

Discussion Question for Response #2 to be posted by 9:00 PM on Thursday, July 31st.

Considering what you have learned from your reading of Bartchy, your reading of Paul's Letter to Philemon, and our classroom discussion, what do you think that Paul was asking Philemon to do about Onesimus? Was Paul asking Philemon to forgive Onesimus for the wrongs that he had committed while allowing Philemon to retain Onesimus as his slave? Was Paul trying to get Philemon to grant Onesimus his freedom? Did Paul's apocalyptic worldview make him too tolerant of the institution of slavery as it existed in his society? Do you think that there is any timeless ethical principle in Paul's letter to Philemon that could be used by a postmodern person (regardless of that person's religious affiliation or lack thereof) when faced with issues of social justice and/or injustice.