

# Jesus Changes Everything

## Philemon 1: 1-7

August 15, 2021

Lesson: Life is full of sink holes; they can spring up any time



**Forgiveness means to send away,  
to release from bondage**

***LET IT GO!***

# Asia Minor (southwest Turkey) in the time of Paul



Pergamum

Thyatira

Smyrna

Sardis

Philadelphia

Pisidian Antioch

Ephesus

Hierapolis

Meander R. Laodicea

Colossae

Royal Road

Miletus

Elaya Station

Taressus

Attalia

## Slavery's popularity in Rome:

30–40 % of the population were slaves

## Modern day slavery:

40.3 million are currently enslaved in our world

# What does modern day slavery look like?

*Prostitution, physical bondage, forced labor, human trafficking, debt bondage or simply born into slavery*

## Countries with the highest concentration of slaves:

*North Korea, Uzbekistan, Cambodia, India, and Qatar*

# **A word on sex trafficking today:**

*This is not a third world issue*

*It is prominent in America  
today!*

## **The most exploited:**

*African American and Latino  
youth*

## Thoughts about God and slavery:

All are made in the *“image of God”*

Genesis 1: 26-27

Every person is valuable to God,  
deserving fair treatment and treated  
with dignity

**The practice of slavery in America  
clearly violated Biblical precepts;**  
*for example*, injunctions against  
kidnapping, fair treatment of  
servants, prohibitions of threats and  
brutality, etc.



# From the world's slave to Christ's slave:

Those set free by Christ become Christ's slave –

1 Corinthians 6: 19-20

Jesus bought you (*purchased you*) out of the slave market of sin –

*His life for your life!*

Those saved are in permanent service to Him – **WILLINGLY!**

*“If the Son makes you free,  
you shall be free indeed.”*

John 8: 36

**Real freedom comes with  
giving up your freedom to  
serve Jesus Christ!**

## Verse 1 - 2

**Paul changed from Christ hater  
to Apostle, Bond servant,  
Prisoner**

**Paul was confined to a Roman prison house, shackled to a Roman soldier**

**Paul was productive, he did not sink into depression or withdraw in anger**

**Paul, *the prisoner*, becomes Paul, *the writer* of the prison Epistles (*Philippians, Philemon, Colossians, Ephesians*), which has helped set millions free!**

**How was Paul successful though beaten, stoned, shipwrecked, day and night in the water, hungry, cold, naked?**

**2 Corinthians 11: 22-27**

***HE PRACTICED THE PRESENCE OF GOD!***

**How do I practice the presence of God?**

**Psalm 16: 8 and 11**

**Did you catch it?**

*Setting the LORD always  
before you is the key!*

**Practice the presence of God in  
your day!**

*Keep Him before your  
thoughts!*

Verse 4 - 5

**Philemon's life was changed  
by Jesus**

# How does love manifest itself?

***ACTION!***

***Love is a verb, not  
simply a statement***

**Jesus made it clear** – those who  
love Me, obey Me = ***ACTION!***

**John 14: 21, 23**

**1 John 5: 3**



Faith = “*pistis*” = to believe and trust

Who you put your faith in is of utmost importance!

Many place faith in themselves

My faith must be in One greater than myself – *that would be God!*

It is then that God will give me strength to do the impossible!

***TO BELIEVE AND TRUST HIM  
NO MATTER WHAT!!!***

## Verse 6

**Philemon's witness was  
changed by Jesus**

**Share your faith, Philemon!**  
**Share your faith, Believer!**

**Sharing your faith simply means being  
a witness**

**Witness** = “*martureo*” = confirm the  
facts of an event

**Root is** “*martus*” = martyr

**You may have to suffer for your  
witness, many have!**

## Verse 7

**Philemon's love for the brethren  
was changed by Jesus**

**It is not natural to love people; *love requires sacrifice!***

**God demonstrated His love > ACTION >  
*He sacrificed!* – John 3: 16**

**God's love wants nothing in return  
*He doesn't need your works, money,  
or anything else!***

**There is nothing you can do for God  
but ***accept His gift of salvation*** and to  
become part of His family!**

## CLOSING THOUGHTS:

We have discussed the awfulness of slavery, past and present

**The only way to freedom is through a relationship with Jesus!**

Many in our world are still enslaved, ***but in their hearts*** live as free men and women in Christ!

All believers have been purchased by God and have the honor of being a slave to God

Bondservant = “*dulos*” = our will consumed with the will of our Master – ***THE LORD JESUS CHRIST***

Lord = “*kurios*” = master, ruler, owner

**Christian slaves are unique in that they inherit *everything* their Master owns**

**Everything Christ owns by divine right we have by grace!**

***EVERYTHING!***

***I CAN ONLY IMAGINE!***



**JESUS CHANGED MY LIFE, MY  
DESTINY, MY ETERNITY!**

***IT IS AN HONOR TO SUBMIT  
MY LIFE TO HIS RULERSHIP!!***

**MY MASTER, MY RULER,  
MY OWNER!!!**

***WHAT AN HONOR!!***

# A word on the *importance* of forgiveness:

Forgiving others who have wronged us

Forgiving ourselves for the things we have done

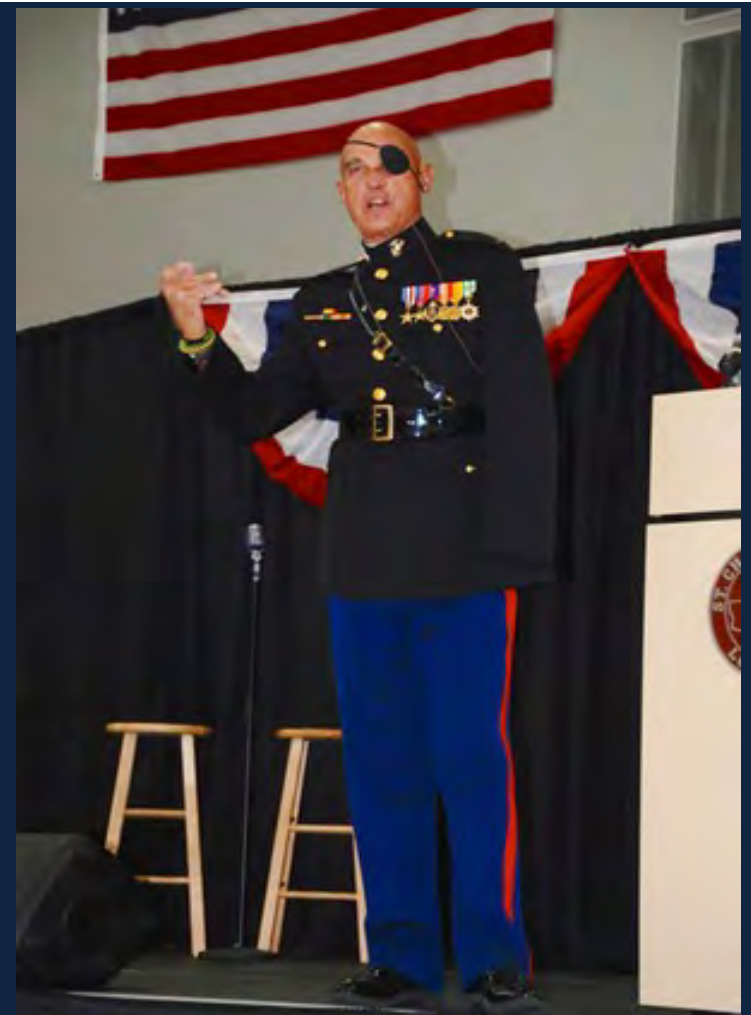
Forgiveness frees me from the torturers – [Matthew 18: 34](#)

# LIVING PROOF

*THE  
EXCITING  
STORY OF  
VIETNAM HERO  
LT. CLEBE  
MCCLARY*

Clebe McClary  
with Diane  
Barker

Foreword  
by Tom  
Landry





***JESUS REALLY DOES  
CHANGE EVERYTHING!!***