

FIVE STEPS INTO THE BIBLE

Who Wrote it?

Who Received it?

Why was it Written?

Any Compliments?

Any Warnings

JOURNEY #2 - Philemon

WHO WROTE THE LETTER TO PHILEMON?

Philemon 1:1 From Paul, a prisoner of Jesus Christ, and Timothy our brother

Philemon 1:19 I, Paul, am writing with my own hand.

1. ___Yes ___No Do you have any doubt that Paul wrote this letter?
2. Where was Paul when he wrote this letter to Philemon? _____

WHO RECEIVED THE LETTER?

Philemon 1:2 To Philemon our beloved friend and fellow laborer, to the beloved Apphia, Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house.

3. Who is addressed in this letter?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. _____
- } This is probably Philemon's family.

A Few Thoughts:

- This church is held in Philemon's home (in Colosse).
- Apphia could be Philemon's wife; Archippus could be Philemon's son.
- Some think that Archippus was serving as the pastor of the Colossian church.
- It is assumed that since the Colossian church and the Laodicean church were only 12 miles apart, that the letter to the Colossians would have been shared with the Laodiceans.
- The letter to Philemon is more personal and was not necessarily shared.

WHY DID PAUL WRITE THIS LETTER TO PHILEMON?

Philemon 1:10 I appeal to you for my son Onesimus, whom I have begotten while in my chains, who once was unprofitable to you, but now is profitable to you and to me.

Philemon 1:12 I am sending him (Onesimus) back to you. You therefore receive him.

1. A slave (servant) belonging to Philemon stole some items and then ran away. Why did Paul write this letter? _____
2. Obviously, sending Onesimus back would benefit three people.
 - a. How would it benefit Philemon? _____

 - b. How would it benefit Onesimus? _____

c. How would it benefit Paul? _____

3. What words in verse 10 indicate that Paul probably led Onesimus to Christ right there in his jail cell? _____
4. What word indicates that Onesimus was not a godly man before his conversion? _____
5. What word indicates that Onesimus' life changed after meeting Paul in the jail? _____
6. Yes No Is it possible that before Philemon received this letter, he might have been angry at Onesimus?
7. What words in verse 12 indicate that Philemon might have needed some encouragement to forgive Onesimus? _____

A Few Thoughts:

- *Don't judge Philemon; you know how hard it is to forgive sometimes.*
 - *A master expects a servant to be honest & obedient & faithful; Onesimus was not here.*
 - *A servant who runs away is an embarrassment to the master (owner).*
 - *This is serious; a servant who runs away is subject to the death penalty when caught.*
 - *To make things worse, Onesimus needed money to travel; he probably stole from Philemon.*
8. Remember the last time you had to forgive someone? Describe how that went.

9. Yes No Did you think, "This person does not deserve my forgiveness".
10. Yes No By the way, did you deserve it when Christ forgave you?

11. How far did Onesimus travel to get where Paul was in jail? _____

12. How did he get there?

Yes No By land?

Yes No By sea?

Yes No By air?



13. Yes No Since Paul & Philemon were good friends, Onesimus may have heard about Paul from his master. Is that possible?
14. Yes No Onesimus may have regretted his actions of stealing and then running away from Philemon. Is that possible?
15. Yes No Could Onesimus, now a fugitive and in danger of death, thought that Paul was his only hope, so he deliberately went to Rome?
16. Yes No However Paul & Onesimus hooked up, it had to be a "God-thing". *Paul was under house arrest in Rome; Onesimus was desperately hoping not to get caught. (How did they end up in the same jail?)*

YOU TALK ABOUT THE LOVE OF GOD; HE WOULD DO ANYTHING TO GIVE YOU SALVATION.

DID PAUL COMPLIMENT THE PEOPLE IN THIS LETTER?

17. How did he compliment Philemon in:
- a. Verse 5 _____
 - b. Verse 7 _____
 - c. Verse 11 _____
18. Can the Lord compliment you on these same things?
- a. ___Yes ___No Is verse 5 true in your life?
 - b. ___Yes ___No Is verse 7 true in your life?
 - c. ___Yes ___No Is verse 11 true in your life?
19. Explain how you need improvement here. _____
- _____
- _____

DID PAUL WARN THE PEOPLE IN THIS LETTER?

Any warnings from Paul to Philemon are not that obvious; let's read between the lines.

Philemon 6	<i>That your sharing of your faith may become effective ...</i>
Philemon 8	<i>Therefore, though I might be bold in Christ to command you what is fitting .. I rather appeal...</i>
Philemon 11	<i>...who once was unprofitable to you, but now is profitable</i>
Philemon 14	<i>But without your consent I wanted to do nothing, that you good deed might be .. voluntary.</i>
Philemon 15	<i>For perhaps Onesimus departed for a while that you might receive him as a brother ...</i>
Philemon 20	<i>Yes, brother, let me have joy from you in the Lord;</i>
Philemon 22	<i>..for I trust that through your prayers, I will be still be granted (welcome) in your home.</i>

20. Sometimes, we feel as Christians that our personal testimony for God is not accomplishing anything. Do you feel that? (Phile. 6) ___Yes ___No
21. (Phile. 8) Do people walk around you fearing that you might not respond well to something they need to say to you? ___Yes ___No
22. (Phile. 11) What priorities do you have? Do you prefer to ___ prosper financially instead of ___ building character in the lives of people.
23. (Phile. 14) ___Yes ___No Do you work harder to get ahead & get our own way rather than choosing to do good for others.
24. (Phile. 15) ___Yes ___No Do you believe that God can allow a hurtful thing to happen to so that someone might find the Lord?
25. (Phile. 20) ___Yes ___No Is it possible to have joy in your heart even when things are not going your way?
26. (Phile. 22) ___Yes ___No Never let the challenges that you face with other believers keep you apart from each other.
27. What is your biggest struggle with other believers? _____
- _____
28. What do you do when you face that struggle? _____
- _____
- _____