

THE EPISTLE TO PHILEMON

INTRODUCTION

THE APOSTLE PAUL AND TIMOTHY WAS IN PRISON IN ROME, ITALY WHEN HE WROTE THE LETTER TO PHILEMON ON BEHALF OF ONESIMUS, WHO WAS A RUNAWAY SLAVE FROM HIS MASTER PHILEMON, AT THE SAME TIME HE WOULD HAVE WRITTEN THE EPISTLE TO THE CHURCH OF GOD AT COLOSSE.

PHILEMON WAS A PROMINENT MEMBER WHO BELONGED TO THE CHURCH OF GOD AT COLOSSE, WHO WOULD HAVE VISITED THE APOSTLE PAUL DURING HIS THREE (3) YEARS AT EPHESUS ON HIS **THIRD MISSIONARY JOURNEY** AND BECAME A DISCIPLE OF JESUS CHRIST.

THE LETTER TO PHILEMON, WHO HAD A CHURCH IN HIS HOUSE, WAS WRITTEN ON BEHALF OF ONE OF HIS RUNAWAY SLAVES ONESIMUS, WHO THE APOSTLE PAUL WOULD HAVE CONVERTED DURING HIS PREACHING WHILE IN PRISON IN ROME, ITALY.

THE EPISTLE TO THE CHURCH OF GOD AT COLOSSE, CONTAINED THE ORDINANCES FOR BOTH MASTERS AND SLAVES, WHICH WOULD HAVE ADDRESSED THE RELATIONSHIP EXPECTED BETWEEN PHILEMON AND ONESIMUS AND WOULD HAVE REQUIRED OBEDIENCE FROM PHILEMON AS WELL AS ONESIMUS.

BOTH THE EPISTLE TO COLOSSE AND THE LETTER TO PHILEMON WERE SENT AT THE SAME TIME IN AD 62-63.

- THE EPISTLE TO THE CHURCH OF GOD AT COLOSSE WAS DELIVERED BY TYCHICUS
- THE LETTER TO PHILEMON AT COLOSSE WHO HAD A CHURCH OF GOD IN HIS HOUSE WAS DELIVERED BY HIS SLAVE AND NOW HIS BROTHER IN CHRIST ONESIMUS.

❖ COLOSSIANS CHAPTER 4:7-14

Col 4:7-8 (KJV) 7 ALL MY STATE SHALL TYCHICUS DECLARE UNTO YOU, who is a beloved brother, and a faithful minister and fellowservant in the Lord:

Col 4:8 (KJV) 8 Whom I have sent unto you for the same purpose, that he might know your estate, and comfort your hearts;

ONESIMUS WAS ALSO A PRISONER WITH THE APOSTLE PAUL BUT WAS FREED AND WAS RETURNING TO PHILEMON.

Col 4:9 (KJV) 9 With ONESIMUS, a faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you. THEY SHALL MAKE KNOWN UNTO YOU ALL THINGS WHICH ARE DONE HERE.

WE SEE THE APOSTLE PAUL ACKNOWLEDGING JOHN MARK, OVER WHOM HE WOULD HAVE HAD A SHARP CONTENTION WITH BARNABAS IN THE PAST, BECAUSE JOHN MARK WOULD HAVE LEFT THEM DURING THE DIFFICULT PART OF THE WORK AND WENT BACK TO JERUSALEM.

BARNABAS WAS RELATED TO JOHN MARK AND WANTED TO TAKE HIM ALONG, BUT HE WAS NOT WILLING TO SUFFER FOR THE GOSPEL.

WE SEE JOHN MARK IN ROME WITH PAUL WILLING TO SUFFER FOR THE SAKE OF THE GOSPEL.

Col 4:10-13 (KJV) 10 Aristarchus my fellowprisoner saluteth you, and MARCUS, SISTER'S SON TO BARNABAS, (touching whom ye received commandments: if he come unto you, receive him;)

Col 4:11 (KJV) 11 And Jesus, which is called JUSTUS, who are of the circumcision. These only are my fellowworkers unto the kingdom of God, which have been a comfort unto me.

Col 4:12 (KJV) 12 EPAPHRAS, who is one of you, a servant of Christ, SALUTETH YOU, always labouring fervently for you in prayers, that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.

Col 4:13 (KJV) 13 For I bear him record, that he hath a great zeal for you, and them that are in Laodicea, and them in Hierapolis.

WHEN THE APOSTLE PAUL WROTE THE EPISTLE TO THE CHURCH OF GOD AT COLOSSE, AND THE LETTER TO PHILEMON, DEMAS WAS AT ROME IN MINISTRY WITH THE APOSTLE PAUL.

Col 4:14 (KJV) 14 LUKE, THE BELOVED PHYSICIAN, and DEMAS, GREET YOU.

❖ PHILEMON CHAPTER 1

IN THE LETTER TO PHILEMON, WE SEE THE APOSTLE PAUL AND TIMOTHY IN PRISON IN ROME, ITALY FROM WHERE HE WROTE THE LETTER TO PHILEMON.

Philemon 1:1-2 (KJV) 1 Paul, A PRISONER OF JESUS CHRIST, AND TIMOTHY our brother, unto PHILEMON our dearly beloved, and fellowlabourer,

THE APOSTLE PAUL ALSO SENT GREETINGS TO THE INDIVIDUALS ARCHIPPUS AND APPHIA WHO WERE SERVING THE CHURCH OF GOD FAITHFULLY.
THERE WAS NO OTHER MENTION OF THE WOMAN APPHIA ANYWHERE ELSE IN THE SCRIPTURES.

Philemon 1:2 (KJV) 2 And to our beloved APPHIA, and ARCHIPPUS our fellowsoldier, and to THE CHURCH IN THY HOUSE:

OTHER RELATED SCRIPTURES ON ARCHIPPUS WHO BELONGED TO AND WAS A MINISTER TO THE CHURCH OF GOD AT COLOSSE.

Col 4:17 (KJV) 17 And say TO ARCHIPPUS, TAKE HEED TO THE MINISTRY WHICH THOU HAST RECEIVED IN THE LORD, THAT THOU FULFIL IT.

OTHER RELATED SCRIPTURES ON THE CHURCHES OF GOD
GATHERING IN THE HOUSES OF BRETHREN AS WAS IN THE
CASE OF PHILEMON.

- CHURCH OF GOD AT LAODICEA WAS IN THE HOUSE OF
NYMPHAS

Col 4:15 (KJV) 15 Salute the brethren which are in Laodicea, and NYMPHAS, and THE CHURCH WHICH IS IN HIS HOUSE.

- CHURCH OF GOD AT ROME IN THE HOUSE OF AQUILA AND
PRISCILLA.

Rom 16:3-5 (KJV) 3 GREET PRISCILLA AND AQUILA MY
HELPERS IN CHRIST JESUS:

Rom 16:4 (KJV) 4 Who have for my life laid down their own necks:
unto whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the
Gentiles.

Rom 16:5 (KJV) 5 LIKEWISE GREET THE CHURCH THAT IS IN
THEIR HOUSE. Salute my well-beloved Epaenetus, who is the
firstfruits of Achaia unto Christ.

1 Cor 16:19 (KJV) 19 The churches of Asia salute you. AQUILA
AND PRISCILLA salute you much in the Lord, WITH THE
CHURCH THAT IS IN THEIR HOUSE.

❖ PHILEMON CHAPTER 1 CONTINUED VERSES 3-4

GREETINGS FROM THE THRONE OF GOD FROM **GOD THE
FATHER** AND **JESUS CHRIST** LED BY **THE HOLY SPIRIT**
THROUGH THE APOSTLE PAUL.

Philemon 1:3-4 (KJV) 3 Grace to you, and peace, from **GOD OUR
FATHER** and **THE LORD JESUS CHRIST.**

THE APOSTLE PAUL FEEDBACK ON THE REPORT OF THE LOVE
AND FAITHFULNESS OF **PHILEMON** FROM THE MEMBERS OF
THE CHURCH OF GOD IN HIS HOUSE.

Philemon 1:4 (KJV) 4I thank my God, MAKING MENTION OF THEE ALWAYS IN MY PRAYERS,

OTHER RELATED SCRIPTURES ON “MAKING MENTION OF OTHERS IN OUR PRAYERS”.

- **CHURCH OF GOD AT ROME**

Rom 1:9 (KJV) 9 For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, THAT WITHOUT CEASING I MAKE MENTION OF YOU ALWAYS IN MY PRAYERS;

- **CHURCH OF GOD AT EPHESUS**

**Eph 1:15-16 (KJV) 15 Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints,
Eph 1:16 (KJV) 16 Cease not to give thanks for you, MAKING MENTION OF YOU IN MY PRAYERS;**

- **CHURCH OF GOD AT PHILIPPI**

**Phil 1:3-4 (KJV) 3 I thank my God upon every remembrance of you,
Phil 1:4 (KJV) 4 ALWAYS IN EVERY PRAYER OF MINE for you all making request with joy,**

- **CHURCH OF GOD AT THESSALONICA**

1 Thess 1:2 (KJV) 2 We give thanks to God always for you all, MAKING MENTION OF YOU IN OUR PRAYERS;

1 Thess 3:6 (KJV) 6 But now when Timotheus came from you unto us, and brought us good tidings of your faith and charity, AND THAT YE HAVE GOOD REMEMBRANCE OF US ALWAYS, desiring greatly to see us, as we also to see you:

- **EPISTLE TO TIMOTHY**

2 Tim 1:3 (KJV) 3 I thank God, whom I serve from my forefathers with pure conscience, THAT WITHOUT CEASING I HAVE REMEMBRANCE OF THEE IN MY PRAYERS NIGHT AND DAY;

❖ PHILEMON CHAPTER 1 CONTINUED VERSES 5-7

- I. LOVE AND FAITH TOWARDS GOD
- II. LOVE AND FAITH TOWARDS ALL THE SAINTS

Philemon 1:5-7 (KJV) 5 HEARING OF THY LOVE AND FAITH, WHICH THOU HAST TOWARD THE LORD JESUS, AND TOWARD ALL SAINTS;

Philemon 1:6 (KJV) 6 That the communication of thy faith may become effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus.

Philemon 1:7 (KJV) 7 FOR WE HAVE GREAT JOY AND CONSOLATION IN THY LOVE, BECAUSE THE BOWELS OF THE SAINTS ARE REFRESHED BY THEE, BROTHER.

OTHER RELATED SCRIPTURES

Eph 1:15 (KJV) 15 Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, AND LOVE UNTO ALL THE SAINTS,

Rev 2:4-5 (KJV) 4 Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, BECAUSE THOU HAST LEFT THY FIRST LOVE.

Rev 2:5 (KJV) 5 REMEMBER THEREFORE FROM WHENCE THOU ART FALLEN, AND REPENT, AND DO THE FIRST WORKS; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.

❖ PHILEMON CHAPTER 1 CONTINUED VERSES 8-9

Philemon 1:8-9 (KJV) 8 Wherefore, though I might be much bold in Christ to enjoin thee that which is convenient,

THE EVIDENCE THAT THE APOSTLE PAUL WAS IN PRISON WHEN HE WROTE THE LETTER TO PHILEMON.

Philemon 1:9 (KJV) 9 Yet for love's sake I rather beseech thee, being such an one as Paul the aged, and NOW ALSO A PRISONER OF JESUS CHRIST.

OTHER RELATED SCRIPTURES ON THOSE HAVING A GOOD REPORT AMONGST THE BRETHREN IN THE CHURCH OF GOD, AS WELL AS WITHOUT THE CHURCH OF GOD LED BY **THE HOLY SPIRIT** FOR THE WORK OF THE GOSPEL.

Acts 6:3-6 (KJV) 3 Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven MEN OF HONEST REPORT, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business.

Acts 6:4 (KJV) 4 But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.

Acts 6:5 (KJV) 5 And the saying pleased the whole multitude: and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolas a proselyte of Antioch:

Acts 6:6 (KJV) 6 Whom they set before the apostles: and when they had prayed, they laid their hands on them.

3 John 1:12 (KJV) 12 DEMETRIUS HATH GOOD REPORT OF ALL MEN, and of the truth itself: yea, and we also bear record; and ye know that our record is true.

❖ PHILEMON CHAPTER 1 CONTINUED VERSE 10

THE APOSTLE PAUL **PLEA** TO **PHILEMON** FOR HIS RUNAWAY SLAVE **ONESIMUS**, (WHO WAS NOW **A DISCIPLE OF JESUS CHRIST** AND BROTHER) TO ACCEPT HIM AS A BROTHER IN THE LORD.

THE APOSTLE PAUL WOULD HAVE SENT **TYCHICUS** ALSO, WHO WAS A FAITHFUL MINISTER TO REPRESENT HIS WORDS TO **PHILEMON** ON BEHALF OF **ONESIMUS**.

Philemon 1:10 (KJV) 10 I beseech thee for my son ONESIMUS, WHOM I HAVE BEGOTTEN IN MY BONDS:

OTHER RELATED SCRIPTURES

Col 4:7-9 (KJV) 7 All my state shall TYCHICUS declare unto you, who is a beloved brother, and a faithful minister and fellowservant in the Lord:

Col 4:8 (KJV) 8 Whom I have sent unto you for the same purpose, that he might know your estate, and comfort your hearts;

Col 4:9 (KJV) 9 With ONESIMUS, A FAITHFUL AND BELOVED BROTHER, WHO IS ONE OF YOU. **THEY** SHALL MAKE KNOWN UNTO YOU ALL THINGS WHICH ARE DONE HERE.

❖ PHILEMON CHAPTER 1 CONTINUED VERSE 11

THE APOSTLE STATED TO PHILEMON THAT ONESIMUS WAS **SPIRITUALLY UNPROFITABLE** TO PHILEMON, WHEN HE WAS AN UNCONVERTED SLAVE, BUT NOW AFTER HIS CONVERSION HE IS NOW BOTH PHYSICALLY AND **SPIRITUALLY PROFITABLE.**

Philemon 1:11 (KJV) 11 **WHICH IN TIME PAST WAS TO THEE UNPROFITABLE, BUT NOW PROFITABLE TO THEE AND TO ME:**

OTHER RELATED SCRIPTURES ON ONE BEING **SPIRITUALLY UNPROFITABLE:**

Luke 17:7-10 (KJV) 7 But which of you, having a servant plowing or feeding cattle, will say unto him by and by, when he is come from the field, Go and sit down to meat?

Luke 17:8 (KJV) 8 And will not rather say unto him, Make ready wherewith I may sup, and gird thyself, and serve me, till I have eaten and drunken; and afterward thou shalt eat and drink?

Luke 17:9 (KJV) 9 Doth he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him? I trow not.

Luke 17:10 (KJV) 10 So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, **WE ARE UNPROFITABLE SERVANTS: WE HAVE DONE THAT WHICH WAS OUR DUTY TO DO.**

OTHER RELATED SCRIPTURES ON ONE BECOMING **SPIRITUALLY PROFITABLE.**

2 Tim 4:11 (KJV) 11 Only Luke is with me. Take Mark, and bring him with thee: **FOR HE IS PROFITABLE TO ME FOR THE MINISTRY.**

Titus 3:8 (KJV) 8 This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. THESE THINGS ARE GOOD AND PROFITABLE UNTO MEN.

❖ PHILEMON CHAPTER 1 CONTINUED VERSES 12-16

Philemon 1:12-16 (KJV) 12 Whom I have sent again: thou therefore receive him, that is, mine own bowels:

THE APOSTLE PAUL WAS PLACING THE SAME **SPIRITUAL VALUE** ON ONESIMUS WHICH HE WOULD HAVE PLACED ON PHILEMON.

Philemon 1:13 (KJV) 13 Whom I would have retained with me, THAT IN THY STEAD HE MIGHT HAVE MINISTERED UNTO ME IN THE BONDS OF THE GOSPEL:

THE APOSTLE PAUL HAD RESPECT FOR THE POSITION OF PHILEMON AS MASTER OVER THE RULE OF ONESIMUS AND THEREFORE DID NOT EXPRESS OR ABUSE HIS SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY OVER PHILEMON TO KEEP HIS SLAVE WITHOUT HIS KNOWLEDGE.

Philemon 1:14 (KJV) 14 BUT WITHOUT THY MIND WOULD I DO NOTHING; that thy benefit should not be as it were of necessity, but willingly.

THE APOSTLE PAUL WAS REVEALING GOD'S ETERNAL PURPOSE FOR ONESIMUS, WHICH OCCURRED DURING HIS RUNAWAY TO BECOME MORE **SPIRITUALLY VALUABLE** FOR THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN THAN A SLAVE.

Philemon 1:15 (KJV) 15 FOR PERHAPS HE THEREFORE DEPARTED FOR A SEASON, **THAT THOU SHOULDEST RECEIVE HIM FOR EVER;**

Philemon 1:16 (KJV) 16 NOT NOW AS A SERVANT, BUT ABOVE A SERVANT, **A BROTHER BELOVED**, specially to me, but how much more unto thee, BOTH IN THE FLESH, AND IN THE LORD?

OTHER RELATED SCRIPTURES ON MASTER AND SLAVE RELATIONSHIP.

Eph 6:5-9 (KJV) 5 Servants, be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh, **WITH FEAR AND TREMBLING**, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ;

Eph 6:6 (KJV) 6 Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart;

Eph 6:7 (KJV) 7 With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men:

Eph 6:8 (KJV) 8 Knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether he be bond or free.

Eph 6:9 (KJV) 9 And, ye masters, do the same things unto them, forbearing threatening: knowing that your Master also is in heaven; neither is there respect of persons with him.

Col 3:22-25 (KJV) 22 Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God;

Col 3:23 (KJV) 23 And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;

Col 3:24 (KJV) 24 Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.

Col 3:25 (KJV) 25 But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons.

THE APOSTLE PAUL ADDRESSED THE BEHAVIOR OF MASTERS WHO BELONG TO THE CHURCH OF GOD.

Col 4:1 **MASTERS, GIVE UNTO YOUR SERVANTS THAT WHICH IS JUST AND EQUAL; **KNOWING THAT YE ALSO HAVE A MASTER IN HEAVEN.****

❖ PHILEMON CHAPTER 1 CONTINUED VERSES 17-23

THE APOSTLE PAUL WAS ENCOURAGING PHILEMON TO SHOW FORGIVENESS TO ONESIMUS.

Philemon 1:17-18 (KJV) 17 IF THOU COUNT ME THEREFORE A PARTNER, RECEIVE HIM AS MYSELF.

Philemon 1:18 (KJV) 18 If he hath wronged thee, or oweth thee ought, put that on mine account;

PHILEMON WAS A CONVERT UNDER THE MINISTRY OF THE APOSTLE PAUL.

WELCOMING ONESIMUS AS BROTHER IN THE LOVE OF GOD WOULD BE A TEST FOR PHILEMON, WHOM THE APOSTLE PAUL ENCOURAGED TO BE SPIRITUALLY OBEDIENT.

Philemon 1:19-20 (KJV) 19 I PAUL HAVE WRITTEN IT WITH MINE OWN HAND, I WILL REPAY IT: albeit I do not say to thee HOW THOU OWEST UNTO ME EVEN THINE OWN SELF BESIDES.

Philemon 1:20 (KJV) 20 Yea, brother, let me have joy of thee in the Lord: refresh my bowels in the Lord.

OBEDIENCE AFTER A GODLY MANNER

Philemon 1:21 (KJV) 21 HAVING CONFIDENCE IN THY OBEDIENCE I wrote unto thee, KNOWING THAT THOU WILT ALSO DO MORE THAN I SAY.

THE APOSTLE PAUL WAS LODGING IN PRISON IN HIS OWN HIRED HOUSE IN ROME AND WAS ASKING OF PHILEMON TO PREPARE A LODGING AT **COLOSSE, SHOULD THE WILL OF THE LORD BE IN HIS PRAYERS THAT HE BE ALLOWED TO COME TO **COLOSSE.****

Philemon 1:22 (KJV) 22 But withal prepare me also a lodging: for I trust that through your prayers I shall be given unto you.

THE APOSTLE PAUL WAS ENCOURAGING PHILEMON AND THE CHURCH OF GOD IN THE HOUSE OF PHILEMON, THAT EPAPHRAS WHO WAS HIS FELLOW PRISONER IN ROME AND THE OTHER DISCIPLES HAD CHOSEN HIM TO BE WITH THE APOSTLE PAUL IN PRISON FOR THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST.

Philemon 1:23 (KJV) 23 There salute thee EPAPHRAS, my fellowprisoner in Christ Jesus;

OTHER RELATED SCRIPTURES ON EPAPHRAS

Col 1:7 (KJV) 7 As ye also learned of EPAPHRAS our dear fellowservant, who is for you a faithful minister of Christ;

Col 4:12-13 (KJV) 12 EPAPHRAS, who is one of you, a servant of Christ, saluteth you, always labouring fervently for you in prayers, that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.

Col 4:13 (KJV) 13 For I bear him record, that he hath a great zeal for you, and them that are in Laodicea, and them in Hierapolis.

❖ PHILEMON CHAPTER 1 CONTINUED VERSE 24

AT THE TIME THE APOSTLE WROTE THE EPISTLE TO PHILEMON, DEMAS WAS STILL IN THE MINISTRY OF THE GOSPEL.

Philemon 1:24 (KJV) 24 Marcus, Aristarchus, DEMAS, Lucas, my fellowlabourers.

OTHER RELATED SCRIPTURES ON DEMAS WHO EVENTUALLY RETURNED TO THE CARES OF THIS PRESENT EVIL WORLD.

Col 4:14 (KJV) 14 Luke, the beloved physician, and DEMAS, GREET YOU.

2 Tim 4:10 (KJV) 10 FOR DEMAS HATH FORSAKEN ME, HAVING LOVED THIS PRESENT WORLD, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia.

JESUS CHRIST SPOKE IN THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER AND THE SEE ABOUT THE CARES OF THIS WORLD.

Mar 4:18-19 (KJV) 18 And these are they which are sown among thorns; such as hear the word,

Mar 4:19 (KJV) 19 AND THE CARES OF THIS WORLD, AND THE DECEITFULNESS OF RICHES, AND THE LUSTS OF OTHER THINGS ENTERING IN, CHOKES THE WORD, AND IT BECOMETH UNFRUITFUL.

❖ PHILEMON CHAPTER 1 CONTINUED VERSE 25

Philemon 1:25 (KJV) 25 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.