

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER - CROSS CHURCH OF NORMAN

THE CROSS ROAD

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PERHAPS

There's an often-overlooked word in Paul's letter to Philemon that carries more weight than we might imagine. Writing about Onesimus, a runaway slave turned brother in Christ, Paul says this:

"For perhaps this is why he was separated from you for a while, that you might have him back forever." (Philemon 15)

Perhaps.

Not "certainly." Paul doesn't boast of a vision explaining what God was up to. He looks back at a chain of human decisions and offers some perspective.

Notice the particular wording Paul uses. He says, Onesimus "was separated," not that he ran, even though he likely did. The language leaves room for another option in the story. Onesimus made a choice. And so did God. Contemplating things like this gives me chills and makes me realize how small my mind is compared to God's foresight and knowledge.

Paul isn't giving Philemon an ultimatum. He's modeling a change in perspective so he might slow down enough to ask, "What if this isn't the whole story yet?"

Most of us know what it's like to live inside a chapter that doesn't make sense. We rarely see the "perhaps" while we're living it. Onesimus didn't know that his story would end with a letter urging his master to receive him back "no longer as a slave, but... a beloved brother."

Philemon permits us to ask that same question.

Perhaps this season is shaping something an easier path never could. Perhaps what looks like loss is actually God moving people, including you, toward something you can't see just yet.

While I cannot guarantee to you anything at its end, I will invite you to hold your story with open hands even while certain chapters seem unclear.

Perhaps...



Lead Pastor

LAST WEEK @ CROSS CHURCH:

WEEKLY NEEDS: \$9,986.55

OFFERING: \$10,476.23

DIFFERENCE: +\$489.68

BUILDING FUND: \$286,573.24

ATTENDANCE:

SUNDAY, AUGUST 23RD
289

YOUTH GROUP
30

COMING UP:

FIRST TUESDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP
SEPTEMBER 8TH, 6-8 PM

FIRST FAMILY NIGHT
SEPTEMBER 9TH, 6-8 PM



CROSSCHURCH