

Sunday, February 25, 2018
Union Baptist Church, Wilmington
Dr. LaBarron McAdoo, Sr.
3:30 PM. Services
Series: Balance of Your Work, Worship, and Witness
Sermon: Growth Cycles - I'm back but I'm better.

-Are you a hostile witness??

-Philemon 1:10-12 - (KJV) 10 I beseech thee for my son Onesimus, whom I have begotten in my bonds: 11 Which in time past was to thee unprofitable, but now profitable to thee and to me: 12 Whom I have sent again: thou therefore receive him, that is, mine own bowels:

Intro: This passage addresses personal issues but had public implications. He brought it to the attention of the church. Paul could have used his authority and told them what to do but he wanted them to be moved by love and to do what was right to do. Worship - giving Worth to something; basically doing what is pleasing to God and that "doing" is neither "worth it" because of God.

Paul's plea - he makes an appeal out of Love for his son, Onesimus. Onesimus is someone that Paul met but Philemon knew. Prior to meeting Paul and fleeing away from where he was, Onesimus was an employed servant of Philemon. As an employed servant, he didn't do the work that he was to do and took some stuff that didn't belong to him. He stole some stuff and ran from the frying pan into the fire. His name means profitable. While running, he runs into providence. Onesimus is born again in jail. God will use tribulation as a transition. Some folks might not be useable until they go through something. Sometimes, God has taught us through the school of Hard Knocks. He is now suitable for ministry but the problem is not the prison but it is the pew. He desires to reconcile, but there are some folks that have been hurt that don't want to get over it. He couldn't act like he didn't have a past. He had to:

1. Return - He returns voluntarily. He ain't act like those who never left. When you have been broken and brought back, he was ready to praise and serve.

2. Reconcile - He is interested in reconciling. He is not coming to put his new found faith in Philemon's face. He is interested in reconciling the relationship and desires to be profitable and live up to his name.

3. Reward - He rewards with His ministry that is now profitable. When he came back, there was power and program. He was not a slave but a shepherd. He went from being a prisoner to being pastor.