

SRMBC FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

Online Only Via Facebook Live Wednesdays @ 6:30 pm



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Bible Study Schedule Oct – Nov 2021

Date	Study Title	Scriptures
10/13/2021	Built To Last	Eph. 2:11 – 22
10/20 /2021	Everyone's Involved	I Cor. 12
10/27/2021	Everyone's Invited	Philemon
11/3/2021	Community Commissioned	Luke 10:1 – 20
11/10/2021	And They'll Will Know We Are Christians	John 13:1 – 17; 34 – 35
11/17/2021	We Gather	Psalms 100
11/24/2021	Thanksgiving Break	No Study



2

This Week's Lesson – October 27, 2021

Christian Community: Being, Knowing, Doing

Lesson 2:

Everyone's Invited

Philemon



3

Introduction To Paul's Letter To Philemon

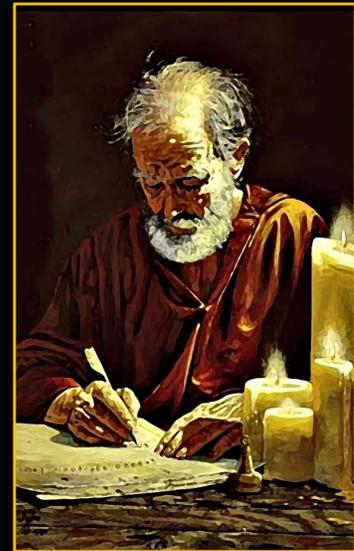
Author: The Apostle Paul (Philemon 1:1).

Date of Writing: Approximately A. D. 60.

Purpose of Writing: Onesimus now Christian (v. 10) Paul wrote to request Philemon to accept him as a brother in Christ - not just as a slave.

Practical Application:

- Only after exposure to the light of the gospel could the institution of slavery die.
- Employers and leaders and parents should treat those working for and with them as members of Christ's Body.
- God holds Christian leaders accountable for the treatment of those who work for them.



The Apostle Paul



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Overview: Philemon, Onesimus & Paul



**Onesimus Steals And Runs
Away From His Master
Philemon**



**Onesimus meets Paul and
gets converted to Faith In
Christ.**



**Paul Sends Onesimus Back To
Philemon For Reconciliation.**

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Read Philemon

6

1. What does Paul hope to accomplish by writing this letter?

Points To Ponder:

- Paul urges Philemon to have mercy, to accept Onesimus as a Christian brother and very likely to free him.
- He uses doctrine to change the master-slave relationship urging masters to treat their slaves kindly.
- To demonstrate that master and slave have equal access to Christ (1 Cor 2:13; see also Gal 3:28 and Col 3:11).

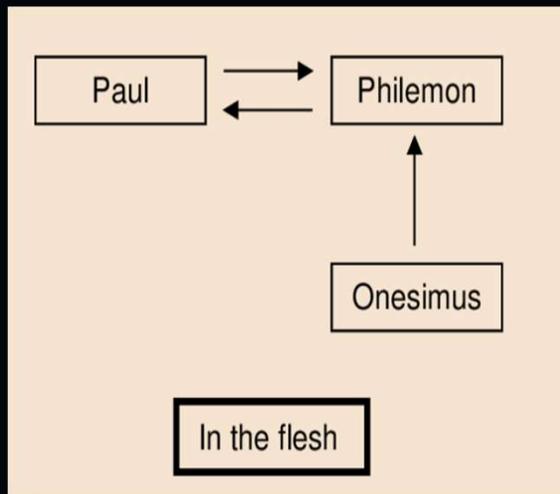
“There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.” Gal. 3:28 (NKJV)



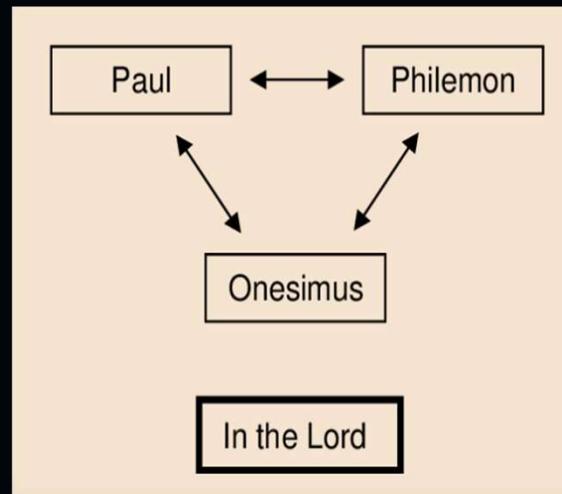
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1. What does Paul hope to accomplish by writing this letter?

Before Christ



After Christ



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2. How does Paul encourage his readers (vv. 1-7)?

- **His Personal Situation:** In prison for Christ, Paul is not asking Philemon to do anything he is not doing.
- **His Spiritual Companions:** He groups Philemon with himself and other Christian leaders as one family in Christ.
- **His Prayerful Intercession:** He lets them know He is thankful to them and is praying for God's best toward them.
- **His Affection/Appreciation:** He shows Christian love and recognizes good things Philemon and the church have done.

"...encourage one another daily, as long as it is called "Today," so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness" Heb. 3:13 (NIV)



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3. What appeal does he then make to them (vv. 8-11)?

- **Right Motivation:** Rather than obedience to Paul's apostolic authority, he appeals on the basis of Christian Love to receive Onesimus.
- **Pastoral Reputation:** On the basis of his maturity and personal service in the Lord to accept his request to receive Onesimus.
- **Spiritual Attestation:** Based on his personal witness of Onesimus's conversion to Christ and the change in his life.

Note: After Paul's conversion Barnabas appealed to the Jewish believers to accept him – despite his past persecution of Christians (Acts 9:26-27)



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4. Onesimus's name means "useful." How does Paul play on this name in verse 11?

- **Diffuse Confrontation:** Dealing with a sensitive—and volatile—situation, he uses the play on names to minimize potential conflict.
- **Direct The Conversation:** Paul uses the slave's name to subtly make the point that in God's scheme, no one should be thrown away.
- **Discover The Benefit:** He also uses the play on Onesimus to help Philemon see the great benefit in receiving him as a Christian brother.



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5. What changes are implied in Onesimus's life (vv. 10-12)?

- **Change In Position:** Onesimus is in the family of God – Christ as His heavenly Father, Paul as his spiritual father.
- **Change In Profession:** Onesimus confessed faith in Christ, repenting of His sinful lifestyle and living as new person Him.
- **Change in Possession:** He now truly owned by Jesus, who also owns Paul, Philemon, and every other believer.

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new." II Cor. 5:17 (NKJV)



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6. Despite the changes, why was Onesimus an unlikely candidate for full acceptance into the church?

- **Social Challenges:** The social gap between Onesimus (Slave) and Philemon (Owner) is enormous.
- **Scriptural Challenges:** Onesimus committed crimes against the household and the Church (v. 2) – Scripture requires some type of discipline.
- **Spiritual Challenges:** Onesimus is not the only one who needs to change. Philemon and his household must also rethink their values and their social attitudes.

But if anyone has caused grief, ...you ought rather to forgive and comfort him, lest perhaps such a one be swallowed up with too much sorrow. II Cor. 2:5 – 7 (NKJV)



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7. How does Paul build a case for reconciliation in verses 12 – 22?

- **Credibility:** He gives credibility to Onesimus' conversion as several times he affirms his affection for the slave.
- **Confidence:** He confidently says that he can count on Philemon to do the right thing of his own accord, with no coercion.
- **Compassion:** Paul is wrote this letter personally and hoping to make a personal to view the compassion for himself.

Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. II Cor 5:20 (NKJV)



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8. How can you stand up for those whom your church might overlook or even reject?

Note: "Acceptance" does not equal "membership." People may be on the membership list but in more subtle ways are not accepted.

- **Reflect On Our Conversion:** Remembering how we were accepted in Christ will help us to stand up of others.
- **Engage Members In The Mission:** Empathize the importance of inclusion to the Church's Mission.
- **Get To Know People Personally:** Intentionally get to know an overlooked person's story – without judging.



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Keys For Living

- The church ought to be a place where everyone, regardless of their past or condition, can find healing, acceptance, and forgiveness.
- As we reflect on how God has redeemed and forgiven us, we ought to be motivated to invite others who need the same.
- Jesus has the ability to change and redeem anyone and make them useful for His service and the service of others.



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**“There is neither Jew nor Greek,
there is neither bond nor free, there is
neither male nor female: for ye are all
one in Christ Jesus.”**

Galatians 3:28 (KJV)

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