

“Onesimus” by Tania Runyan

Since I stole your money, Philemon, and even more,
myself, the body
that broke earth and stacked stones at daybreak
while you slept,

you have every right to lash me till the whites of my in-
testines show,
brand FUG on my forehead, or throw me to the lions,
who love especially

the taste of escaped slaves, our blood sweet with
freedom's fleeting breath.
But Paul, wild-eyed with Christ, has washed down his
prison walls

with prayer. He knows you will take me back, not a
slave, but a brother
delivering *koinonia* to your congregation in *this pre-
sent evil age*, teaching

how to pray paralytics into motion and how to sleep
in peace
when soldiers sharpen swords outside your windows.
Paul calls me his son, no—

his very heart. I am no longer your body but will reside
in yours,
pump forgiveness and prayer through your veins. I will
make you


see Christ in every jangling harlot and rotting, leprous
face.

I will make you a slave to God's bidding.



3rd September 2025

From next Sunday's reading: Philemon

¹ This letter is from Paul, a prisoner for preaching the Good News about Christ Jesus, and from our brother Timothy. I am writing to Philemon, our beloved co-worker, ² and to our sister Apphia, and to our fellow soldier Archippus, and to the church that meets in your  house. ³ May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace. ⁴ I always thank my God when I pray for you, Philemon, ⁵ because I keep hearing about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all of God's people. ⁶ And I am praying that you will put into action the generosity that comes from your faith as you understand and experience all the good things we have in Christ. ⁷ Your love has given me much joy and comfort, my brother, for your kindness has often refreshed the hearts of God's people.



Our Prayer of Praise and Confession:

Let us thank God for Paul's letter to Philemon.

Thank You Lord.

Let us learn about forgiveness from this letter:

Lord You have forgiven us; teach us how to forgive others.

Lord, in Christ, You have given us so many good things:

Fill us with gratitude. Stretch our hearts.

To all who are imprisoned because of their faith:

Grant courage, grant comfort.

For all who are caught up in modern-day slavery:

Give release, give freedom. Amen.

We pray for people, places & concerns

Lord in your mercy – **Hear our prayer.**

My Notes

Leader: Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night

All: **Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake. Amen.**

Pray for Julie, Laurence, Josiah & Esther, Tom & Phyllis.

Remember the recently-bereaved families, including the family of Nan Rollo

Churches on our radar: Campsie, St Paul's, St Machan's, SDMP, St Mary's, Girvan Valley. York URC

This month's charity – SU Scotland TIF

The Fellowship

The Guild Meeting tonight with Julie as their speaker

AV Team & Praise Band & Teams

Café Connect & Baby & Toddlers.

Our youth groups

BB at Campsie P.C.

Campsie Kirk Session

Foodbank

Kilombero Rice sales & Howard (rice farmer)

Tend Team Afternoon Tea

Care Homes

Re-charge Conference on Saturday

Give thanks for SU Camp & GoMAD

WORLD CONCERNS

Afghanistan Earthquake

Ukraine/Russia ; The Middle East;

Racial Tension/asylum seekers

