



**RIVERSIDE**  
CHURCH



# FOCUS **OUT**

**"MORE THAN JUST  
THEORETICAL"**

Mar 17, 2024  
Pastor Tom Lundeen



**MYRC.CHURCH**



## MESSAGE NOTES

# "MORE THAN THEORETICAL"

Pastor Tom Lundeen

Note [Colossians 3:17](#)

...when Jesus is first place in our lives and everything we do or say is for His praise alone, it will have a \_\_\_\_\_ impact on every relationship and personal encounter we have.

Paul wants them back then and us today to understand following Jesus and embracing His truth isn't just about learning facts in a classroom to pass a course, but it's all about seeing and \_\_\_\_\_ how Jesus, by His Spirit and truth, can radically change our lives and transform our relationships.

## 1. It Was More Than Just Theory for \_\_\_\_\_ Personally

Note [Colossians 4:10b-11, 7-9, 12-14](#)

To have Jewish and non-Jewish people not just being civil and polite to each other, but actually regarding them as \_\_\_\_\_ and family members was unheard of in the Roman Empire (note [Colossians 3:11, 15](#)).

And there is a significant \_\_\_\_\_ for Paul, Barnabas, and Mark (note [Acts 13:13; 15:36-40](#)).

Note [Colossians 4:10](#) and [2 Timothy 4:11](#)

Paul \_\_\_\_\_ what he preached (note [Colossians 3:12-15](#)). Genuine spirituality is always evident \_\_\_\_\_ in how we relate to people.

## 2. It Was More Than Just Theory for the \_\_\_\_\_ in Colossae

Note [Colossians 4:7, 9](#)

Onesimus was a \_\_\_\_\_ to a Christian man (Philemon) in the Colossian Church.

Paul's letter to Philemon...tells the story of these 2 individuals and how Jesus transforms individual lives, \_\_\_\_\_, and even cultures.

Note [Philemon 1:4-5, 8-11](#)

Useful = Onesimus

Note [Philemon 1:12-16](#)

Paul powerfully \_\_\_\_\_ the institution of slavery in this short, personal letter:

- He calls Onesimus *his child* (\_\_\_\_\_ of God).
- He has a strong \_\_\_\_\_ with him ([Philemon 1:12](#)).
- It's a whole new relationship ([Philemon 1:15](#)).
- Philemon and Onesimus will now have a brand new, transformed \_\_\_\_\_ ([Philemon 1:16](#)).
- And instead of being \_\_\_\_\_ as a slave, he's now a *beloved brother...in the Lord*.

Note [Philemon 1:17](#)

Paul \_\_\_\_\_ Onesimus' debt, but also reminds Philemon of his debt (spiritual/eternal) to Paul (note [Philemon 1:17-19](#)).

So here in front of the whole Colossian Church stand 2 men, who according to the \_\_\_\_\_ norms of the day, were not close to equal, and one of them could be put to death for what he had done.

But because of who Jesus is and what He's done (note [Colossians 2:13-15](#); [3:11](#)), personal lives and relationships can be totally changed because the forgiveness Jesus provided for them \_\_\_\_\_ into our other relationships (note [Colossians 3:13-15](#); [3:22-4:1](#)).

And sometimes we need the help of another brother/sister to \_\_\_\_\_ this reconciliation and transformation (note [Philemon 1:1b-2](#); [Colossians 4:17](#)).

### **Am I focused OUT?**

- The Scriptures aren't just theory, or one \_\_\_\_\_ out of many.
- God's truth and the Holy Spirit have the \_\_\_\_\_ to change our minds and hearts and transform every relationship we have.

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey! Let us know, too, and fill out our connect card (digital\* or hard copy). \*[MYRC.LINK/CONNECT](#) or text **riverside** to **94000**



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# SG

Your group matters.

## DISCUSSION GUIDE

- Icebreaker -

*What is the most embarrassing thing you have done to try and impress someone?*

1. Read [Colossians 3:11, 15](#). Pastor Tom mentions, "To have Jewish and non-Jewish people not just being civil and polite to each other, but actually regarding them as partners and family members was unheard of in the Roman Empire." How can we actively create genuine partnerships and familial relationships among all Jesus-followers that transcend cultural norms and prejudices?
2. Read [Colossians 3:12-15](#). Pastor Tom said, "Genuine spirituality is always evident most in how we relate to people." When do you find it easier to practice the calling to love and care for others and when is it hardest? How might you move those opposites closer together?
3. Read [Philemon 1:8-16](#). Paul appeals Philemon to change his perspective on Onesimus because he is now a brother in Christ. Who in your life, like Onesimus, betrayed or left you, but now you see God changing his/her heart? How does the change in them affect your relationship? Might it free you to forgive? To reconcile?
4. How does the forgiveness and reconciliation between Philemon and Onesimus illustrate the overflow of Jesus' forgiveness into our personal relationships? What steps can we take to integrate that same kind of forgiveness and reconciliation into our own lifestyle?
5. Who are some individuals you can turn to and trust to help navigate forgiveness and potential reconciliation in times of relationship struggles? If you don't have anyone, take some time to think about who you could ask to help you.

*Day One:* [Luke 24](#); [Psalm 68](#)

*Day Four:* [1 Thessalonians 3](#); [Jeremiah 2](#)

*Day Two:* [Exodus 18](#); [Proverbs 6](#)

*Day Five:* [Job 6](#); [Acts 12](#)

*Day Three:* [Hebrews 3](#); [1 Samuel 19](#)

## PERSONAL GUIDE

*This Personal Guide has been adapted from  
Professor Grant Horner's Bible Reading System.*



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