Philemon: Reconciliation in the Kingdom

Background

Key verses (8-9)
Accordingly, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do what is required, yet for love’s sake I prefer to appeal to you.

Outline
1) Paul’s greeting (1-3)
2) Thanksgiving and intercession for Philemon (4-21)
3) Paul's plea for Onesimus (8-22)
   a. Paul’s return of Onesimus (8-16)
   b. Philemon’s reception of Onesimus (17-22)
4) Final remarks (23-25)

Major Themes and Message
- Reconciliation through the power of the cross
- Appealing on the basis of love

Conclusion

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The Sufficient King: Overview of Colossians & Philemon

Introduction
I. Authorship:
II. Date:

Colossians: New Life in Christ

III. Purpose
Attack on the sufficiency of Jesus Christ.

1) Judaising tendencies deny the _________ of Christ’s work (2:16-17)

2) Preoccupation with angelic experiences deny the ________________ of Christ (2:18-19)

3) Asceticism denies the ____________ of Christ. (2:20-23)

The life of the Kingdom is a cross-centered life.

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1 Cf http://www.bible.org/page.php?page_id=1344
**Key verses: 2:6-7**

Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

**Outline**

1) Introduction (1:1-14)
2) Christ is sufficient for attaining new life. (1:15-20)
3) Reconciliation of the Colossians to God (1:21-23)
4) The apostle Paul’s labor for the gospel (1:24-2:3)
5) The worldly alternatives, and their dangers (2:4-23)
6) How to out our new life in Christ (3:1-4:6)
7) Personal notes and final greetings (4:7-18)

**Major Themes**

1. The **source** of their new life
   a. _____ God.
   b. ________ Christ
   c. Through Christ ______
2. The **purpose** of their new life
   a. _____ God
   b. For others
      i. Family
      ii. Colleagues
      iii. Everyone
   c. The need to persevere

**Application:**

What is it in our lives that might replace Christ in terms of how we live the Christian life?

1) Are we always looking to the next spiritual ‘high’
   a. The great sermon
   b. The answered prayer
   c. The new Christian book

All these things are good only as much as they point us back to the gospel and to depend upon Christ.

2) Do we depend upon ourselves or Christ?
   a. How different would your day look if you decided that tomorrow you were going to stop trying to live for Jesus in His strength and start living in your strength?
   b. When things are going well, do we feel good about ourselves, or feel grateful to the Lord?