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Philemon: Reconciling Grace  
REV. JOSH DESCH  
NEPC SERMON SERIES  
SUNDAY, MARCH 10, 2024

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**Sermon Title:** “The Bible and Slavery, Part 2”  
(#4 in the Sermon Series)

**Scripture text:** Philemon 12-22

**Main Points:**

1. **What** did Paul want for Onesimus?
2. **Why** didn't Paul write an Emancipation Declaration?
3. **How** does God build one forever family?
4. **Where** can we be a part of this grand work?

**Questions:**

1. **Ice Breaker Question** – Why do Christians sometimes struggle to put our faith into action, to move our faith from spiritual abstraction to real world impact?
2. **Transition Question** – Why didn't Paul write an Emancipation Declaration in one of his letters to the churches?
3. **Observation Question** – How does verse 17 contribute to the reconciliation Paul is after?
4. **Interpretation Question** – Was Paul mostly about theology? How did he live out his faith in the book of Philemon?
5. **Reflection Question** – FF Bruce write, “What the letter to Philemon does is to bring the institution of slavery into an atmosphere where it could only wilt and die.” What are some other areas in our culture that still need the transforming power of the gospel to do the same?
6. **Application Question** – Josh said, “Where others see obstacles, faith sees opportunities.” What opportunities has God put in front of you – and your life group – to help make this world a better place?

