

## WELCOME TO THE NEW WORLD #2: PHILEMON 8-16 "DON'T DOUBT IT" WHOEVER SAID LIFE ISN'T MESSY WASN'T TELLING THE TRUTH

- Life complex – crazy, global realities today – know ev bout ev **CONST BARRAG**  
**DAILY: real/perc Injustice, unfairness, inflation, wars, mass murders PLAYS OUT –**  
**Exp/Watching - PRODUCING INCREASED LEVELS STRESS**

The Hill "America is in a United States of stress and disillusionment." Let's face it: We are a stressed-out country. The COVID-19 pandemic, economic upheavals, racial injustice, gun violence, climate change and political divisiveness have served as major stressors....

- APA sponsmajor study Gen Z (post 97) 81% money, 77% stressed work; 73% stressed school shootings; 62% suicide rates; 58% global warming; **NEED SUCK IT UP/LEARN TAKE ADVERSITY – ALL GENERATIONS EXP INCREASED STRESS >**

Broken political system, violence, social discontent, racial division, hatred – EVERYTHING BROKEN  
Disillusioned generation – where chronic disappointment breeds a settled disposition of doubt.

- **U want to believe, but tide negativity tsunami – WILDFIRE....CHRISTIAN?**

**MP: Paul perceived life in a way that increased his faith and diminished his doubt.**

- **REVEALED IN PHILEMON**

**Philemon:** been wronged Onesimus. Taken advantage of, stolen from, position power unjust evil social structure slavery **Onesimus:** criminal, stolen Philemon, disrespectful, unthankful, suffered under an unjust system - **WORLD (O: prison/death – P:bit, ang)**

### **CHRISTIANS SIMPLY BELIEVE IN GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY**

Not simply because it's easy but simple in it's SINGULARITY. GOD'S AT WORK

**Philemon 10** I appeal to you for my child, Onesimus, **whose father I became in my imprisonment.**

- **WORLD: What COINCIDENCE- Christian no such thing coincidence – IT'S GOD**
- In these crazy, seemingly chaotic, distressing situations, **GOD IS WORKING**

God is the God of everywhere. There's not a place on the face of the planet where His sovereignty is not being exercised.

**Sovereignty:** God's right, authority, and ability to direct every detail in life, real-time.

Ephesians 1:11 In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who **works all things** according to the counsel of his will.

**CONDUCTOR ORCH:** written the score, selected the musicians, play at his direction.

- **COMPLEX:** Onesimus thieving on the Run / From Paul while in Prison

The complexities of human life are carried out in the incubator of God's sovereignty.

**When you're tempted to be consumed by circumstances impacting your life anchor yourself to the sovereignty of God. PEACE – GOD'S AT WORK**

### **CHRISTIANS HAVE FAITH IN GOD'S PROVIDENCE**

**Philemon 15** For this perhaps is why he was parted from you for a while, that you might have him back forever. **GOD'S WILL IS AT WORK IN THIS – THIS GUY GOT SAVED.....**

**PROVIDENCE:** God directs the details of life to fulfill His will.

Ephesians 1:11 In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things **according to the counsel of his will.**

- Prov not capricious or evil: **GOD: loving, righteous, merciful U CAN TRUST**

**SEE THE BIG PICTURE – philemon.. I know you've been frustrated, mad..**

Will you choose to see that God permitted this situation to bring to pass His purpose?

When you are frustrated momentarily, remember God is working eternally..

- **HOW MANY TIMES DO MISS?** DWELL IN momentary frust/pain/mad –

Paul could have languished in disappointment. Instead, He was looking for the divine appointment.

**PRAYER:** Philemon a witness to Onesimus – **A lot good praying did me... Bum bailed**  
God has interesting ways of answering your prayers.

- Doubt, lose heart, disbelieve, GOD DOESN'T CARE – PAUL LEARNED THIS

You don't learn this until you go through affliction.

2 Corinthians 4:17 For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, <sup>18</sup>as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

**MP: Trust that God is working His will in every situation. It will transform the way you see your life.**

### **CHRISTIANS CAN BE INSTRUMENTS OF GOD'S POWER**

**Philemon 16** No longer as a bondservant but more than a bondservant, as a beloved brother—especially to me, but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

Paul didn't miss the divine appointment because of personal disappointment.

- PAUL – instead of being disappointed and disillusioned SOV / PROVIDENCE
  - o WAS AN INSTRUMENT OF GOD'S POWER

The world is so messed up; what change can I make? You have the power of heaven at your disposal.

- Social structures, unforgiveness, evil in human heart – **JESUS GREATER - ONES**

Phil problem Paul's child, useless useful, thief my heart, bondservant brother...

- **THAT'S ON GOD – CROSS/RESURRECTION**

**Ur not victimized, marginalized, defined by undue unfairness,**

**You're an empowered child God.... Be a vessel of His power.**

There's an Onesimus in the house of God today