

“Why Should I Forgive?”

Philemon 1-25

The book of Philemon was written by Paul while he was in _____. The letter is addressed to _____, a wealthy man who lived in Colossae. Paul urges Philemon to forgive a slave named _____ who had _____ from him and run away. Somehow Onesimus came in contact with _____, who led Onesimus to Christ and sent him back to Philemon.

Up to ____% of the population in the Roman Empire were slaves. Paul helped to undermine _____ by teaching that all people are _____ in Christ (Gal 3:28, Col 3:11). Paul urged slaves not to _____ against their masters but rather to serve them faithfully and then seek _____ when possible (1 Cor 7:21-24).

The main topic of the book of Philemon is not slavery, but _____. Paul asks Philemon to forgive a man who had _____ him and deserved to be punished. In this little book, Paul gives 4 reasons why you should forgive those who _____ you.

1. Because You _____ the Lord. 1-9

If you love the Lord, He will provide supernatural _____ to love others, even those who hurt you (Romans 5:5, John 15:12).

2. Because God Can _____ People. 10-16

Philemon may have considered Onesimus to be a _____ criminal. Paul explains that Onesimus had accepted _____, and now was a changed man.

3. Because God Has _____ You. 17-19

4. Because You Will Become a _____. 20-25

- A. You Get a Blessing for _____.
- B. You Bless the _____ Who Is Forgiven.
- C. You Bless Those Who _____ You.

Paul Yourself Change Rebel Cheated Onesimus Slavery Christ
Person 35 Ability Stolen Prison Know Blessing Hopeless
Equal Forgiveness Love Philemon Freedom Mistreat Forgiven