

Introduction to Philemon

- Philemon is a **personal** letter from Paul to his friend
- Onesimus was a slave of a believer named Philemon in **Colossae**.
- Apparently Onesimus had **stolen** from Philemon and fled.
- At some time while Paul was under **arrest**, Onesimus met Paul
- Onesimus became a **Christian**
- Paul apparently wrote this letter at the **same** time as Colossians and gave it to Onesimus to **carry** back to Philemon

Colossians 4:9 With Onesimus, a faithful and beloved brother, who is *one* of you. They shall make known unto you all things which *are done* here.

- Paul **appealed** to Philemon to take Onesimus back into his household
- Now as a **brother in the Lord** rather than a slave.
- In Paul's estimation, Onesimus was far more **"useful"** now that he was a Christian.
- Paul even promised to **pay** whatever **debt** Onesimus might owe Philemon.

Author: Apostle Paul

Written: **Onesimus** a servant

The City of Colossae: The city was located about **75-100 miles east of Ephesus** in Asia Minor (modern day **Turkey**).

Key Verses – Philemon 1:10-11

10 I beseech thee for my son **Onesimus(profitable or useful)**, whom I have begotten in my bonds:

11 Which in time past was to thee **unprofitable**, but **now profitable** to thee and to me:

Number of Chapters: **1**

Number of Verses: **25**

The Servant Friend

I. Paul's Presentation (I'm a prisoner like Onesimus is – and so are you) (Philemon 1:1-8)

A. Fellow Laborer (We have worked together) (Philemon 1:1b)

B. Fellow Soldier (We have fought together) (Philemon 1:2)

C. Fellow Prayer (We have Prayed together) (Philemon 1:3-4)

D. Fellow Preacher (We preach together the same message!) (Philemon 1:5)

1. **Faith and Love (Philemon 1:5)(Proper combination)**

2. **Faith Communicator (Philemon 1:6) (Preacher)**

3. **Faith Encourager (Philemon 1:7-8)(Refresher of the brethren)**

7 For we have great joy and consolation(paraklesis - *par-ak'-lay-sis* importation, **supplication, entreaty exhortation, admonition, encouragement, consolation, solace; that which gives comfort or refreshment**) in thy love, because the bowels of the saints are refreshed(to give rest, **refresh**) by thee, brother.

8 Wherefore, though I might be much **bold in Christ** to enjoin thee that which is convenient,

II. Paul's **Plea** (Philemon 1:9-19)

A. For Love's Sake I'm a begging **prisoner** (Philemon 1:9)

9 Yet for love's sake I rather **beseech**(**beg**)*thee*, being such an one as Paul the aged, and now also a **prisoner of Jesus Christ**.

B. For Love's Sake I'm begging you to give a **second chance** (Philemon 1:10-15)

10 I **beseech**(**beg**) thee for my son **Onesimus**(**profitable or useful**), whom I have **begotten in my bonds**:

11 Which in time past was to thee **unprofitable**(**useless**), but now **profitable**(**useful**) to thee and to me:

12 Whom I **have sent** again: thou therefore **receive him**, that is, mine own bowels:

13 **Whom I would have retained with me**, that in thy stead he might have ministered unto me in the bonds of the gospel:

14 But without thy **mind** (**opinion**) would I do nothing; that thy benefit should not be as it were of **necessity**(**force**), but willingly.

15 For perhaps **he therefore departed**(**separated from**) for a season, that thou shouldest **receive him for ever**;

C. For Love's Sake I begging you to **accept** him (Philemon 1:16-19)

1. As a **friend** (Philemon 1:16-17)

2. As without **Debt – Debt Free!** (Philemon 1:18)

3. As one you **owe** (**You owe me!**) (Philemon 1:19)

III. Paul's "**Pat on The back**" (Philemon 1:20-22)

A. **Refreshing** to me (Philemon 1:20)

B. **Responding** to Onesimus (Philemon 1:21)

C. **Returning** to see you! (Philemon 1:22)

IV. Paul's **Postscript** (Philemon 1:23-25)