

# PHILEMON

## "CHRISTIAN FORGIVENESS"

"If then you regard me a partner, accept him as you would me. {18} But if he has wronged you in any way or owes you anything charge that to my account." {Philemon 1:17-18}

Prepared by James T. Bartsch  
March, 2008

Published Online by WordExplain.com  
Email Contact: [jbartsch@wordexplain.com](mailto:jbartsch@wordexplain.com)

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A1 THE INTRODUCTION 1-7

A2 THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF PHILEMON TO RECEIVE ONESIMUS 8-20

A3 THE CONCLUSION 21-25

Major Divisions of Philemon  
Based on the ANALYSIS OF PHILEMON  
Prepared by James T. Bartsch  
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### **A1 THE INTRODUCTION 1-7**

- B1 The Salutation 1-3
- B2 The Grateful Prayer 4-7

### **A2 THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF PHILEMON TO RECEIVE ONESIMUS 8-20**

- B1 Paul's Tact in Approaching Philemon 8-9
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Condensed Outline of Philemon  
Based on the ANALYSIS OF PHILEMON  
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### **A1    THE INTRODUCTION 1-7**

#### **B1    The Salutation 1-3**

- C1    The authors 1
- C2    The recipients 1-2
- C3    The blessing 3

#### **B2    The Grateful Prayer 4-7**

- C1    Paul's persistent thanking of his God 4
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- C3    Paul's receipt of much joy and comfort 7

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#### **B1    Paul's Tact in Approaching Philemon 8-9**

- C1    His acknowledgment that he could legitimately, because of his Apostolic position in Christ, boldly **order** Philemon to act appropriately 8
- C2    His decision rather to **urge** Philemon to act on the basis of love 9a
- C3    His portrayal of himself 9b
  - D1    Instead of as an apostle, rather as
  - D2    Paul the aged
  - D3    Paul the prisoner of Messiah Jesus

#### **B2    Paul's Perception of Onesimus 10-11**

- C1    As being his spiritual child, whom he fathered while imprisoned 10
- C2    As being formerly useless to Philemon 11
- C3    As being now useful

**B3 Paul's Desire to Put Onesimus to Work in the Ministry 12-14**

- C1 His having sent Onesimus back to Philemon despite his emotional attachment to the slave 12
- C2 His prior resolve to keep Onesimus 13
- C3 His reluctance to act without Philemon's consent 14

**B4 Paul's Plea to Philemon to Receive Onesimus 15-17**

- C1 His view: that perhaps Onesimus had left Philemon for a brief time in order that Philemon might receive him back eternally! 15
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**B5 Paul's Willingness to Stand Any Financial Loss on Onesimus' Behalf 18-20**

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- C2 His pledge in his own writing to pay 19a
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- C2 From Paul's fellow workers 24

**B3 Blessing 25**

"May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit."

Outline of Philemon

Based on the ANALYSIS OF PHILEMON

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