

COLOSSIANS AND PHILEMON

Philemon

Lesson 13

Intro. Read through the entire book and then answer the following questions:

1. What was Paul's situation when he wrote Philemon? Who joined him?
2. List the names in this book also found in Colossians.
3. Whom did Paul send along with both books (Col. 4:8-9; Phil. 10-12)?
4. What do these considerations indicate about the time of this writing and where Philemon lived?

I. Insights Into the Character of Philemon: What do the following verses indicate about Philemon?

1. Vs. 1
2. Vs. 2
3. Vs. 5
4. Vs. 7
5. Vs. 21
6. Vs. 22

II. Facts About Onesimus: What facts do the following verses reveal about Onesimus?

1. Vs. 10
2. Vs. 11a
3. Vss. 11b and 13
4. Vs. 16 He had been a _____, now he was also a _____.
5. Vss. 18-19

III. Insights Into the Character of Paul:

1. From some reference book try to determine the general Gentile attitude toward slaves. What was Paul's attitude toward a run-away slave as indicated by the following verses:
 - a. Vs. 10
 - b. Vs. 12
 - c. Vs. 16
 - d. Vss. 18-19

Note: Being a Christian should cause us to rise above the prejudices of our society. What did Paul say is true in Christ (Gal. 3:38, Col. 3:11)?

2. What one thing did Paul definitely want Philemon to do in regard to Onesimus?
What more is implied in verse 21?
3. How did Paul go about getting Philemon to do what was "fitting"?
 - a. Vs. 1
 - b. Vs. 4
 - c. Vss. 5-7
 - d. Vss. 8-9
 - e. Vs. 17
 - f. Vss. 18-19
 - g. Vs. 20
 - h. Vs. 21

On what basis did Paul make his appeal?
4. Why did Paul not keep Onesimus to minister to him?
5. What verse indicates that Paul believed in the special providence of God?
Did he definitely state that Onesimus' departure was providential. What does this teach us?
6. What do you think Philemon owed Paul (vs. 19)?
7. Why do you think Paul sent Onesimus back to Philemon?
8. From this letter, how do you think Paul felt about slavery?

Thought Question: Is it possible that Paul's dealing with Philemon indicates God's plan for dealing with the entire institution of slavery? The hearts of masters had to be changed if right was to be done..