

Colossians Part X – Embracing Redemption

Summary

In this sermon, we explore Colossians 4:7-9 and the story of Onesimus, which leads us to the book of Philemon. The central theme is the supremacy of Christ and the transformative power of His grace. Paul, writing from prison, sends Onesimus back to Philemon, urging the church to accept him as a brother in Christ despite his past. This narrative challenges us to embrace the redemptive work of Jesus in others, even when it is difficult, and to extend grace and forgiveness as we have received from God.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, we come before You with open hearts, ready to receive Your wisdom and guidance. Help us to be receptive to Your message today and to understand the depth of Your grace and forgiveness. May we be open to the transformation You wish to work in us and through us. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Ice Breaker

What is one thing you are really good at, but sometimes find challenging?

Key Verses

1. Colossians 4:7-9
2. Philemon 1:1-25
3. Matthew 6:12-14

Questions

1. What does the story of Onesimus teach us about redemption and forgiveness?
2. How can we apply the concept of grace in our daily interactions?
3. Why do you think Paul emphasized Onesimus as 'one of you' to the Colossians?
4. Have you ever experienced a moment where you had to forgive someone who wronged you? How did it feel?
5. What are some barriers that prevent us from extending grace to others?
6. How can we prepare ourselves to welcome back those who have strayed from the faith?

7. In what ways can the church support individuals on their path to redemption?
8. How does understanding God's forgiveness towards us help us forgive others?

Life Application

This week, identify someone in your life who you find difficult to forgive. Pray for them daily, asking God to work in their life and in your heart, opening the door for reconciliation.

Key Takeaways

1. Jesus' supremacy calls us to focus on His grace and forgiveness.
2. Redemption is possible for everyone, no matter their past.
3. Forgiveness is a crucial part of our faith journey.
4. God's grace should be extended to others as it has been given to us.
5. Community support is vital in the process of reconciliation.

Ending Prayer

Lord, thank You for the time we've spent together reflecting on Your word. Help us to carry the lessons of grace and forgiveness into our lives. May we be instruments of Your peace and reconciliation in our communities. Guide us as we strive to live and love like Jesus. In His name, we pray, Amen.