

Analysis of

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}

Analysis of PHILEMON

Prepared by James T. Bartsch

December, 1992, updated October 3, 2019

Published Online by WordExplain.com

Email Contact: jbartsch@wordexplain.com

Scripture taken from the *NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE*®,
Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by the Lockman Foundation.
Used by permission. (www.Lockman.org)

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}

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
- C2 Paul's persistent mentioning of Philemon in his prayers 4-6
- C3 Paul's receipt of much joy and comfort 7

A2 THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF PHILEMON TO RECEIVE ONESIMUS 8-20

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 9
- C3 His portrayal of himself - [instead of as an apostle, rather as] -
 - D1 "Paul, the aged"
 - D2 "A prisoner of Christ 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
- C2 His hope: that Philemon will receive Onesimus 16
- C3 His leverage 17

B5 Paul's Willingness to Stand Any Financial Loss on Onesimus' Behalf 18-20

- C1 His instruction to Philemon to put anything Onesimus owes on his (Paul's) account 18
- C2 His pledge in his own writing to pay 19a
- C3 His pressure on Philemon to be supportive 19b-20

A3 THE CONCLUSION 21-25

B1 The Purpose of the Letter 21-22

- C1 To secure obedience 21
- C2 To request preparation for lodging 22

B2 Greetings to Philemon 23-24

- C1 From Epaphras Paul's fellow prisoner in Christ 23
- C2 From Paul's fellow workers 24

B3 Blessing 25

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

Analysis of PHILEMON

Prepared by James T. Bartsch

December, 1992, updated October 3, 2019

Published Online by WordExplain.com

Email Contact: jbartsch@wordexplain.com

Scripture taken from the *NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE*®,
Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by the Lockman Foundation.
Used by permission. (www.Lockman.org)