

Series "Fixed On 66"
"Philemon"
Book-57

Key Passage: Philemon 18

Philemon is the 10th Epistle written by Paul. It was one of the four Epistles written by Paul in his Roman imprisonment. Philemon is the smallest and most personal of all Paul's Letters.

"How do you respond to a person who wrongs you and truly repents?"

The Author: The Apostle Paul **Philemon 1 Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus,** Though his name only appears three times, first person pronouns are used 33 times.

When Written: Probably written in late 61 AD, or early 62 AD.

Where it was Written: The Apostle Paul, in a Roman prison cell where he was a prisoner for the sake of the Gospel. The **"Prison Epistles"** are **Colossians, Philippians, Ephesians** and the book **Philemon.**

Carried By Tychicus - Colossians 4:7-9

Written To: Philemon. In **Philemon 1 Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, To Philemon our beloved brother and fellow worker,**

From this Letter we learn that Philemon was:

1. A dearly beloved fellow laborer (1:1).
2. the owner of a house where the Church met, and was probably their pastor (1:2).
3. known for his love and faith toward Christ and the saints (1:5).
4. the owner of a slave named Onesimus (1:10, 16).

Background: This letter was destined for the Colossians or a nearby town.

1. Onesimus, a run-a-way slave, leaves his master, Philemon.
2. He runs to Rome to hide.
3. God's providence meets Paul and he becomes a Christian.
4. Paul just happens to know Philemon and had led him to the Lord.
5. Paul now writes this letter and appeals to Philemon to forgive and take back Onesimus - as a brother.
6. Onesimus - possibly stole from Philemon - Paul said, "Charge it to my account."

Purpose:

1. To plead with Philemon to receive Onesimus as a brother, not a slave (1:16).
2. To promise to repay anything owed by Onesimus (1:19).

3. To request Philemon to prepare a place for him to lodge (1:22).

Theme: "Equality" or "Christian Forgiveness"

Key Words: Brother – 9 times, Jesus Christ – 7 times, in Christ – 5 times.

Key Chapter: ?

Key Passage: Philemon 18

Outline:

1. Verses 1-7 A Prisoner Thanks God
2. Verses 8-17 A Prisoner Appeals
3. Verses 18-25 A Prisoner Guarantees A Debt

1. Verses 1-7 A Prisoner Thanks God

Verses 1-3 The Prologue: Philemon 1 Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus,

Paul had joy in spite of people and circumstances. He knew that he was in the will of God.

Philemon - means "*affectionate, one who is kind.*"

our beloved brother and fellow worker, - So Philemon was a brother in the Lord and a worker in the Kingdom of God!

Matthew 9:37-38

Philemon 2 and to Apphia our sister, - possibly the wife of Philemon.

and to Archippus our fellow soldier, "*service, master of the horse.*"

Some say this was Philemon's son - that ministered in the church -

Colossians 4:17 Say to Archippus, "Take heed to the ministry which you have received in the Lord, that you may fulfill it."

and to the church in your house: This was very common in the first century, to have churches in the home. It is still today in many parts of the world. **Romans 16:5; 1 Corinthians 16:19, Colossians 4:15**

Philemon 3 Grace to you and peace - Grace is always first before there can be peace.

from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. This is the source of grace and peace.

Verses 4-7 The Praise: Philemon 4 I thank my God always, making mention of you in my prayers,

Paul was ever giving thanks to the Lord for Philemon. Paul's focus was not upon himself, but on others.

Philemon 5 because I hear of your love, and of the faith - The love is the byproduct of our faith and relationship with God.

I hear of your love, and faith 1 Corinthians 13. The chapter of love which describes the actions of love. Not emotion but motion!

Romans 5:5

toward the Lord Jesus, and toward all the saints; 1 John 3:14

"Do you have to go to church in order to be a Christian?" The answer is no! But the next question is, "What is a Christian?"

Philemon 6 Fellowship – *"association, community, communion, joint participation."* Our association is that of Jesus Christ. **of your faith** - It is our faith in Jesus Christ that makes us unified.

may become effective through the knowledge of every good thing which is in you for Christ's sake.

This is why studying the Scriptures is important; to find what Jesus has done for us and to seek out what gifts and abilities God has given to us to serve Him.

Philemon 7 For I have come to have much joy and comfort in your love, - This brother was one that brought joy and comfort from his love for God.

refreshed *"to cause or permit one to cease from any movement or labor in order to recover and collect his strength"*

2. Verses 8-17 A Prisoner Appeals

Philemon 8 Therefore, - Philemon has been modeling love and faith and been a great source of blessing to Paul and the other believers.

5 Point Appeal from Paul:

- 1. Verse 8 Paul Appeals From Philemon's Reputation:** He was a man who brought blessing to others. The word **Therefore** carries the meaning of *"accordingly."*

though I have enough confidence in Christ to order you to do that which is proper,

Philemon 9 yet for love's sake I rather appeal to you—

- 2. Verse 9 Paul Appeals From Christian Love: yet for love's sake I rather appeal to you—** This is the highest motivation for obedience.
- Obedience to get a reward
 - Obedience so not to be punished
 - Obedience because of love

Voluntary sacrifice and service, motivated by love, is what the Lord wants from His children.

since I am such a person as Paul, the aged, and now also a prisoner of Christ Jesus— Paul now refers to himself as an aged servant of God and a prisoner of Jesus Christ.

Philemon 10 I appeal to you for my child Onesimus, whom I have begotten in my imprisonment,

- 3. Verse 10 Paul Appeals Because of The Conversion of Onesimus: I appeal to you for my child Onesimus, whom I have begotten in my imprisonment,** Paul is speaking on behalf of a new convert of his.

Onesimus - "profitable or useful."

Onesimus was no longer "just a slave," he was now Paul's son/child in the faith and Philemon's Christian brother! **Galatians 3:28**

- 4. Verses 11-14 Paul Appeals Because Onesimus Was Valuable To Paul In His Ministry:**
Philemon 11 who formerly was useless to you,

There is a play on words here in the Greek, for the name **Onesimus** means "*useful.*" **who formerly was useless to you,**

In the first century an ordinary slave would cost about 500 denarii, equivalent to some 500 days' pay for a common laborer.

but now is useful both to you and to me. Paul loved Onesimus and would have kept him in Rome as a fellow worker, but he did not want to tell Philemon what to do.

Philemon 12 sending my very heart, Paul shares the great love that he has for this man Onesimus. **Romans 5:5**

Philemon 13 whom I wished to keep with me, - Onesimus was useful to Paul for the gospel.

Philemon 14 but without your consent I did not want to do anything, - **We can sometimes take advantage of people when we presume on their generosity or presume on their love.**

Philemon 15 that you would have him back forever,

5. Verses 15-16 Paul Appeals From the Providence of God:

Providence - *"God's caring provision for his people as he guides them in their journey of faith through life, accomplishing his purpose in them."*

Philemon 16 no longer as a slave, but more than a slave, a beloved brother,

Onesimus left for Rome as a slave, but he would return Saint/Brother.

Philemon 17 If then you regard me a partner, accept him as you would me.

3. Verses 18-25 A Prisoner Guarantees A Debt

Verses 18-19 The Promise: Philemon 18 owes you anything, charge that to my account;

Philemon 19 I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand, I will repay it - Paul was writing a promissory note to Philemon.

(you that you owe to me even your own self as well). Somehow, Paul had saved the neck of Philemon, and the sacrifice he made was his very life.

Verses 20-21 The Presumption: Philemon 20 refresh my heart in Christ. Paul had said that Philemon was one who through love, refreshed. **Philemon 7**

Philemon 21 Having confidence in your obedience, Paul knew that Philemon would forgive Onesimus for his sin.

- a. **Confession** – Agree, admit you are guilty of anger & bitterness (1 John 1:9 - If we confess.)
- b. **Repentance** - turn from your sin - Confession never replaces repentance.

c. **Commitment** - or promise to forgive - three parts.

Jeremiah 31:34

Commit ourselves to remember no more the offense - Not forget – forgetting is passive.

Remember No More - Active - takes discipline

1. Not dwell upon the offense
2. Not bring it back up to the person
3. Not bring it up to others

Ephesians 4:30-32

1 Corinthians 5 Man committing incest, Later **2 Cor. 2**, The man repents.

Verse 22 The Plan: Philemon 22 By the way I hope to be getting out soon so please have a place for me.

Verses 23-25 The Partners: Philemon 23-24

as do Mark - John Mark (Acts 15:36-41) - blowup (**Acts 13:13** - deserted them).

Aristarchus - Act 19:29; 27:2 - Companion of Paul.

Demas - Colossians 4:14; 2 Timothy 4:10 .

Luke, my fellow workers - Luke - Doctor, wrote the Gospel of Luke & Acts.

Philemon 25 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

Application:

1. Forgiveness Is The Key That Unlocks The Door Of Resentment And The Handcuffs Of Hate. It Is A Power That Breaks The Chains Of Bitterness And The Shackles Of Selfishness.
2. Voluntary Sacrifice And Service, Motivated By Love, Is What The Lord Wants From His Children.
3. Paul Appeals To Philemon Through The Providence Of God. God's Providence Is "God's Caring Provision For His People As He Guides Them In Their Journey Of Faith Through Life, Accomplishing His Purpose In Them."