

Seven Reasons to Study Philemon?

Why is this letter in the Bible?

#1. Because of its important Gospel themes.

1. *Redemption – lost people matter to God*
2. *Repentance – true repentance*
3. *Regeneration – being transformed*
4. *Reconciliation – restoring peace*
5. *Restitution – making wrongs right*
6. *Real Christianity – love one another*

#2. To Discover that in Christ all are Equal.

1 Corinthians 12:13 For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

Ephesians 6:8 Knowing that whatever good thing any man does, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether he be bond or free.

Galatians 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Colossians 3:11 Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all.

#3. To Learn What Real Forgiveness Is

Philemon -The ball is in your court

- *Forgiveness - to forgive or not*
- *Anger - Revenge - getting even*
- *Bitterness - pretending, but hurt*
- *Grudges - wedge between us*
- *Unresolved conflicts – acid attitudes*
- *Hostage to bitterness – bondage*
- *Conflict resolution - Matthew 18*

#4. To Remember Martyred Saints - Romans 16, Col. 4, Phil. 1:2,

Paul – beheaded by Nero outside the city of Rome 64-66 AD

Timothy – beaten dragged through streets, stoned to death

Philemon – Buried up to waist then stoned his with wife.

Apphia – wife of Philemon, stoned by Ruler Artocles

Archippus – son of Philemon, slashed with knives

Epaphras – Colossians 1:7, 4:12-13 fellow prisoner, pastor

Aristarchus – Acts 19:29, 20:4, 27:2, Col. 4:10 beheaded Rome

Mark – rope around neck dragged through streets 68 AD

Luke – died in Rome before Nero, beheaded

#5. To Learn to Love Like Jesus:

10 Endearing Words of Agape Love

1. Beloved" <27> (agapetos) in verses 1, 2, 16
2. Fellow Soldier <4961> (sustratioetes) in verses 2
3. Household <3624> (oikos) in verse 2
4. Love <26> (agape) in verses 5, 9;
5. Good thing, <18> (agathos) in verses 6, 14;
6. Fellowship <2842> (koinonia) in verses 6, 17;
7. Heart <4698> (splagchnon) in verses 7, 12, 20
8. Brother <80> (adelphos) in verses 7, 20
9. Refresh <373> (anapauo) in verses 7, 20
10. Receive <4355> (proslambano) in verses 12, 17

#6. To Discover Yourself in this Story

Paul – do you live, pray, forgive, suffer, or make peace like Paul?

Onesimus – are you the failure and the one needing reconciliation?

Philemon – are you the offended one, the bitter one, the angry one?

Demas – departed, having loved this present evil world.

**Onesimus = “Once-I-Was-A-Mess”
his name actually means “useful.”**

Paul uses a pun in verse 11:

“Once he was ‘useless’, but now he is ‘useful.’”

#7. To Look Into the Mirror (and fix what’s wrong)

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. – James 1:22-26

But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it--he will be blessed in what he does.