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The Chapters of Philemon

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Philemon

SECTION OUTLINE ONE (PHILEMON 1)

Paul's short letter to Philemon consists mainly of a plea for this godly man to graciously receive his runaway slave Onesimus, who has become a Christian and whom Paul is now sending back to his master.

I. THE APPRECIATION AND PRAISE FOR PHILEMON (1:1-7)

- A. Philemon is a family man** (1:1-3): His wife's name is Apphia, and his son's name is Archippus.
- B. Philemon is a faithful man** (1:4-5): Paul gives thanks for Philemon's faith.
- C. Philemon is a fruitful man** (1:6-7): He befriended and encouraged both Paul and many other believers.

II. THE APPEAL AND PLEA FOR ONESIMUS (1:8-17)

- A. Forgive him for your own sake** (1:8-15).
 1. "Show kindness to Onesimus" (1:8-10).
 2. "Onesimus hasn't been of much use to you in the past, but now he is very useful to both of us" (1:11).
 3. "I really wanted to keep him here with me while I am in these chains for preaching the Good News.... But I didn't want to do anything without your consent" (1:12-14).
 4. "Onesimus ran away for a little while so you could have him back forever" (1:15).
- B. Forgive him for his sake** (1:16): He is now your brother in Christ.
- C. Forgive him for my sake** (1:17): Paul asks Philemon to receive Onesimus as he would receive the apostle himself.

III. THE ASSURANCE AND PLEDGE FROM PAUL (1:18-25)

- A. The guarantee** (1:18-19a): Paul promises to pay Philemon any debt owed by Onesimus.
- B. The gentle reminder** (1:19b): Paul reminds Philemon of the great spiritual debt Philemon himself owes the apostle.
- C. The guest room** (1:22): Paul asks Philemon to keep a room available for when he is next able to visit.
- D. The greetings** (1:23-25): Epaphras, Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke, Paul's co-laborers, send their greetings to Philemon from Rome.