our lives by living by Jesus' standards. Onesimus had wronged Philemon and as much as Paul valued and wanted to keep him close, he knew that this was necessary for true repentance.

Fourth, we see the power of the gospel to change eternities and lives. Before his obedience to the gospel, Onesimus was useless but now in Christ he is useful. Before he was a runaway slave but now, he is a beloved brother. Like Onesimus this was all of us at some point. Desperately needing acceptance and change and the gospel gives that to us. This is a truth that we must accept for ourselves and for others. Change is possible.

Let me encourage you to read this letter again and as you do, take note of the way the fruit of the Spirit stands out so beautifully.

- Jeff Arnette preaches for the Central Haywood church of Christ, Clyde, NC.

For Love's Sake

Philemon 1:6

S H P A R D E E D E Y O U A E
T S I R H C K V R F A I P V O
T H E K O A V P O M O P A N M
T P M D S F R O B L E L E U O
H S E L F I I O L A S S R C V
G P X L S D L T L U I K C A B
I J U O C D N O A M N O S X R
M A N R F H R A U B N T H R A
P E W W P D A S M S L G A J N
R E V E R O F I E M D E U R N
D S W D D D S N N D O O G T Y
S D E P A R T E D S D C K M P
M I N I S T E R G N I T T I F
H X W G O S P E L B U H U B E
C O M P U L S I O N W F M E B

APPEAL	BACK	BOLD
CHAINS	CHRIST	COMMAND
COMPULSION	CONSENT	DEED
DEPARTED	FITTING	FLESH
FOREVER	GOOD	GOSPEL
LORD	LOVE	MIGHT
MINISTER	ONESIMUS	PAUL
PRISONER	PROFITABLE	PURPOSE
SAKE	SLAVE	VOLUNTARY

Hidden Message:

PRAYER LIST

Mynda and all her family, as she travels
Debbie's surgery recovery; as her and **Mark** travel
Ackerman family
Ruth is home now
Roberta, doing Bible study with Tom, body healing and Bible study with **Kris**
Bonnie's grandson **Devin** as he reads and opens his heart to Christ
Wanda's migraines; son **Allen**, sisters **Lorraine & Joyce**
Mary and her family. **Carl's** gout and hip surgery recovery, Mary's leg injury
Tom & Nina's 5-year-old great nephew, **Bear Nicholas**, now at home; **Nina's** health, pain. & procedures
Kathy, her sister and friends. Kathy's feet healing & pain
Linda's health and procedures
Zarna and her family
Juanita, her sister **Betty** and the rest of her family.
Ray and **Barbara** and their family.
Dale's health issues and his family. His friend **Riley** (age 6) who has stage 4 cancer. Brother I Christ **Darrell's** surgery.
His **Aunt Rosie's** heart and lungs. Cousin with heart issues
Ray and his family. **Rebecca's** physical therapy
Pat and her family
Robert's job decision

CALENDAR

Dec. 4—Bible Study 10 am, Worship 11 am
Speaker Mark—Business meeting
Dec. 9—(b) Megan
Dec. 9—(b) Richard
Dec. 11—Bible Study 10 am, Worship 11 am
Speaker Tom
Dec. 18—Bible Study 10 am, Worship 11 am
Speaker Mark
Dec. 25—Bible Study 10 am, Worship 11 am
Speaker Tom
Dec. 31—(b) Randy
Jan. 1—Bible Study 10 am, Worship 11 am
Speaker Mark—Business meeting
Jan. 2—Carl

Fools find no pleasure in understanding but delight in airing their own opinions. Proverbs 18:2

SUNDAY: Bible Study—10:00 am, Worship—11:00 am

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FAITH
SHARE YOUR
Answer to puzzle: