

# Philemon Providence

Philemon 15a

# Introduction



- Writer of Paul
- Recipient is Philemon
- Subject is Onesimus



27 Q. What do you understand  
by the providence of God?

A. Providence is

the almighty and ever present power of God  
by which He upholds, as with His hand,

heaven and earth and all creatures,  
and so rules them that

leaf and blade, rain and drought,  
fruitful and lean years, food and drink,  
health and sickness.

prosperity and poverty -

all things, in fact, come to us

not by chance

but from His fatherly hand.

## Key Verse



***15 Perhaps the reason he was separated from you for a little while was that you might have him back for ever –***

**What the word Providence suggests to us is that we open our minds to other possibilities.**

# Providence in the life of Paul



- In **Acts 24**, Paul stood trial before **Felix**, the Governor of Judea.
- *<sup>24</sup> Several days later Felix came with his wife Drusilla, who was Jewish. He sent for Paul and listened to him as he spoke about faith in Christ Jesus.*

# Providence in the life of Paul



- In Acts 25, 26 Paul stood trial before Festus, the new governor of Judea, and King Agrippa and his wife. He managed to give his entire testimony to them. King Agrippa said in the end...
  - <sup>28</sup> *‘Do you think that in such a short time you can persuade me to be a Christian?’*
  - <sup>29</sup> *Paul replied, ‘Short time or long – I pray to God that not only you but all who are listening to me today may become what I am, except for these chains.’*

In Acts 28...



- In Acts 28, Paul preaches in Rome and we read this...
  - *<sup>23</sup> They arranged to meet Paul on a certain day, and came in even larger numbers to the place where he was staying. He witnessed to them from morning till evening, explaining about the kingdom of God, and from the Law of Moses and from the Prophets he tried to persuade them about Jesus. <sup>24</sup> Some were convinced by what he said, but others would not believe.*



Paul urges Philemon to be open to  
the Providence of God.



*15 “Perhaps” the reason he was separated  
from you for a little while was that you  
might have him back for ever –*

# Onesimus and his conversion



- How in the world did Onesimus, the runaway slave meet up with Paul under house arrest in Rome?
- How in the world did their paths converge?
- How in the world did it happen that Paul knew Philemon, Onesimus' master, and was instrumental in his conversion?

Mordecai to Esther



*“And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?”*  
(Esther 4:14b).

# Conclusions



## Romans 8

- ***28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. (Romans 8:28).***

Open to the possibility that God is doing something!

