

Single Chapter Bible Study
Part 3
Philemon: A Plea for Compassion
Philemon 1

In this lesson, we will study Paul's only single chapter epistle to an individual and church at the same time. Paul is showing a personal touch to his ministry as he tries to help a fellow minister.

1.) Whom does Paul address in the book of Philemon?

Philemon 1:1-3; Colossians 4:17

2.) What complements are given to Philemon and the church?

Philemon 1:4-7

3.) When you have someone giving you great complements do you receive them as they are or think something else is coming you might not like. Does your response depend on who gave you the compliment, please explain.

4.) On whose behalf is Paul writing this letter?

Philemon 1:8-10; Colossians 4:9

5.) What is the issue with Onesimus and how does Paul view him now?

Philemon 1:11

6.) Have someone in your life changed your viewpoint of them? For example, they hurt you in some way or you didn't like their personality. However, after an event or the words of someone else you later became friends or at least associates.

7.) What is Paul's request to Philemon and the church?

Philemon 1:12-15

8.) How does Paul want Onesimus to be treated and what is he willing to do for him?

Philemon 1:16-18

9.) Onesimus needed Paul's seal of approval to return to the church. Would Philemon or the church accept Onesimus without it? Why is it important for people to have approval from one another before being accepting into a group?

10.) What does Paul say to end the epistle?

Philemon 1:19-25

11.) What does Jesus have to say about loving our friends and enemies?

Matthew 5:43-48

12.) What would God want people as an individual and group (church) do for those who are returning into their lives?

13.) Are there limits on what/whom we should except to return to the fold? Explain.

Just a Thought

In various commentaries, Onesimus is known as a slave, thief, and deserter. However, his life has been changed and now he is working hard with Paul as a minister. Even though this is true, sometimes the people you previously hurt never forget what you did to them. Paul understood this and was writing on Onesimus behalf so he would be accepted. Eventually someone will do something wrong or hurtful to you. It's tough and depending on the act will be hard to forgive. Nevertheless, God is working on people to change their behavior and mindset. If this happens, then talk with Christ and allow Him to have you to accept the changed person. After all, a man who was responsible for the beatings and murder of various Christians wrote the majority of the New Testament. Yet he became one of the most important frontrunners in the Christian faith. What if he was largely ignored? How different would The Holy Bible be?

Lesson written by: Elder Ricky R. LaVaughn

For more information visit: <http://www.lavauri.com/menbiblestudy.html>