

“Onesimus”

Philemon 1:1-25

5/14/23

Today, we'd like to see the title of “Onesimus” in Philemon 1:1-25

To Online Word's sheep, *through MP3 or YouTube Channel*, on the earth, we'd like to suggest the 3 expositional Questions. ([_____ Maranatha Worship Songs](#). Videos are seeable upon the click on the website). *YouTube Channel is not Available in China, Iran, Germany, etc. where only MP3 is available*

Q1. In verse 4, “I thank my God, making mention of you always in my prayers,” what does it mean? And how can we apply it to our lives?

Q2. In verse 12, “I am sending him back. You therefore receive him, that is, my own heart,” what does it mean in the context? and what can we learn from here?

Q3. In verse 16, “no longer as a slave but more than a slave—a beloved brother, especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord,” what does it mean in the context? and what can we learn from here?

(Background for context of this text on Daily Bible Reading and Studying Weekly Book Basis)

During 58-63 AD Paul the house arrestee's 4th mission trip (Acts 21:17-28:31), Paul wrote this personal letter to Philemon at the Colossian church in 61 AD. Philemon was saved through the Paul's ministry. Onesimus the slave was owned by Philemon the master. Onesimus had run away from Philemon to Rome, where Paul met him to have been saved. Here, Paul convinced Philemon about the forgiveness of Onesimus as a brother in Christ.

(Acts 28:30-31) “Then Paul dwelt two whole years in his own rented house, and received all who came to him, ³¹ preaching the kingdom of God and teaching the things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ with all confidence, no one forbidding him.”

TEXT: NKJV [KJV]

Inductive Explanation in context & syntax

1 Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, To Philemon our beloved friend and fellow laborer,

1= ..a prisoner of Christ Jesus... Timothy our brother, To Philemon ...beloved friend and fellow laborer (During Paul's ministry for Christ's sake in Jerusalem, he was arrested by the commander through the whole crowd stirred up by the Jews from Asia; So, Paul doesn't consider himself a prisoner of Rome, but a prisoner of Jesus Christ; Timothy was saved through Paul's ministry, called as “a true son in the faith.” Every Christian is a brother or a sister in Christ; Paul and Timothy sent this letter to Philemon their co-minister Acts 21:27, 33; 1 Tim 1:1; James 2:15¹)

2 to the beloved Apphia, Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house:

2= ...Apphia, Archippus, to the church in your house (Also to the others -- Apphia might be the wife of Philemon; Archippus was a minister at Colossian church that was in the house of Philemon; the church was likely founded by Epaphras the word minister; In the early church time, various believers met in various houses to worship in spirit and truth, becoming various churches the body of Christ; Every church is the Lord's church purchased with His blood. Col 4:17; Col 1:7; Rom 16:5; 1 Cor

¹ Acts 21:27, 33²⁷ Now when the seven days were almost ended, the Jews from Asia, seeing him in the temple, stirred up the whole crowd and laid hands on him, ³³ Then the commander came near and took him, and commanded *him* to be bound with two chains; and he asked who he was and what he had done; 1 Tim 1:2 To Timothy, a true son in the faith: Grace, mercy, and peace from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord; James 2:15 If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food,

<p><u>³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.</u></p> <p><u>⁴ I thank my God, making mention of you always in my prayers,</u></p>	<p><i>16:19; Mat 16:18; Eph 1:14²</i> Note the Lord's church – not our church(es) nor your church(es) as possessive forms of we and of you, rather than the church(es), every church, whole church, the church of God, the church of Asia, or the church of Gentiles, in KJV, NKJV, or NIV, except NLT informally used for “going to” in <i>1 John 2:19; Jude 1:4³</i>; church is the group of believers' souls. So church ministry seeks souls/beings, not possessions the potential dispute among people. if you feel uncomfortable to use the possessive forms because of potential misunderstanding the possessive forms, tolerate them for the unity of the body of Christ on the earth; So, we tolerate disputable things such as “fortunately, rather than sadly or tragically,” “proud of a person, not of God,” “a woman pastor,” “a sprinkling rather than water baptism,” “infant baptism rather than dedication,” “sabbath year to a minister, not to land,” “minister's retirement by tradition, not by God,” etc. because we speak the word of God as of sincerity, as from God, and in the sight of God by meditating whatever things are pure and lovely <i>Tit 3:9; 2 Cor 2:17; Phil 4:8⁴</i> And if anything is against God or Scripture, simply cast it down/ disregard it, e.g., human thoughts, opinions, or various denominational systematic theologies – these things are not man-made-frames over God or Scripture but mere means or references to understand God or Scripture the substance <i>2 Cor 10:5⁵</i>)</p> <p>3= Grace....peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ..... (Grace and peace is the proper order because you will never have true peace in Christ until you really discover the grace of God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ for eternal salvation – the Greek, CHARIS, combines with the Hebrew, SHALOM)</p> <p>4=Q1 ..thank my God...always in my prayers (Prayer is your communication with God through Jesus in fellowship/ communion. So always in prayer or prayer without ceasing does not merely a request but also worshipping, thanks, confession, or faith in the Spirit, like the talk between Abba</p>
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² *Col 4:17* And say to Archippus, “Take heed to the ministry which you have received in the Lord, that you may fulfill it.”; *Col 1:7* as you also learned from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf; *Rom 16:5* Likewise greet the church that is in their house. Greet my beloved Epaphroditus, who is the firstfruits of Achaia to Christ; *1 Cor 16:19* The churches of Asia greet you. Aquila and Priscilla greet you heartily in the Lord, with the church that is in their house; *Mat 16:18* And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it; *Eph 1:14* who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

³ *1 John 2:19* They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but they went out that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us [KJV They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us. NIV They went out from us, but they did not really belong to us. For if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us; but their going showed that none of them belonged to us. NLT These people left our churches, but they never really belonged with us; otherwise they would have stayed with us. When they left, it proved that they did not belong with us]; *Jude 1:4* For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ [KJV For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ. NIV For certain individuals whose condemnation was written about^[a] long ago have secretly slipped in among you. They are ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord. NLT I say this because some ungodly people have wormed their way into your churches, saying that God's marvelous grace allows us to live immoral lives. The condemnation of such people was recorded long ago, for they have denied our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.]

⁴ *Tit 3:9* But avoid foolish disputes, genealogies, contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and useless.; *2 Cor 2:17* For we are not, as ^[a]so many, peddling^[a] the word of God; but as of sincerity, but as from God, we speak in the sight of God in Christ; *Phil 4:8* Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.

⁵ *2 Cor 10:5* casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,

<p><u>⁵ hearing of your love and faith which you have toward the Lord Jesus and toward all the saints,</u></p> <p><u>⁶ that the sharing of your faith may become effective by the acknowledgment of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus.</u></p> <p><u>⁷ For we have great joy and consolation in your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed by you, brother.</u></p> <p><u>⁸ Therefore, though I might be very bold in Christ to command you what is fitting,</u></p>	<p>father and child. So we can pray always or pray without ceasing. <i>1 Thes 5:16-18; 1 John 1:3; Rom 8:15⁶</i>)</p> <p>5= hearing of your love and faith...toward the Lord Jesus...toward all the saints (Paul heard how Philemon loved the Lord and the brothers and sisters in the body of Christ; The faith in God or His word, not in your inner feeling for the uncertain future which you say -- called as the word of faith; You may express your faith by doing God's word applicable wherever the Lord opens, with given free will and given ability, for His glory or His good pleasure <i>James 4:14-15; Luke 14:28-30; Phil 2:13; Rom 10:17; Rev 3:7</i>)</p> <p>6=...the sharing of your faith...become effective by ..acknowledgement of every good thing in you in Christ Jesus (You may effectuate your faith by sharing good things with others, as you recognize every good thing in Christ Jesus; When we are walking/ living in Christ Jesus, we can do every good thing according to His abundant mercy <i>1 Peter 1:3; Phil 4:13⁶</i>)</p> <p>7=...great joy ...consolation in your love ... hearts [bowels] of the saints...refreshed by you (To hear of your love gives us great joy and comfort because your agape love has refreshed the saints' hearts or bowels – inner invisible deep feeling, mind, soul, or spirit. Note the Invisible thing!, not visible thing, for bowels or today hearts.)</p> <p>8=...thoughvery bold in Christ to command [enjoin] you...what...fitting(Apostle, elder, deacon, or pastor's authority is within Christ or His word. Whatever the leadership exercises outside of the given authority, it would be rebuked by the Lord like Judas Iscariot the Apostle; Now, tragically, in many churches, where the leadership loves to exercise authority, like the scribes and the Pharisees in Moses' seat, fleshly issues such as power struggle or division often come out. Here, Paul as an apostle, could have exercised boldly an authority within Christ to order Philemon to forgive Onesimus as a Christian brother. But in verse 9 <i>Mat 10:1-4, 7; Mat 28:18; Mat 23:2, 11-12⁹</i>)</p>
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⁶ *1 Thes 5:16-18* Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you; *1 John 1:3* that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship *is* with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ; *Rom 8:15* For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father."

⁷ *James 4:14-15* whereas you do not know what *will happen* tomorrow. For what *is* your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. ¹⁵ Instead you *ought* to say, "If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that.;" *Luke 14:28-30* For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has *enough* to finish it— ²⁹ lest, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish, all who see *it* begin to mock him, ³⁰ saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish?'; *Phil 2:13* for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for *His* good pleasure; *Rom 10:17* So then faith *comes* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God; *Rev 3:7* And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write, 'These things says He who is holy, He who is true, "He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens":

⁸ *1 Peter 1:3* Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead; *Phil 4:13* I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

⁹ *Mat 10:1-4, 7* And when He had called His twelve disciples to *Him*, He gave them power *over* unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease. ² Now the names of the twelve apostles are these: first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the *son* of Zebedee, and John his brother; ³ Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the *son* of Alphaeus, and Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus; ⁴ Simon the Cananite, and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed Him. ⁷ And as you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand. '; *Mat 28:18* And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given

<p>⁹ <u>yet for love's sake I rather appeal to you</u>—being such a one as <u>Paul, the aged</u>, and now also a <u>prisoner of Jesus Christ</u>—</p> <p>¹⁰ I <u>appeal to you for my son Onesimus, whom I have begotten while in my chains</u>,</p> <p>¹¹ <u>who once was unprofitable to you, but now is profitable to you and to me.</u></p> <p>¹² I am <u>sending him back</u>. You therefore <u>receive him</u>, that is, <u>my own heart</u>,</p> <p>¹³ <u>whom I wished to keep with me, that on your behalf he might minister to me in my chains for the gospel.</u></p> <p>¹⁴ But <u>without your consent I wanted to do nothing, that your good deed might not be by compulsion</u>, as it were, but <u>voluntary.</u></p> <p>¹⁵ For <u>perhaps he departed for a while for this purpose</u>, that you</p>	<p>9= yet for love's sake.....rather appeal to you ...Paul, as the aged...a prisoner of Jesus Christ (But I as an old man and prisoner for Jesus Christ's sake request it to you humbly for agape love's sake, as Jesus taught the original apostles and hated the power hierarchy between leadership and non-leadership, Nicolaitans. <i>Rev 2:6¹⁰</i>)</p> <p>10= ...appeal to you for my son Onesimus, whom I have begotten while in my chains (Paul requests Philemon about his spiritual son Onesimus like Timothy or Titus. Onesimus was saved through Paul's ministry in the prison at Rome. Now Onesimus is a faithful and beloved brother in Christ. <i>Col 4:9¹¹</i>)</p> <p>11=...was unprofitable to you...now is profitable to you and to me (Onesimus the runaway slave from you was not useful, but now he the faithful and beloved brother is useful for the body of Christ to us)</p> <p>12= Q2....sending him back. You....receive him...my own heart (Paul is sending back Onesimus to Philemon. So, I am asking heartily you to accept him. We as the followers of Christ mark the forgiveness as God in Christ forgave us on the cross. We should forgive, up to that mark, as long as the Spirit in us works both to will and to do for His good pleasure, His glory or agape love sake. In verse 14, Paul asked Philemon's willing, cheerful, or voluntary forgiving Onesimus as a Christian brother. <i>Mat 6:12; Eph 4:31-32; Luke 9:23; Phil 2:13; 2 Cor 9:7¹²</i>)</p> <p>13= ...I wished to keep with me...on your behalf ...minister to me in my chains for the gospel (Onesimus carried messages for Paul and took care of Paul's needs. So, I would like to have kept Onesimus so that he could, for your sake, minister to me in the bonds of the gospel)</p> <p>14= ...without your consent....do nothing...your good deednot be by compulsion....voluntary[willingly] (Your forgiveness would be based upon willing, cheerful, voluntary heart, not forced, grudgingly, or of necessity – as Paul suggests)</p> <p>15=...perhaps....departed for a while for this purpose...you might receive him forever (After Onesimus ran away from you, he met Paul and he was saved. Now he is faithful and beloved brother to the body of Christ to us. For a while, it was the adverse circumstance. But God uses it and brings him to salvation through Paul at Rome. So perhaps this could be what God had purposed for His eternal purpose. <i>Rom 8:28¹³</i>)</p>
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to Me in heaven and on earth; *Mat 23:2, 11-12²* saying: "The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat."¹¹ But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant. ¹² And whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.

¹⁰ *Rev 2:6* But this you have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

¹¹ *Col 4:9* with Onesimus, a faithful and beloved brother, who is *one* of you. They will make known to you all things which *are happening* here.

¹² *Mat 6:12* And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors.; *Eph 4:31-32* Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. ³² And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you; *Luke 9:23* Then He said to *them* all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.; *Phil 2:13* for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for *His* good pleasure.; *2 Cor 9:7* So *let* each one *give* as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.

¹³ *Rom 8:28* And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose.

<p>might <u>receive him forever</u>,</p> <p>16 <u>no longer as a slave but more than a slave—a beloved brother, especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.</u></p> <p>17 <u>If then you count me as a partner, receive him as you would me.</u></p> <p>18 <u>But if he has wronged you or owes anything, put that on my account.</u></p> <p>19 <u>I, Paul, am writing with my own hand. I will repay—not to mention to you that you owe me</u></p>	<p>16=Q3 no longer as a slave....more than a slave- a beloved brother.....to memore to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord (Paul humbly asks Philemon that Onesimus should be no longer merely a slave in the Rome's master-slave system "in the flesh" – today Employer-Employee system, but also a Christian brother – Paul, Onesimus, and Philemon are members of God's family, i.e., equal in Christ "in the Lord." Paul says to Philemon much more relationship between Onesimus and Philemon due to both brother relationship in the body of Christ and master-slave relationship in the world/flesh, than to Paul upon only the brother relationship in the Lord, as Paul persuades in other epistles <i>Col 3:9-11; 1 Cor 7:20-24; Eph 6:5-9; Col 4:1¹⁴</i>)</p> <p>17= if...you count me as a partner, receive him as you would me (If you consider me as your partner or co-worker for the body of Christ, receive Onesimus as me – this is beautiful intercession on Paul's part; as we are in Christ Jesus, God made us accepted in the Beloved Son Jesus due to Jesus' intercession <i>Eph 1:5-6¹⁵</i>)</p> <p>18= ...wrong you or owes anything, put that on my account (If any debt in Onesimus, charge it to me. It proves Paul's agape love to Onesimus. It would encourage and strengthen Onesimus to walk/live by faith. This kind of Paul's love is like Jesus the advocate, mediator, and intercessor against an accuser even if Satan tempts people day and night to accuse a saint. But the forgiven one is blessed like Onesimus <i>1 John 2:1; 1 Tim 2:5; Rom 8:34; Rev 12:10; Psalm 32:1-2¹⁶</i>)</p> <p>19=....writing with my own hand....will repay-not to mention.... You owe me even your own self.....(Paul reiterates to repay any debt if it is. And he says a personal letter to Philemon, not mentioning the love debt which Philemon owed Paul who had preached the gospel of Jesus Christ to Philemon. This is humble but convincing letter – Note one duty of word ministers</p>
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¹⁴ *Col 3:9-11* Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, ¹⁰ and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, ¹¹ where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all; *1 Cor 7:20-24* Let each one remain in the same calling in which he was called. ²¹ Were you called while a slave? Do not be concerned about it; but if you can be made free, rather use it. ²² For he who is called in the Lord while a slave is the Lord's freedman. Likewise he who is called while free is Christ's slave. ²³ You were bought at a price; do not become slaves of men. ²⁴ Brethren, let each one remain with God in that state in which he was called; *Eph 6:5-9* Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ; ⁶ not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, ⁷ with goodwill doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men, ⁸ knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord, whether he is a slave or free. ⁹ And you, masters, do the same things to them, giving up threatening, knowing that your own Master also is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him; *Col 4:1* Masters, give your bondservants what is just and fair, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.

¹⁵ *Eph 1:5-6* having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, ⁶ to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.

¹⁶ *1 John 2:1* My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; *1 Tim 2:5* For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus; *Rom 8:34* Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us; *Rev 12:10* Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down; *Psalm 32:1-2* Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, Whose sin is covered. ² Blessed is the man to whom the LORD does not impute iniquity, And in whose spirit there is no deceit.

<p><u>even your own self besides.</u></p> <p><u>20 Yes, brother, let me have joy from you in the Lord; refresh my heart in the Lord.</u></p> <p><u>21 Having confidence in your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say. 22 But, meanwhile, also prepare a quest room for me, for I trust that through your prayers I shall be granted to you.</u></p> <p><u>23 Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, greets you,</u></p> <p><u>24 as do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, Luke, my fellow laborers.</u></p> <p><u>25 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.</u></p>	<p>is to convince with to preach, rebuke, exhort and teach. Love debt is allowed but other money debt or surety is discouraged. Practically, the credit card debt should be managed wisely, not beyond paying ability, by a saint as a salt and light in the world <i>2 Tim 4:2; Rom 13:8; Prov 6:1-5¹⁷</i>)</p> <p>20=...let me have you from you in the Lord; refresh my heart in the Lord (Let you forgive Onesimus the run-away slave as a brother in the Lord, and then it would give Paul joy and would refresh Paul's heart in the Lord.)</p> <p>21= ...confidence in your obedience...knowing ...even more that I say (It's a presumptive close. I trust you to obey my humble request and know you to do more than my request to Onesimus. Philemon might obey in full the teaching of Paul about master-slave relationship among Christians in other epistles in verse 16)</p> <p>22=...meanwhile...prepare a guest room....I trust....through your prayers I shall be granted to you (it's a personal matter. I think I'm going to be released soon. I hope to be visiting you. Fix me a room. But the Bible didn't say whether or not Paul returned to Colossae)</p> <p>23= Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus greets... (Epaphras was the word minister at the Colossian church. He also once was a prisoner for Christ's sake like Paul, saluting Philemon <i>Col 1:7¹⁸</i>)</p> <p>24= ...Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, Luke, my fellow laborers (John Mark the cousin of Barnabas joined in Paul's 1st mission trip and wrote the gospel of Mark. Aristarchus also once was a prisoner for Christ's sake. Luke as a physician wrote the books of Luke and Acts. Those were co-ministers with Paul except later Demas who forsook Paul in the last 2nd prison just before Paul' martyrdom <i>Col 4:10; Acts 12:25; Col 4:14; 2 Tim 4:10¹⁹</i>)</p> <p>25=...grace of ...Jesus Christ...with your spirit. Amen (Paul says farewell. Christ's grace with Philemon's spirit, soul, mind, or heart. So be it)</p>
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Note: Most Christians say the Bible is important, but rarely study every word in the Bible and commit it to the Lord. So, it's better to study it and live accordingly after the Spirit for the Lord (2 Tim 2:15). This online word for global crusade in effect develops from the expositional sermon (KJV), into spiritual transformation in daily love fellowship with the Lord throughout the Bible Study (NKJV) -- *All Scripture Expository Study from verse by verse Inductive Studies* -- of which application is the Discipleship and Spiritual Formation, closer to the image of Christ. We think that "Any human opinion is not really important rather than what God says. So, the best commentary on the Bible is the Bible per se. But the opinion to make us understand God's Word is acceptable (*2 Corinthians 10:5*)." Further, for the application, a life or spiritual experience might be helpful to understand how to apply an understood word in the text column, but it is

¹⁷ *2 Tim 4:2* Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching; *Rom 13:8* Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law; *Prov 6:1-5* My son, if you become surety for your friend, If you have shaken hands in pledge for a stranger, ²You are snared by the words of your mouth; You are taken by the words of your mouth. ³So do this, my son, and deliver yourself; For you have come into the hand of your friend: Go and humble yourself; Plead with your friend. ⁴Give no sleep to your eyes, Nor slumber to your eyelids. ⁵Deliver yourself like a gazelle from the hand of the hunter; And like a bird from the hand of the fowler.

¹⁸ *Col 1:7* as you also learned from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf,

¹⁹ *Col 4:10* Aristarchus my fellow prisoner greets you, with Mark the cousin of Barnabas (about whom you received instructions: if he comes to you, welcome him); *Acts 12:25* And Barnabas and Saul returned from Jerusalem when they had fulfilled their ministry, and they also took with them John whose surname was Mark; *Col 4:14* Luke the beloved physician and Demas greet you; *2 Tim 4:10* for Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world, and has departed for Thessalonica—Crescens for Galatia, Titus for Dalmatia.

temperately used like Paul, because nobody should think above that actual experience (2 Cor 12:6, Jeremiah 23:28).

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Truth matters, regardless of online, offline, indoor, or outdoor services. The truth most love of God may be expressed with a donation, regardless of direct, mail, or online ways.



Thank you everybody. Come to Jesus!

GOD's Continuing Work Through His Church Acts 29

Pray for continually "Let go, let God" because CCAH church (His sheep) is His church. "The Commentary of the Bible By Verse" is coming for this & future generation. E.g. 2020
<https://calvarychapelanaheimhills.com/letGod.pdf>

<https://www.calvarychapelanaheimhills.com/OnlineSermon2023.htm>

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God" (John 1:1).

Who can be against the Word (λόγος LOGOS or the written word, i.e., the Scripture)?

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June 25-28, 2023 | Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa

**This conference is open to all Ministry Workers! Men & Women!
Pastors, Elders, Ushers, Administration, Worship, Children's Ministry, and**

Youth Leaders! at <https://conference.calvarychapel.com/>

Pray for brothers, sisters, and children in Christ of the unground church in Iran to be knit together in love and attaining to all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery of God.

she would have her child back, and they could go home. She told those interrogating her that she knew who she, her husband, and her son belonged to and where they were going when they leave this temporal life. After a quiet and thoughtful pause, she said, "This physical life is temporal. Our life with Christ is eternal. My life without Jesus was empty. Now it's full."

When my team spoke to Alma, this was still fresh in her mind because it had recently happened. Miraculously, after being held for two weeks, they were released and able to flee Iran. As Alma's husband spoke, he said they do not want to focus on all the bad in their country toward Christians. They prefer to focus instead on all the good that God is doing throughout the Muslim world.

Muslims around the Middle East are experiencing Jesus in visions and dreams and coming to a radically transformative faith. As persecution increases, so do the opportunities to share Jesus with others. As a result, the underground church is also experiencing tremendous growth.

The team met with five underground pastors and ministry workers from Iran, who live at risk every single day. All five have already been arrested and imprisoned for their faith. Yet, their hardships have only increased their courage. They are working tirelessly to prepare and send out more missionaries across Muslim nations where foreign missionaries are not allowed. This is the reason Far Reaching Ministries (FRM) supports underground churches that have accepted the call.

Pastors in Islamic nations must teach their underground churches the advanced art of cyber security and hiding a person's digital identity. In Muslim countries where we are working, there are so-called Morality Police, who deploy teams to scour social media sites, wi-fi hotspots, and villages looking to penetrate underground church networks. These underground believers worship like no other that my team has experienced. The passion in their songs to Jesus floods the room with reverence and awe. They know absolute joy because they were raised in countries that leverage shame, fear, and violence to suppress the people. These hated and hunted Christians sing passionately, outstretching arms to heaven, dropping on their knees and faces.

A young, hip-looking guy picked up a guitar in an adjacent room where my team was having coffee. He began singing and playing the guitar beautifully on what everyone else had deemed broken and useless. He played so powerfully and passionately that everyone moved quietly and reverently into the room where he was. Watching him with his eyes closed, singing personally

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to Jesus, you could sense Christ was in the room with him. This young man was born in a radicalized Islamic country. He grew up knowing nothing about the world other than what he was taught in Islamic religious schools. As a young man, he did not have the same views as his hardliner teachers and relatives. He secretly resented Islam because it brought so much misery to his country. As a teenager, he saw what he describes as a "brilliant light and a man standing in my room with me." He said the man was very real and told him about Himself, Jesus the Christ. In an Islamic country, there are no obvious places to go to find out more about a Jewish Messiah named Jesus, so he went to his local mosque. He knew enough to know what happens to people accused of being Christians, so he decided to read the entire Koran to find Jesus for himself. After doing so, he knew that the Jesus he met in his bedroom was not anywhere in the Koran. Through a series of miracles, he found a Bible and began voraciously reading it. His faith exploded, and his boldness and courage increased. Five years after meeting Jesus, he has planted and currently helps support an underground network of churches spreading into several other Islamic nations. He, too, has the vision to send local missionaries across the entire Islamic world and out to the West.

My team spent additional time with underground doctors and pastors in other persecuted countries. Dr. Yusuf works among the poorest of the poor in his country. He sets up temporary medical clinics in remote villages and cares for patients all day and into the early morning hours. His team sleeps for a few hours before the process starts all over again. He treats numerous diseases and sees nothing but despair and hopelessness. He does this because he may be the only compassion these outcast people will ever experience. After caring so gently for the sick, he then tells the entire community

