

No copyright materials are used in this text  
The summary and interpretation of the specific chapter and  
verses are from the Bible, they are religious text that is in the  
public domain.

Free to Copy and Distribute: Spread the Word!

(Peter Lok) 駱沅祺,  
[lokpeter@outlook.com](mailto:lokpeter@outlook.com)

## Philemon

Philemon

New International Version

1 Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,

To Philemon our dear friend and fellow worker— 2 also to Apphia our sister and  
Archippus our fellow soldier—and to the church that meets in your home:

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

Thanksgiving and Prayer

4 I always thank my God as I remember you in my prayers, 5 because I hear about your  
love for all his holy people and your faith in the Lord Jesus. 6 I pray that your partnership  
with us in the faith may be effective in deepening your understanding of every good thing  
we share for the sake of Christ. 7 Your love has given me great joy and encouragement,  
because you, brother, have refreshed the hearts of the Lord's people.

Paul's Plea for Onesimus

8 Therefore, although in Christ I could be bold and order you to do what you ought to do,  
9 yet I prefer to appeal to you on the basis of love. It is as none other than Paul—an old  
man and now also a prisoner of Christ Jesus— 10 that I appeal to you for my son  
Onesimus,[b] who became my son while I was in chains. 11 Formerly he was useless to  
you, but now he has become useful both to you and to me.

12 I am sending him—who is my very heart—back to you. 13 I would have liked to keep  
him with me so that he could take your place in helping me while I am in chains for the  
gospel. 14 But I did not want to do anything without your consent, so that any favor you  
do would not seem forced but would be voluntary. 15 Perhaps the reason he was  
separated from you for a little while was that you might have him back forever— 16 no

longer as a slave, but better than a slave, as a dear brother. He is very dear to me but even dearer to you, both as a fellow man and as a brother in the Lord.

17 So if you consider me a partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. 18 If he has done you any wrong or owes you anything, charge it to me. 19 I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand. I will pay it back—not to mention that you owe me your very self. 20 I do wish, brother, that I may have 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 ask.

22 And one thing more: Prepare a guest room for me, because I hope to be restored to you in answer to your prayers.

23 Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, sends you greetings. 24 And so do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas and Luke, my fellow workers.

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

#### Footnotes

Philemon 1:3 The Greek is plural; also in verses 22 and 25; elsewhere in this letter “you” is singular.

Philemon 1:10 Onesimus means useful.

The book of Philemon is a short letter in the New Testament of the Christian Bible, written by the apostle Paul to Philemon, a wealthy Christian who lived in Colossae. The letter addresses a specific situation in which Onesimus, a slave who had escaped from Philemon's household, had come into contact with Paul while he was in prison. Paul had converted Onesimus to Christianity and had become fond of him, but he felt that it was his duty to send him back to his owner, Philemon. Paul wrote this letter to appeal to Philemon to receive Onesimus back not as a slave, but as a brother in Christ.

In the letter, Paul emphasizes the love and fellowship that Christians share with one another, and he asks Philemon to forgive Onesimus and to receive him back as a fellow Christian. Paul also offers to repay any debts that Onesimus may owe to Philemon.

The letter is only one chapter long and consists of a greeting, a thanksgiving for Philemon's faith and love, an appeal for Onesimus, and a closing remark. Despite its brevity, the letter has been widely studied for its insights into Paul's views on slavery, forgiveness, and reconciliation.

Overall, the book of Philemon is a powerful message of Christian love and forgiveness, and it shows that even in situations of great social inequality and injustice, the principles of the gospel can bring about transformation and reconciliation.

in Christian bible; the book " Philemon "; can you give me the important verses ; also brief explanation and where to find these verses

Sure, here are some important verses from the book of Philemon with brief explanations and their locations in the Bible:

1. "I thank my God always when I remember you in my prayers" (Philemon 1:4). In this verse, Paul expresses his gratitude for Philemon and his faith in God.
2. "I appeal to you for my child Onesimus, whom I have begotten while in my chains" (Philemon 1:10). Paul is asking Philemon to receive Onesimus back not as a slave, but as a fellow Christian and a brother in Christ.
3. "For perhaps he departed for a while for this purpose, that you might receive him forever" (Philemon 1:15). Here, Paul suggests that God allowed Onesimus to escape from Philemon's household so that he could become a Christian and ultimately be reconciled with his former owner.
4. "If he has wronged you or owes anything, put that on my account" (Philemon 1:18). Paul offers to repay any debts that Onesimus may owe to Philemon.
5. "Having confidence in your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say" (Philemon 1:21). Paul expresses his confidence in Philemon's willingness to forgive and receive Onesimus back.

The book of Philemon is found in the New Testament, between Titus and Hebrews.

The Book of Philemon is a short letter in the New Testament written by the Apostle Paul to Philemon, a Christian believer and slave owner. In this letter, Paul addresses the issue of a runaway slave named Onesimus and appeals to Philemon for his forgiveness and reconciliation. While Philemon chapter 1 is just one chapter, it contains important theological thoughts and has had theological influence in various ways:

#### Theological Thought in Philemon Chapter 1:

**Reconciliation and Forgiveness:** The primary theological thought in Philemon is the theme of reconciliation and forgiveness. Paul intercedes on behalf of Onesimus, the runaway slave, and urges Philemon to receive him back not as a slave but as a beloved brother in Christ (verse 16). This reflects the Christian teaching of reconciliation and forgiveness, emphasizing the transformative power of the Gospel in human relationships.

**Equality in Christ:** Paul's appeal for Philemon to treat Onesimus as a brother in Christ underscores the theological concept of equality within the Christian community. Regardless of social status or circumstances, all believers are equal before God and should be treated as such.

**Responsibility and Accountability:** The letter addresses Philemon's responsibility as a Christian to act in a way that aligns with his faith. This highlights the theological principle that faith should impact one's actions and ethical choices.

**Imputed Debt:** Paul mentions that if Onesimus owes Philemon anything, Paul himself is willing to pay it (verse 18-19). This demonstrates the idea of imputed debt, where Paul is willing to take on the consequences or debts of another, mirroring the Christian belief in Christ taking on the consequences of sin for believers.

#### Theological Influence:

While Philemon is a short and specific letter, it has had theological influence in the following ways:

**Christian Ethics:** The letter to Philemon has influenced Christian ethics and teachings on forgiveness, reconciliation, and the treatment of fellow believers. It serves as a model for how Christians should approach conflicts and relationships within the church.

**Social Justice:** The letter has been cited in discussions about social justice, particularly in the context of slavery and issues related to equality and human dignity. It has been used to argue for the abolition of slavery and the promotion of social justice causes.

**Christian Unity:** Philemon emphasizes the unity of believers in Christ, regardless of social or economic differences. This theme has contributed to discussions on Christian unity and the importance of reconciled relationships within the church.

**Personal Responsibility:** The letter encourages believers to take personal responsibility for their actions and decisions in light of their faith. This concept has been influential in discussions about personal ethics and accountability.

In summary, Philemon chapter 1 contains theological thoughts related to reconciliation, forgiveness, equality in Christ, personal responsibility, and imputed debt. While it is a short and specific letter, its teachings on these topics have had a significant influence on Christian ethics, social justice discussions, and the understanding of Christian unity.

Notes:

here are some questions related to the book of Philemon that have been debated or discussed by biblical scholars and theologians:

1. Why did Paul not explicitly condemn slavery in his letter to Philemon and instead ask him to voluntarily free his slave Onesimus?
2. Why did Paul not use his apostolic authority to forcefully compel Philemon to free Onesimus?
3. What was the social and economic status of Onesimus and Philemon?
4. What was the nature of the relationship between Philemon and Onesimus?
5. Why did Onesimus run away from his master, Philemon, and seek refuge with Paul?

These are some of the questions that have been debated or discussed by biblical scholars and theologians regarding the book of Philemon. While there may not be definitive answers to some of these questions, different interpretations and perspectives can shed light on the meaning and significance of the book for Christians.