

#It's A Small World Bible Study Notes (Philemon) Episode 15

Daily Reading: (Philemon)

Through the shared **affliction** of Paul and Timothy- God would bring about the **healing** relationship of (Philemon and Onesimus) and form a new **partnership**.

"Formerly he was **useless** to you," (Philemon 1:11). There was 3 ways a slave in Roman times received their name? 1) the region they came from. 2) Slaves could also be named in the possessive form of their owner. 3) Slaves might also be given a name to describe them or the work that they do. In this case - Onesimus is named for what he does. Onesimus = "**profitable** or **useful**". According to verse eleven, he wasn't living up to his name.

"But now he has become **useful**". (euchrēstos)- easy to make use of, useful. It is the same root word as **eucharist**- communion of the Lord's Supper. Through receiving Christ, Onesimus has become what God intended, "**useful**" not as a slave but as a son in the kingdom.

When we look back at things that seemed to be negative, detrimental or didn't make sense, may we look back by inserting a **perhaps** (Philemon 1:15).

Paul's desire is for Philemon to treat Onesimus as he truly is, your **blood brother** (Philemon 1:16).

Paul **gave freely** to Philemon, he expects Philemon to **give freely** to Onesimus.