

Presence Theater Church
Bible Survey
Paul's Epistle to Philemon

Paul writes this short letter to Philemon to request gentle treatment and forgiveness of a runaway slave, _____.

Who wrote it? _____ is the writer of this epistle (1:1). Philemon is one of Paul's _____ "Prison Epistles". The other three are Ephesians, Philippians, and Colossians.

Date of writing and Surrounding Circumstances: _____

- This letter to Philemon was written by Paul sometime during his imprisonment in _____.
- Philemon was a wealthy Christian and church leader in _____. Onesimus, his former slave, had run away and possibly stolen money from him.

Key Term: _____: When master and slave are both _____, they are brothers, and therefore essentially _____. If Christian brotherhood extends this far, then it covers all relationships among the people of God.

Location of Events: Paul wrote to Philemon from a Roman prison. Philemon's home served as one of the meeting places for the _____ in Colossae.

Book Outline:

- I. _____ of Thanksgiving for Philemon (1-7)
- II. _____ of Paul for Onesimus (8-16)
- III. _____ of Paul to Philemon (17-25)

Summary in one sentence: Everyone who has _____ of sin and come to Christ should be welcomed as a brother or sister, treated gently, and _____ by other believers.

Summary in ten words or less: _____

Cast of Characters: *Paul* – a prisoner making an _____ for a brother; *Philemon* – well respected in Colossae; hosts a church in his home; *Onesimus*– an escaped _____; became Paul’s brother in faith; *Epaphras* – a fellow prisoner in Jesus; *Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, Luke* – Paul’s fellow _____

Verse to Remember: “*And I pray that the fellowship of your _____ may become effective through the knowledge of every _____ thing which is in you for Christ’s sake.*” (Philemon 1:6)

- Interesting Facts:**
1. Philemon is Paul’s shortest letter. It is also one of four letters addressed to an individual. The other three are 1 and 2 Timothy, and Titus.
 2. According to Roman law, a runaway slave could be severely punished, and even put to death.
 3. Paul sent Tychicus, along with Onesimus, to deliver his letter to Philemon. (Col. 4:7-9)

What is my take away? Christians are called to forgive others as Christ forgives us. Jesus said to “*do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you*” (Matt. 5:44).