

# Philemon



# Background

- One of the “Prison Epistles.”
- Written from Roman house arrest.
- Paul’s shortest and most personal letter.

# Philemon



# Main Characters

- Paul: author and prisoner
- Philemon: Christian, slave owner
- Onesimus: runaway slave, Christian


# Philemon



# 1-3

- Greetings from Paul and Timothy.
- Addressed to Philemon.
- Apphia is thought to be Philemon's wife.
- Archippus is thought to be the son.
- Archippus is an evangelist. Col. 4:17

# Philemon

A vertical wooden post on the left side of the image. A metal chain is attached to the top of the post, leading to a large metal shackle that hangs down. The background is a plain, light color.

4-7


- **Paul gives thanks for the love and faith of Philemon.**
- **Philemon is an active Christian.**

**Philemon**

# 8-16

- Paul makes his request.
- Notice how he makes the request.
- Paul likely converted Onesimus (10).
- Notice the word play in 11 (Onesimus= useful).
- Receive him back, as my own heart.
- Paul does not want to obligate Philemon.

## Philemon



17-21

- **Receive Onesimus as you would me.**
  - **Paul, the good Samaritan?**
- **Paul appears to have converted Philemon.**
- **Paul is confident in Philemon.**


**Philemon**



22

- **Another reason to believe that Philemon is wealthy.**
- **Likely near the end of the 2-year imprisonment.**

**Philemon**

A vertical wooden post on the left side of the image. A metal chain is attached to the top of the post, leading down to a wooden collar or shackle. The background is a plain, light color.

# 23-25

- Paul's farewell.
- John Mark is present!
- Demas is, at this time, present, too!

# Philemon

A vertical wooden post on the left side of the image. A metal chain is attached to the top of the post, and a leather strap with a metal buckle is hanging from it. The background is a plain, light color.

# Lessons

- 1. Forgiveness is required.**
- 2. God is active.**
- 3. Paul did what Christ does.**

# Philemon