

Workbook on Philemon.

Assignments on Philemon.

Please read Philemon, then answer the following questions.

1. Who wrote the letter to Philemon (v1), and who joined him? (Note: Be sure you know basic facts about these men's lives.)
2. To what man is the letter addressed according to v1? What do we know about him?
3. What is the theme of the book, and what were Paulo's circumstances?
4. Who else is addressed (v2), and what do we know about them?
5. What did Paulo do for Philemon and his family (v4)?
6. What had he heard about them (v5)?
7. What had they done with their faith, and what effect did this have (v6)?
8. What had Philemon done for the saints, and how did Paulo react to this (v7)?
9. How did Paulo intend to approach Philemon regarding the topic he intended to discuss (vv 8,9)?
10. How did Paulo describe his own circumstances?

11. On whose behalf did Paulo appeal (v10)? Explain Paulo's statement that he had begotten Onesimo while in chains. (Note: The story of Onesimo is not directly stated but must be deduced as the letter proceeds. Try to piece the facts together to get the story.)

12. How did Paulo describe Onesimo in v11?

13. What was Paulo doing with Onesimo (v12)?

14. What would Paulo have preferred to do (v13)? Why?

15. Why had he not done as he preferred to do (v14)?

16. What does verses 15,16 show about Onesimo's former relationship to Philemon? What had changed about their relationship?

17. In what manner did Paulo urge Philemon to receive Onesimo (v17)?

18. What promise did Paulo make on Onesimo's behalf (vv 18,19)?

19. Application: What does Paulo's promise show about helping people in need?

20. Summarize your conclusions about what had happened to Onesimo and why Paulo was sending him back.

21. Special Assignment: Define the concept of restitution. List Scripture passages about it.

Explain how the story of Philemon illustrates restitution.

22. Case Study: Some claim that, when a person is baptized, he is released from all obligations of relationships formed before baptism. What does Onesimo's case teach about this?

Think of other similar examples.

23. What confidence did Paulo express in verses 20,21?
24. What request did Paulo make – v22? What does this indicate about Paulo's future plans?
24. Who sent greetings in v23? What else do we know about him?
25. What men are named in v24? Tell what we know about each of them.
26. How did Paulo conclude the letter (v25)?
27. List other passages about the master/servant relationship. Consider Old Testament passages in which people voluntarily chose to become or to remain slaves.
28. What practices often associated with slavery would be sinful? (Give b/c/v.)
30. Does any New Testament or Old Testament passage directly or absolutely forbid slavery? If so, list and explain it.
31. List Scripture examples of upright people who were masters and had slaves.
32. Special Assignment: List New Testament passages addressed to masters of slaves. If slave owning were inherently sinful, would Aleim tell people how to do it? Explain.
33. Application: State your conclusions about the morality of slaveholding and defend them by the Scriptures.