

A workbook aid for studying

THE EPISTLE OF PAUL THE APOSTLE TO THE
PHILEMON

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

PREFACE.....	2
Paul's Letter to Philemon.....	3

PREFACE

This study book is intended to aid a Bible class in the study of Paul's epistle to the Philemon. The material herein will not take the student on a verse-by-verse analysis of the text, but is intended to bring attention to significant portions of the text. Rather than providing textual insight from the writer, the booklet has been designed with questions to provoke thought and further study on the student's part, so that principles and lessons applicable for the Christian's life can be learned.

The usefulness of the material, and the success of the Bible class is primarily dependent upon the preparation which is given by each participant. Verse references from Philemon are provided with each question. These are given as a starting point for answering the questions. Seldom will a question be fully answered and all the relevant points of a discussion exhausted by the given verses. Students are encouraged to look beyond the designated texts for related passages which will help to answer questions and reveal the lessons to be learned from the inspired record. Some questions given may require diligent investigation on the student's part to completely answer.

It is my hope that the questions provided will touch on all the important lessons which can be gleaned by the child of God today from these books. However, the class should not be limited to these questions. Perhaps segments of text which the given questions do not directly deal with, or detailed points which are found in the text will provoke questions on the student's part. Such questions are welcomed and encouraged. Though the intent of this class material is to benefit us for Christian living today, the class should also be conducted in such a manner that we also come to a better appreciation of the events and customs which are found in the times of old.

May this workbook be used to the glory of God and the strengthening of saints.

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Paul's Letter To Philemon

PHILEMON 1:1-25

"For we have great joy and consolation in your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed by you, brother." (1:7)

- The meaning of a name is important. Search and report on the meaning of each of the following: (1:1-2)
— Philemon — Apphia

— Archippus — Onesimus
- What does Paul's greeting reveal to us about this family's devotion to God? (1:1-2)
- Though Philemon's love and faith is toward both the Lord and the saints, two different Greek words are used. Is there any distinction to be made on how his love and faith are expressed to each? (1:4-5)

Toward – Gr. pros
"a preposition of direction; forward to, i.e. toward (with the genit. The side of, i.e. pertaining to...)..." (Strong's)

Toward – Gr. eis
"a prime preposition; to or into (indicating the point reached or entered), of place, time or (fig.) Purpose (result, etc.)..." (Strong's)
- Verse 6 is rendered differently by translators. Discuss the different words used to convey the Greek word *koinonia*. What is it that Paul is praying for Philemon? (1:6)

"...the sharing of your faith..." (NKJV)
"...the communication of thy faith..." (KJV)
"...the fellowship of thy faith..." (ASV)
"...the faith which you have in common with them..." (BBE)
"...thy participation in the faith..." (DBY)
- What effect will Christian love have on others? How can such love be expressed? (1:7)
- Paul identifies two means whereby Philemon might be compelled to do what is right. Discuss each, and consider what practical application is herein for us. (1:8-9)

7. Comment on the relationship which exists between Paul and Onesimus. What play on words does the apostle use here? **(1:10-12)**
8. Why did Onesimus have to return to Philemon? How do we reconcile this action of Paul's with the text to the right? **(1:12)**
- You shall not give back to his master the slave who has escaped from his master. He may dwell with you in your midst, in the place which he chooses within one of your gates, where it seems best to him; you shall not oppress him. **(Deuteronomy 23:15-16)**
9. Why did Paul want to keep Onesimus with him? Why did he not? **(1:13-14)**
10. When Paul suggests, "...perhaps he departed for a while for this purpose...", what does he consider to be a possibility in Onesimus' conversion? **(1:15)**
11. Now that Onesimus is back in the house of Philemon, what will the nature of their relationship be? **(1:15-16)**
12. How does Paul facilitate the reconciliation of Onesimus to Philemon? **(1:17-19)**
13. Discuss the confidence Pauls has in Philemon's obedience. Relate this to **1:8-9. (1:20-21)**