

## *Lesson 3*

### *Philemon 1:1-25*

#### *From Slave of Sin to Freedom in Christ*



The book of Philemon small in verses but big in truth. God's word is a manifestation of His love, grace, mercy, and forgiveness! The book of Philemon paints this picture so perfectly for us. God uses the lives of three men, the Apostle Paul, Philemon, and Onesimus to show us His amazing graces! You and I were once slaves to sin but through Christ Jesus we are now free! "Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." Romans 8:1

1. Read Philemon 1:1-25.
2. Who wrote the book of Philemon and to whom was it written according to Philemon 1:1-2?
3. How does Paul describe Philemon according to Philemon 1:1, 1:5, and 1:7?
4. How does Paul respond to what he hears concerning Philemon's love and faith? Read Philemon 1:4 and 1:7 for your answer.
5. Does the faith and love that your brothers and sisters have in Christ cause you to be thankful and joyful? This would be a great time for a heart check. Pray and ask God to reveal your heart in this matter and to give you inexpressible joy and love for the saints. I am not asking you to do something that I have not already done myself.

6. We are told that Philemon had a great faith and love for Jesus Christ and the saints. How was Philemon's love for and faith in Christ manifested according to Philemon 1:7?
  
7. Paul tells us that the hearts of the saints were refreshed through Philemon. What does Paul mean when he says, "Their hearts were refreshed"? Look up the word in your word study tools and record its meaning.

Refreshed: Strong's reference #373—

8. Now that you know the meaning of this word, explain what Paul was teaching about Philemon.

## *A Call to a Greater Manifestation of Faith*

We have already learned that Philemon's faith has born much fruit. (Philemon 1:1, 1:5, and 1:7.) The proof of our faith is the fruit that it bears. But at times our faith is tested, stretched, and grown for the glory of God, the sake of Christ, and the good of others. Paul wants Philemon's actions to speak loudly to the church. For he is appealing to Philemon to exercise forgiveness to someone who has wronged him.

9. How does faith express itself according to James 2:17-20?
  
10. Write out Paul's prayer for Philemon, in Philemon 1:6.
  
11. What is Paul praying for according to Philemon 1:6?
  
12. We are going to walk through the next several verses out of order. I hope it helps in your understanding of these passages. Who is Paul appealing for according to Philemon 1:10?

13. Who is Onesimus according to Philemon 1:15-16?
  
14. Where is Paul according to Philemon 1:10 and Acts 28:16-30?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
15. What has Onesimus done according to Philemon 1:12 and 1:18? This question is a little obscure, but since you have been reading and writing this book for two weeks, it should not be too difficult to answer. Keep in mind questions 14 and 15 as you answer this one.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
16. What do we learn about Onesimus according to Philemon 1:10? The NASB translation and the King James translation state that Onesimus was begotten by Paul in his imprisonment. Look up *begotten* in your word study tools and record its meaning.

Begotten: Strong's reference #1080—

17. After doing the word study, explain the joyous news we learn about Onesimus.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
18. The situation in Philemon's house has changed. Onesimus is his slave, but now he is more than a slave; he is a brother. Read Philemon 1:11 and 1:18. Paul says that Onesimus was useless/unprofitable but is now useful/profitable. Explain what Paul is saying. Verse 1:18 should help in the interpretation of verse 11. It may also be helpful to do a word study at this point. Look up these two words and record their meaning. Then come back and answer the question.

Useless/Unprofitable: Strong's reference #890—

Useful/Profitable: Strong's reference #2173—

19. The love, grace, and mercy of God, through Christ, has changed the heart of Onesimus!! Paul is telling Philemon that Onesimus is not the same man that ran away from him. What does Paul want according to Philemon 1:12-13?
  
20. Why does Paul want to keep Onesimus according to verse 13?
  
21. Read Philemon 1:8. Did Paul have the authority to order Philemon to do what is proper?
  
22. Paul did not order Philemon to do what was right. Instead, what did he do? Read Philemon 1:7 with verse 9 for your answer.
  
23. What proper or right thing is Paul asking Philemon to exercise according to Philemon 1:10-14?
  
24. Although the word *forgive/forgiveness* is never mentioned in this book the application of it is. Look up *forgive* in your word study tools and record the meaning. I found three different Strong's numbers for this one word. I thought it would be helpful for our understanding and interpretation to look up all three.

Forgive: Strong's reference #863—

Forgive: Strong's reference #5483—

Forgiveness: Strong's reference #859—

25. Forgiveness brings freedom. What is Paul asking of Philemon in verses 10-14?

26. What is Paul willing to do according to Philemon 1:17-19?

27. Sisters, what is this a picture of? Look up the following scripture references to better answer this question.

1 Corinthians 6:20—

1 Peter 2:24—

Isaiah 53:5—

1 John 4:10—

Ephesians 1:7—

1 Timothy 2:6—

Hebrews 10:12—

That is by no means an exhausted list of what Christ gave for you and me! Please record any others that came to mind as you are studying. Now, it is time to bow the knee in humbleness before our God and thank Him for His love, grace, mercy, and forgiveness. All of us who are believers were at one time God's Onesimus.

28. Paul is asking Philemon to release Onesimus from his slavery and let him go to minister to him in his imprisonment. Christ has released us from our slavery to go and serve Him. From what were we freed? Here are two verses to get you started.

Romans 6:17-18—

Romans 5:9—

29. What is Paul asking in Philemon 1:20?

30. According to Philemon 1:22, for what is Paul hoping?

31. Read Philemon 1:23-25. Record the names of the Christian brothers who greet Philemon.

32. Paul ends his letter writing with great confidence that Philemon will do what he requested and even more! What a testimony to the faith that Philemon had in the Lord Jesus Christ! When we respond to our brothers and sisters in Christ with love who are we glorifying?

33. Our focus during this study has been directed to the love, grace, mercy, and forgiveness of God toward all of us who at one time stood condemned before Him. I would like for us to end this lesson writing out our own testimony of what God through Christ has done for us!

*I had no idea what God had planned when He sent us to this book of Philemon! I have learned more than I can express on this page! My faith has been stretched and my heart has been tenderized. God is faithful sweet sisters. He can and does use many ways to sanctify us. I stand on this truth in His word by experience. "He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion!" Philippians 1:6*

*Love You My Sisters in Christ,*

*Lisa :)*