

# PHILEMON

## *A Study in Christian Relationships*



*In the case of*  
Theft  
Luke 19:8

### **Onesimus: A Story of Repentance** *~a runaway slave who returned from Rome to make things right*

- The Definition of Repentance: 2 Corinthians 7:10
- The Necessity of Repentance: Acts 2:38, Luke 13:3, Acts 17:30
- What Does Repentance Look Like?

*In the case of*  
Gossip  
Ephesians 4:25-27

*In the case of*  
Unscriptural Marriage  
Matthew 19:9

### **Philemon: A Story of Forgiveness**

*~a slave owner who needed to welcome home a brother in Christ*

- The Definition of Forgiveness: Isaiah 1:18
- The Necessity of Forgiveness: Matthew 18:21-35, Matthew 6:14-15
- What Does Forgiveness Look Like?

*In the case of*  
Paul and Barnabas  
Acts 15:36-40  
Col 4:10, 2 Tim 2:11

*In the case of*  
Joseph  
Genesis 50:15, 18-21

*In the case of*  
God and Me  
Romans 5:8

### **Paul: A Story of Intervention**

*~a friend who saw the need to help two brothers grow*

- The Definition of Intervention, Ephesians 4:3
- The Necessity of Intervention, Galatians 6:1-2, James 5:19-20
- What Does Intervention Look Like?

*In the case of*  
Paul and Barnabas  
Acts 9:26-28

*In the case of*  
A Sincere Worshipper  
Matthew 5:23-24

*In the case of*  
God and Man  
Isaiah 53:5



## Philemon 1 (English Standard Version)

### Greeting

<sup>1</sup>Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,

To Philemon our beloved fellow worker <sup>2</sup>and Apphia our sister and Archippus our fellow soldier, and the church in your house:

<sup>3</sup> Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

### Philemon's Love and Faith

<sup>4</sup> I thank my God always when I remember you in my prayers, <sup>5</sup>because I hear of your love and of the faith that you have toward the Lord Jesus and for all the saints, <sup>6</sup>and I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective for the full knowledge of every good thing that is in us for the sake of Christ.<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>7</sup>For I have derived much joy and comfort from your love, my brother, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you.

### Paul's Plea for Onesimus

<sup>8</sup>Accordingly, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do what is required, <sup>9</sup>yet for love's sake I prefer to appeal to you—I, Paul, an old man and now a prisoner also for Christ Jesus— <sup>10</sup>I appeal to you for my child, Onesimus,<sup>[b]</sup> whose father I became in my imprisonment. <sup>11</sup>(Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me.) <sup>12</sup>I am sending him back to you, sending my very heart. <sup>13</sup>I would have been glad to keep him with me, in order that he might serve me on your behalf during my imprisonment for the gospel, <sup>14</sup>but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your goodness might not be by compulsion but of your own accord. <sup>15</sup>For this perhaps is why he was parted from you for a while, that you might have him back forever, <sup>16</sup> no longer as a slave<sup>[c]</sup> but more than a slave, as a beloved brother—especially to me, but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

<sup>17</sup>So if you consider me your partner, receive him as you would receive me. <sup>18</sup>If he has wronged you at all, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. <sup>19</sup> I, Paul, write this with my own hand: I will repay it—to say nothing of your owing me even your own self. <sup>20</sup>Yes, brother, I want some benefit from you in the Lord. Refresh my heart in Christ.

<sup>21</sup> Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say. <sup>22</sup>At the same time, prepare a guest room for me, for I am hoping that through your prayers I will be graciously given to you.

### Final Greetings

<sup>23</sup> Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, sends greetings to you, <sup>24</sup>and so do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke, my fellow workers.

<sup>25</sup> The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

### Footnotes:

- a. Philemon 1:6 Or *for Christ's service*
- b. Philemon 1:10 *Onesimus* means *useful* (see verse 11) or *beneficial* (see verse 20)
- c. Philemon 1:16 Greek *bondservant*; twice in this verse