

PHILEMON: A FAITHFUL CHRISTIAN MAN
Philemon 1 – 7

Introduction:

A. Prior to his conversion, and return to Philemon, Onesimus was a runaway slave. He escaped from Philemon's authority to avoid punishment for stealing goods from Philemon (Philemon 18-19). Paul sent Onesimus back to Philemon with a letter urging Philemon to forgive Onesimus and treat him as a fellow Brother in Christ. Paul urged Philemon to treat Onesimus as if he were Paul himself – with love and kindness (Philemon 16-17).

I. The Commitment of Philemon (vv. 1-2)

A. **Philemon was so committed to Christ that he was counted as “dearly beloved”** (v. 1)

B. **Philemon was so committed to Christ that he was counted as a Labourer (worker for Christ)** (v. 1)

C. **Philemon was so committed to Christ that he supported his family in the work of Christ** (v. 2)

D. **Philemon was so committed to Christ that he opened his home to the church** (v. 2)

II. The Basic Need of Philemon (v. 3)

A. **He Needed Grace** – the flavor and blessings of God. The undeserved and unmerited favor and blessings of God.

B. **He Needed Peace** – peace of mind, undisturbed, quietness

III. The Testimony of Philemon (vv. 4-5)

A. **Paul prayed for Philemon – “Always” because of his great Christian testimony** (v. 4)

B. **Paul's description of Philemon's great Testimony**

IV. The Need of Prayer for Philemon (v. 6)

A. The sharing of your faith – “The communication of thy faith” (v. 6a)

B. What are the good things? – The fruit of the Spirit

V. The Love of Philemon (v. 7)

A. Philemon was a Christian man who loved everyone and proved it by helping others.

B. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once stated, “Life's most persistent and urgent question is: What are you doing for others?”

Conclusion:

A. Be committed to Christ – Thank God for His grace and peace – Maintain a Christian Testimony – Pray for yourself and others – Share your faith in God and love others as Christ loves you.

B. Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive

"Forgive our sins as we forgive," you taught us, Lord, to pray;
but you alone can grant us grace to live the words we say.

C. Romans Road (Rom 3:10, 23; 5:8; 10:9, 13)

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“... the word of our God shall stand for ever” (Isa 40:8).