

Philemon

Forgiveness, Friendship & Freedom

Philemon 1:1-3

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Philemon

57th book in the Bible, Chapters: 1 Verses: 25 Words: 445

- 2x Paul mentions that he is a prisoner of Jesus Christ. Vs. 1 .9.
 - There are 3 other "prison epistles"
 - Ephesians,
 - Philippians
 - Colossians
- Paul mentions his own name three times in this his shortest epistle (1,9,19).
- This is the only book Philemon is mentioned in.
 - He was a believer
- This book is addressed to:
 - Philemon
 - the church in his house, and
 - Apphia and Archippus.
- Colossians 4:7-9 teaches us that Philemon lived in Colossae.
- Philemon was written:
 - 61 to 62 AC
 - Written around the same time as Colossians,
 - Written from Rome
 - Tychicus delivered the letter, Onesimus was with him.
- This Epistle has often been called a "private" epistle of the apostle.
 - Onesimus was Philemon's run away slave.
 - On the run Onesimus was arrested and imprisoned with apostle Paul in Rome.
 - While in prison, Paul leads Onesimus to Christ. This is why Paul calls Onesimus "my son" in verse 10.
 - Paul is trying o to help Onesimus to make thigs right with Philemon.
 - Paul does not question Philemon's authority over Onesimus
- In the Epistle Paul does not write on:
 - Doctrine
 - Paul's Apostleship
 - Onesimus' release
 - Slavery was a social and governmental part of their society.
 - A slave was the sole property of the owner to do with as he pleased.
 - Slavery is a consequence of the fall of man and not what God intended for humanity.
- Gen 3:
 - Slave to Sin
 - Slave to the Ground
 - Slave to death
 - Slave to each other
- Onesimus name means "profitable".
 - Onesimus did dishonor to his name when he ran away and may have stolen something as well.
 - Onesimus now as not only profitable to Philemon, but Paul also, and most of all God.

Greeting

Phm 1:1 Paul, a prisoner of Jesus Christ, and Timothy our brother, unto Philemon our dearly beloved, and fellow labourer,

- a prisoner of Jesus Christ - A prisoner at Rome in the cause of Jesus Christ; Ephesians 3:1¹
- Timothy, it seems, had come at Paul's request;²
- fellow labourer, - It means a co-worker, or helper, and doubtless here means that he was a helper or fellow-worker in the great cause to which Paul had devoted his life,²

Phm 1:2 And to our beloved Apphia, and Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in thy house:

- Apphia –; probably Philemon's wife
- Archippus - probably Philemon's son.²
- The house church that they were a part of.

Phm 1:3 Grace to you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

- by "grace" it means an increase of grace, as to its degrees, acts, and exercise; every grace is imperfect in this respect, and those who have the most stand in need of more; there is such a thing as growing in grace, which is very desirable, and may be expected from God, who is able to make all grace to abound, and has promised to give more:
- by "peace" is meant, peace with God through Christ; peace in their own consciences, and with one another;

¹ Barnes, Albert. "Commentary on Philemon 1:1". "Barnes' Notes on the Whole Bible". 1870.

² Exell, Joseph S. "Commentary on "Philemon 1:2". The Biblical Illustrator. 1905-1909. New York.