

Hello! This is Dorothy -

By any chance, are you running from some thing or perhaps running from some one? The **Book of Philemon**, that little book just before the **Book of Hebrews**, is the most personal of all that the Apostle Paul wrote. It is like a letter. In fact, it is all about a slave called Onesimus.

Now this slave was literally one of millions in the Roman empire. As a slave, Onesimus was by the Roman rule the legal property of a man called Philemon. Onesimus had stolen from his master and ran from the house where there was a church gathered and the Gospel was preached. Interesting, isn't it? There he was, surrounded by an answer for his life even in the most desperate situation in which he found himself, but he ran from it. Perhaps you have done that. Perhaps you have been running from some thing that you know is that the Lord is speaking to you or some one or some place where you know there are those who love you in Christ, but you feel, "I don't want this!" No doubt Onesimus believed that he could hide from his master and also from Christians. So what did he do? He went to Rome. Now Rome was a very large metropolis. Perhaps that is where you are today. Not in Rome, no, but perhaps you have been running and perhaps where

you are, you are hiding.

It makes me think of that **Psalm 139**, where we read -

7 Where could I go from Your Spirit? Or where could I go from Your presence?

8 If I ascend up into heaven, You are there; if I make my bed in Sheol (the place of the dead), behold You are there.

9 If I take the wings of the morning or dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, *that is way out wherever you could imagine -*

10 Even there Your hand shall lead me and Your right hand shall hold me.

11 If I say, Surely the darkness shall cover me and the night shall be [the only] light about me, *-have you ever run to a place of darkness and thought you could hide? - listen to this -*

12 Even the darkness hides nothing from You. . . *-that is from God - . . . but the night shines as the day; the darkness and the light are both alike to You. - speaking of God.*

13 For You *- speaking of God -* did form my inward parts; You did knit me together in my mother's womb. *I love that! In other words, you were uniquely made by God in your mother's womb.*

14 I will confess and praise You. . . *- God - . . .* for You are fearful and wonderful and for the awful wonder of my birth! Wonderful are Your works, and that my inner self knows right well.

15 My frame was not hidden from You when I was being formed in secret [and] intricately and curiously wrought [as if embroidered with various colors] in the depths of the earth [a region of darkness and mystery]. *-This is what God did, dear friend, when He formed you, and you think you are going to hide from Him?*

16 Your eyes saw my unformed substance . . . *-and listen to this - . . . and in your book all the days [of my life] were written before ever they took shape . . . -here you are today, right where you are, whatever you are doing. Did you know this day, this simple ordinary day, is written in God's book all about your life? He knows all about today before it happens. - . . . when as yet there was none of them. Before there were any days, He knew about every one of your days. He knows about tomorrow. Why in the world do you not understand: He is interested in you? It is pretty obvious, isn't it?*

17 How precious and weighty also are your thoughts to me, O God! How vast is the sum of them!

18 If I could count them. . . *- the thoughts of God - . . . they would be more in number than the sand. When I awoke, [could I count to the end] I would still be with You. In other words, whatever you are doing, wherever you are, you could never count to the end of the thoughts of God towards you.*

Getting back to the **Book of Philemon** and this slave — Onesimus

was running away. In the providence of God, Onesimus ran right into the person of God called Paul, the Apostle, who, in turn, pointed him to the Lord Jesus Christ and he became a believer. Could you imagine running from God and running from what you thought was this Christian influence - this thing called the Church, these people who talked about the resurrected Lord Jesus - and you run right into a person in a strange city and there you meet the number one person who could explain it so clearly? He, Paul, had met the risen Lord on the road to Damascus and, in turn, Onesimus gets saved.

Will you turn to Jesus today? Will you receive Him?

In His precious Name. Amen.