

Directions:

This is a booklet to aid you in your personal study of this book. Read through the text first, discovering God's precious truths for yourself. Write down the main point of each section of text in the space provided. The text is provided for you to mark, color, and highlight things you find interesting and important. Use the margins on each side of the text and the backside of the page to make notations of the truths you discover and passages you do not understand. When you believe you have seen all there is in text, read and answer the questions in the booklet pertaining to that section of text. The questions are not an exhaustive list of things to look for in the text. The questions are to help you consider the points that the author was trying to convey to his audience. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

Background:

Philemon is one of the four letters written during Paul's first imprisonment in Rome. Paul wrote this letter around 60-62 A.D. The letter is primarily addressed to a Christian named Philemon who is thought to have lived in Colossae.

Introduction:

1. Do a casual quick reading of the book in one sitting to get a feel of the overall message. It is best to use the included text so that you can make notations freely! Use colored pencils to highlight and make notations but do not dwell too long on any one text since your purpose is to get an overview. As you read, do the following exercises:

What does Paul appear to try to accomplish through this letter?

2. What appears to be Paul's main focus in each of the following sections:
 - a. 1:4-7
 - b. 1:8-16
 - c. 1:17-22
3. Outline the structure of this letter:
 - Author:
 - Recipients:
 - Salutation:
 - Thanksgiving:
 - Body of letter:
 - Closing:
 - Greeting:
4. What can we learn by comparing the similar names in the conclusion of Colossians to the introduction and conclusion of Philemon?

PHILEMON

1-7

ESV

1:1 Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, To Philemon our beloved fellow worker 2 and Apphia our sister and Archippus our fellow soldier, and the church in your house:

3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

4 I thank my God always when I remember you in my prayers, 5 because I hear of your love and of the faith that you have toward the Lord Jesus and for all the saints, 6 and I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective for the full knowledge of every good thing that is in us for the sake of Christ.

7 For I have derived much joy and comfort from your love, my brother, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you.

HCSB

1:1 Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother: To Philemon our dear friend and coworker, 2 to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church that meets in your home.

3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

4 I always thank my God when I mention you in my prayers, 5 because I hear of your love and faith toward the Lord Jesus and for all the saints. 6 I pray that your participation in the faith may become effective through knowing every good thing that is in us for the glory of Christ. 7 For I have great joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, brother.

1:1-7 Main point: _____
Make additional notes at left and below:

1. What do we know about Archippus?
2. What is the meaning of verse 6? (HCSB may be helpful)
3. Why does Paul thank God for them? What do we learn about what we should be as a church?
4. Describe Philemon from this passage.
5. How can we refresh the saints (vs. 7) like they did?

PHILEMON

8-16

ESV

1:8 Accordingly, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do what is required, 9 yet for love's sake I prefer to appeal to you—I, Paul, an old man and now a prisoner also for Christ Jesus— 10 I appeal to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I became in my imprisonment. 11 (Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me.) 12 I am sending him back to you, sending my very heart. 13 I would have been glad to keep him with me, in order that he might serve me on your behalf during my imprisonment for the gospel, 14 but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your goodness might not be by compulsion but of your own accord. 15 For this perhaps is why he was parted from you for a while, that you might have him back forever, 16 no longer as a bondservant but more than a bondservant, as a beloved brother—especially to me, but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

HCSB

1:8 For this reason, although I have great boldness in Christ to command you to do what is right, 9 I appeal to you, instead, on the basis of love. I, Paul, as an elderly man and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus, 10 appeal to you for my son, Onesimus. I fathered him while I was in chains. 11 Once he was useless to you, but now he is useful both to you and to me. 12 I am sending him back to you as a part of myself. 13 I wanted to keep him with me, so that in my imprisonment for the gospel he might serve me in your place. 14 But I didn't want to do anything without your consent, so that your good deed might not be out of obligation, but of your own free will. 15 For perhaps this is why he was separated from you for a brief time, so that you might get him back permanently, 16 no longer as a slave, but more than a slave—as a dearly loved brother. He is especially so to me, but even more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

1:8-16 Main point: _____
Make additional notes at left and below:

1. Why doesn't Paul command Philemon? What can we learn from this?
2. Why does Paul refer to himself as Onesimus' father? (vs. 10)
3. How was Onesimus useless, but now useful? (vs. 11)
4. What was Paul's expectation of Philemon? What was this expectation based on? What can we learn about discipleship from this?

ESV

1:17 So if you consider me your partner, receive him as you would receive me. 18 If he has wronged you at all, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. 19 I, Paul, write this with my own hand: I will repay it—to say nothing of your owing me even your own self. 20 Yes, brother, I want some benefit from you in the Lord. Refresh my heart in Christ. 21 Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say. 22 At the same time, prepare a guest room for me, for I am hoping that through your prayers I will be graciously given to you.

23 Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, sends greetings to you, 24 and so do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke, my fellow workers. 25 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

HCSB

1:17 So if you consider me a partner, accept him as you would me. 18 And if he has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. 19 I, Paul, write this with my own hand: I will repay it—not to mention to you that you owe me even your own self. 20 Yes, brother, may I have joy from you in the Lord; refresh my heart in Christ. 21 Since I am confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say. 22 But meanwhile, also prepare a guest room for me, for I hope that through your prayers I will be restored to you.

23 Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, greets you, and so do 24 Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke, my coworkers.

25 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

1:17-25 Main point: _____
Make additional notes at left and below:

1. What is Paul's promise to Philemon? Apply this to your life.
2. What is Paul expectation of Philemon? (vs. 19-21)
3. What are Paul's plans?
4. What names do you recognize from the list? What do we know about them?

PHILEMON



A SELF-STUDY WORKBOOK

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