

## **‘PUTTING YOURSELF IN SOMEONE ELSE’S SHOES’**

(READ) Philemon

Paul's letter to Philemon is unique. It's the only letter he wrote to an individual included in the Bible. He addresses a specific situation between Philemon and Onesimus. Paul's words make it clear that our status as followers of Jesus should change the way we see people.

**Q. WHAT** do it mean to be in someone else's shoes?

**Q. HAVE** you ever wanted to be in someone else's shoes, and if so, **WHY** was that?

**Q. HOW** does our understanding of where someone else is or what someone else is going through, better help us in our approach and with our ability to help them?

**Q. After** reading through Philemon, **WHOSE** shoes would you initially most like to have been in and **WHY** is that?

**(Vs. 1-3)**

**Q. IS** the way we start a letter or conversation important to what we have to say and if so then **WHAT** can we learn from how Paul starts his letter here to Philemon?

**(Vs. 4-7)**

**Q. IF** someone knew us only by reputation, for instance through our Facebook page, would they be likely to say, *“I've heard about your faith in Jesus.”*

**Q. WHAT** blessed Paul most about Philemon and **HOW** might his shoes be the ones to wear to be a blessing to those

**(Vs. 8-22)**

- Q.** Putting yourselves in Onesimus' shoes, **WHY** do you think he ran away?
- Q.** Why would Martin Luther consider (Vs.18) to be the central focus of the book?
- Q.** Putting yourself in Paul's shoes **HOW** is the message of the gospel pictured in what he says to Philemon?
- Q.** Putting yourselves in Philemon's shoes, **WHAT** should be our response to those who have done wrong by us?
- Q.** **IS** the response Paul anticipated (Vs.21) from Philemon the one our Lord might anticipate getting from us?

**(Vs.23-25)**

- Q.** Putting yourselves back in your own shoes, **HOW** might this story be used to encourage your friends and fellow workers to rest in the grace of the Lord for them?

**Shaun**