

Philemon

FOR BEGINNERS

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1

Slavery and the Early Church

bible**talk**.TV



Roman mosaic from
Dougga, Tunisia (2nd
Century)

⁵ Slaves, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in the sincerity of your heart, as to Christ; ⁶ not by way of eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart.

- Ephesians 6:5-6

⁷ With good will render service, as to the Lord, and not to men, ⁸ knowing that whatever good thing each one does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether slave or free. ⁹ And masters, do the same things to them, and give up threatening, knowing that both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him.

- Ephesians 6:7-9

Instructions

- Sincere obedience
- Serve unto the Lord
- Serve with a hope of blessing
- Masters treat with sincerity
- God will judge both slaves and masters

²² Slaves, in all things obey those who are your masters on earth, not with external service, as those who merely please men, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord. ²³ Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men,

- Colossians 3:22-23

²⁴ knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve.

²⁵ For he who does wrong will receive the consequences of the wrong which he has done, and that without partiality.

- Colossians 3:24-25

Masters, grant to your slaves justice and fairness, knowing that you too have a Master in heaven.

- Colossians 4:1

Instructions

- Sincere obedience
- Serve the Lord
- Serve with a hope of blessing
- The Lord serves with you
- God will punish evil slaves
- Masters judge fairly
- Masters have a Master in heaven



IGNATIUS
EARLY CHURCH LEADER

Philemon – Wealthy Christian

Onesimus – Runaway Slave



ROME

ITALY

THESSALONICA

PHILIPPI

TROAS

EPHESUS

COLOSSAE

CORINTH

MALTA

CRETE

MEDITERRANEAN SEA

Three Letters

(Delivered by Tychicus)

- Colossian Church
- Philemon
- Ephesian Church

Philemon - Outline

1. Paul's Greeting – vs. 1-3
2. Paul's Prayer – vs. 4-7
3. Paul's Appeal – vs. 8-20
4. Paul's Request and Blessing – vs. 22-25

PAUL'S GREETING

¹ Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, To Philemon our beloved brother and fellow worker, ² and to Apphia our sister, and to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house: ³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

- Philemon 1-3

Philemon – Recipient

Apphia – Philemon's wife

Archippus – Philemon's son

PAUL'S PRAYER

⁴ I thank my God always, making mention of you in my prayers, ⁵ because I hear of your love and of the faith which you have toward the Lord Jesus and toward all the saints;

- Philemon 4-5

⁶ and I pray that the fellowship of your faith may become effective through the knowledge of every good thing which is in you for Christ's sake. ⁷ For I have come to have much joy and comfort in your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, brother.

- Philemon 6-7

PAUL'S APPEAL

⁸ Therefore, though I have enough confidence in Christ to order you to do what is proper, ⁹ yet for love's sake I rather appeal to you—since I am such a person as Paul, the aged, and now also a prisoner of Christ Jesus—

- Philemon 8-9

¹⁰ I appeal to you for my child Onesimus,
whom I have begotten in my
imprisonment, ¹¹ who formerly was useless
to you, but now is useful both to you and
to me.

- Philemon 10-11

ONESIMUS = “USEFUL”

¹² I have sent him back to you in person,
that is, sending my very heart, ¹³ whom I
wished to keep with me, so that on your
behalf he might minister to me in my
imprisonment for the gospel;

- Philemon 12-13

¹⁴ but without your consent I did not want to do anything, so that your goodness would not be, in effect, by compulsion but of your own free will.

¹⁵ For perhaps he was for this reason separated from you for a while, that you would have him back forever,

- Philemon 14-15

no longer as a slave, but more than a slave,
a beloved brother, especially to me, but
how much more to you, both in the flesh
and in the Lord.

- Philemon 16

¹⁷ If then you regard me a partner, accept him as you would me.

¹⁸ But if he has wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge that to my account;

- Philemon 17-18

¹⁹ I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand, I will repay it (not to mention to you that you owe to me even your own self as well). ²⁰ Yes, brother, let me benefit from you in the Lord; refresh my heart in Christ.

- Philemon 19-20

Philemon's Cost

- Value of Onesimus as slave
- Cost of replacing him
- Damages and lost items
- Social challenge

PAUL'S REQUEST AND BLESSING

Having confidence in your obedience, I write to you, since I know that you will do even more than what I say.

- Philemon 21

Onesimus eventually served as an elder at the church in Ephesus.

- Ignatius (35 AD - 108 AD)

²² At the same time also prepare me a lodging, for I hope that through your prayers I will be given to you. ²³ Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, greets you, ²⁴ as do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, Luke, my fellow workers. ²⁵ The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

- Philemon 22-25

After being arrested for the second time
in 66 AD, **Paul was executed by
beheading in 67 AD.**

Lesson

- Christians see life through the eyes of faith.