



Huntington Beach

Huntington

Lincoln

Lake Charles, LA

Haiti

Jamaica

Honduras

Russia

Turkey

Nepal

Thailand

Cambodia

Malawi

This is the Upper Story!



Family *of* God

The Book of Philemon
~verses 17-25~
"Standing in the Gap"

Rome



1,000 Miles



Colossae



Philemon vv. 10-25

“I appeal to you for my son Onesimus, who became my son while I was in chains. Formerly he was useless to you, but now he has become useful both to you and to me.

I am sending him—who is my very heart—back to you. 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.

Philemon vv. 10-25

“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.

Perhaps the reason he was separated from you for a little while was that you might have him back forever — 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.

Philemon vv. 10-25

“So if you consider me a partner, welcome him [Onesimus] as you would welcome me. If he has done you any wrong or owes you anything, charge it to me. I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand. I will pay it back—not to mention that you owe me your very self. I do wish, brother, that I may have some benefit from you in the Lord; refresh my heart in Christ.

Philemon vv. 10-25

“Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask. And one thing more: Prepare a guest room for me, because I hope to be restored to you in answer to your prayers.

Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, sends you greetings. And so do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas and Luke, my fellow workers. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.”

The image of Paul the fighter—Paul the harsh one who is determined to blast his opponents off the theological map like a bull in a China shop—just isn't here. In this letter we have a better glimpse of the real Paul. He doesn't project himself as the all-wise and overbearing apostle that some think him to be. He makes no demands, and bends over backwards to help others do the right thing, without offending them.

David Garland

"If you consider me a partner..."

"...not to mention that you owe me your very self."

"Confident of your obedience...knowing that you will do even more than I ask."

"And one thing more: Prepare a guest room for me..."

**Of all the letters that Paul wrote,
why is this one of the few
that God chose to preserve?**

- *1 Chapter* • *25 Verses* • *335 Words*
- *With the exception of the introduction & conclusion, God is hardly mentioned*
 - *No significant “theological teaching”*
 - *No mention of the Holy Spirit*
- *The word “gospel” appears only once*

**How did this short personal letter
with little obvious theology and
minimal reference to God survive
2,000 years — and receive
inclusion in the Word of God?**

What God has to say to us
through Philemon is needed
more today than perhaps at
any other time in history.

How did Jesus typically teach?

How much "theology" is in a simple little story of a mustard seed?

How much "theology" is in a simple little story of a field of sheep & goats?

How much "theology" is in the story of runaway son & a loving father that welcomes him home?

*Hey Philemon—Onesimus is standing
right there in front of you. He's back.*

He rebelled & ran away

He stole from you

You'll be ridiculed if you forgive him

Philemon, you're the father in the story.

What are you going to do?

It's not enough to know the right stuff about God. We have to live out our love for God and our love for others in our everyday lives. In very difficult situations.

Paul's Message:

We are family.

Onesimus is your brother.

**Treat him exactly like you
would treat me.**

Whatever he owes, charge it to me.

Whatever he owes, charge it to me.

**Where have you
heard that?**

1 Peter 2:24

“He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; for by His wounds you have been healed.”

Philippians 2:6-8

“Christ Jesus, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to His own advantage; rather, He made Himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!”



**“If he has done
you any wrong
or owes you
anything,
charge it to
me.”**



The blood of
Jesus covers all
of the sin and
conflict that
exists between
us as people.



The Gospel
changes
everything.
We are family.





More than
that, the cross
makes us right
with God.
Jesus is our
mediator.

1 John 2:1-2; 12

“My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father —Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins. I am writing to you, dear children, because your sins have been forgiven on account of His name.”

**“Lord, please keep us
together.”**

**“Lord, please take my sin,
and cleanse my heart.”**

