

Philemon

Chapter One

This letter was written by Paul to Philemon about the same time as he wrote Colossians (AD 60) Paul was writing to Philemon who was a slave owner. One of Philemon's slaves, Onesimus, had stolen from him and then run away. Onesimus, however, had met Paul and became a Christian. Under Roman law Onesimus was to be put to death. Paul is writing Philemon to ask him to receive Onesimus now as a fellow Christian brother.

FAITH COMES BY HEARING: Read Chapter One

SUMMARY: Verses 1-25

1. Although Paul was never a slave during his day, he was a prisoner and knew what it was like to be held in bondage.
2. Philemon had a church in his home. Many believe this was the church of Colosse.
3. Faith will always be attached to love for others.
4. Paul addresses the faith of Philemon and how that faith is active in refreshing others. Now Onesimus will need refreshing and encouraging.
5. Paul says he could demand Philemon to submit to his authority, but Paul rather appeals to him in love.
6. Even though Onesimus had failed and done wrong, Paul states he is still useful in God's kingdom.
7. Paul refuses to force anything from Philemon. He continually appeals to his faith.
8. Paul states that perhaps Onesimus running away was for the better. In so doing he became a Christian. The slave became a brother in Christ.
9. Paul is willing to take any risk to his reputation to see Onesimus restored.
10. Paul was willing to go the extra mile to see Philemon and Onesimus back together as brothers in Christ.

REFLECTION

1. What verse stuck out most to you?
2. Why is it that faith seems easy until it demands love for others who have failed you?
3. Faith is not just a belief system for yourself. Your faith is to be used to refresh and encourage others. How do you use your faith to encourage others?
4. Do you let your faith guide you when others fail you? Or do you let your emotions guide you when others fail you?
5. Are you willing to risk your reputation for the restoration of others?
6. Do you ignore those who offend or hurt you? Do you get even with those who offend or hurt you? Do you go the extra mile with those who offend or hurt you?

APPLICATION

1. What are some things you can do to demonstrate your faith when someone else does you wrong?
2. Are you better at appealing to your emotions than your faith? What will you start doing to increase being a person who responds by faith rather than emotion?
3. Is there anyone you need to forgive now?

