

guarantee to pay back anything Onesimus has stolen from Philemon.

7. (a) Then, of what does Paul remind Philemon in verse 19b? _____

(b) In what does Paul have confidence concerning his request in Philemon 21? _____

8. Paul makes another request of Philemon in verse 22. What is this request? _____

Paul believes he will soon be released from prison, because of his friend Philemon's prayers. FINAL GREETING (Philemon 23,24)

1. Name those mentioned in Paul's final greeting to Philemon and their position in life at that time. _____

FIRST STUDY

LETTER TO PHILEMON

GREETINGS (Philemon 1-3)

This is a short letter written by Paul to Philemon while in prison in Rome. He begins this letter, by greeting other brothers and sisters in the Lord (Philemon 1-3).

1. There is another brother in Christ that Paul mentions from whom this letter includes. Name this brother. (Philemon 1) _____

2. Besides Philemon, Paul and Timothy's beloved and fellow laborer, this greeting is for two other people groups. Name them. (Philemon 2)

(1) _____

(2) _____

GIVING OF THANKS (Philemon 4-7)

1. What is the prayer Paul always prays for Philemon in Philemon 6? _____

2. Name at least 2 of the compliments Paul pays to Philemon in verses 5 and 7.

(1) _____

(2) _____

PAUL ASKS FOR A FAVOR (Philemon 8-21)

Paul request's a favor of Philemon. In his position, as apostle, he could demand it of Philemon in the name of Jesus Christ, because it would be the right thing, the Christian thing, to do; but instead, out of his love for Philemon, he prefers only to ask.

1. Paul begins by stating 2 things about himself in his plea. What are they? (Philemon 9)
(1) _____
(2) _____
2. Why is Paul in prison? (Philemon 9,23) _____

Paul's plea is for Onesimus, which means "Useful".

3. What does Paul call Onesimus in verse 10?

I beseech thee for my son. Philemon 10.

In pleading for Onesimus, as a loving father would, Paul calls Philemon's "run away" slave, his son. He asks Philemon to receive his son as he would receive Paul himself (Philemon 12). Paul's affection for his son is seen throughout this plea. Paul is an old man, and this youth has been great help to him.

4. How does Paul describe Onesimus in Philemon 11?
(a) In the past: _____
(b) At the present: _____

Through Paul's struggle, he makes a decision in what to do with the youth, Onesimus.

5. What is Paul's decision? (Philemon 12) _____

Paul pours out his heart to Philemon in Philemon 13-16 - "I really wanted to keep him here with me while I am in these chains for preaching the Good News, and you would have been helping me through him, but I didn't want to do it without your consent. I didn't want you to be kind because you had to but because you wanted to. Perhaps you could think of it this way: that he ran away from you for a little while so that now he can be yours forever, no longer only a slave, but something much better----a beloved brother, especially to me. Now he will mean much more to you too, because he is not only a servant but also your brother in Christ." (LB).

Paul asks Philemon to receive Onesimus as he would receive Paul himself (Philemon 17).

6. What does Paul promise Philemon to do if Onesimus has wronged him or owes him anything? (Philemon 18) _____

This letter was so personal, that Paul wrote it with his own hand instead of acquiring someone to write for him (Philemon 21). This makes it more bonding between the two of them. This was Paul's