

# **A Study of the Epistles of Paul**

## **NT Survey Lesson 103--Philemon**

**Introduction:** This short letter by Paul concerns a slave by the name of Onesimus of whom Philemon had been the master. Onesimus, it seems, was converted to Christ in Rome by Paul. Now Paul urges Philemon to forgive him of any wrongs and then to give Onesimus up as his slave, if he so wishes, in order that he might help Paul in the work of preaching the gospel.

**Lesson aim:** To teach the need to forgive those who wrong us and to share thankfully with those who work to save our souls.

### **Paul expresses thanks for Philemon's liberality--Phile. 1:1-7**

1. From whom is this letter to Philemon? How is Philemon described?
2. To whom else was the greeting of the letter sent? (Probably, they were Philemon's wife and son, and the Christians who met with him for worship).
3. What is Paul's greeting in verse 3?
4. About what two features of Philemon had Paul heard? (v. 5)
5. What had Philemon's faith caused him to do to the saints? (v. 6-7) How had Paul benefited from hearing of this? (v. 7)

### **Paul makes requests of Philemon--Phile. 1:8-20**

- 1.1. Could Paul as an apostle have commanded or ordered Philemon to comply with his requests? Did he?
2. Paul appealed to Philemon as Paul, the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ Jesus.

3. What is the name of Philemon's slave (v. 10)? Why does Paul call Onesimus "my child"? (Does this mean Paul was Onesimus' father physically or spiritually?)
4. What did Paul hope that Philemon would do with Onesimus? (v. 12-13).
5. How did Paul view Onesimus (v. 16)? How did Paul want Philemon to view his slave?
6. Did Paul think it was possible that Onesimus had been parted from Philemon in order that he might have him back forever? Do you think God might have had a hand in this?
7. What did Paul offer to do concerning any wrong committed or money owed by Onesimus?
8. What did Paul say Philemon owed him? Did Paul hope that this would encourage Philemon to return Onesimus to him for service in the gospel?
9. Do you think Paul's request of Philemon was right or fair? Why or why not?

### **Closing plans and greetings--Phile. 1:21-25**

1. Did Paul expect Philemon to accept his request?
2. Did Paul plan to stay with Philemon when he returned to Colossae?
3. Who was with Paul at this time?