

Transformed by God's Grace Philemon

I. Paul's Greeting – 1-3

1. Paul a prisoner of Jesus Christ – 1
Written from Roman prison
Paul sees himself there as servant of Christ
Timothy is with him. and sends greetings
2. Written to Philemon & family – 1-2
Members of Colossian church – Col. 4:9, 17
Church met in their home
3. Grace & peace from God & Jesus – 3
Paul is going to deal with an issue
This family will need God's grace & peace

II. Paul's Dear Friend – 4-7

1. Thankful & praying for Philemon – 4-6
Hearing of his love & faith
He loved the Lord & the people of God
Praying also for his effective response
That his faith would be well communicated
Christ-like response to this issue
2. Paul's confidence in his response – 7
Rejoices that Philemon will respond in love
He is known for his love of fellow believers

III. Story behind the Letter

Onesimus – a slave who served Philemon
His name means “useful” or “profitable”
But he was “useless” to Philemon – 11
He ran away - perhaps stole from Philemon
In Rome – He met Paul, who was in prison
Paul – led him to faith in Jesus Christ – 10
He was transformed by God's grace
He became useful to Paul – 11-13
Transformed thief becomes a giver – Eph 4:28
Onesimus – must be reconciled to his master
Thus Paul writes this letter to Philemon

IV. Paul's Intercession – 8-16

1. His gracious approach – 8-9
He could come with apostolic authority
But he comes in love beseeching him
As Paul the aged one
As the prisoner of Jesus Christ
2. Introduction of the “new man” – 10-11
My son in the faith – whom I have begotten
“Useless one” is now “useful” to you & me
3. Need for reconciliation – 12-16
I am sending him & asking you to receive him
Receive him as one whom I dearly love
I would have kept him -13
He ministered to me as I know you would have
But I could not keep him – 14
He belongs to you & you must decide

Consider the need for reconciliation – 15-16
Time of break was of God to bring change
Departed for a season to be joined forever
Not just as a slave but a beloved brother
This is how Paul sees it
But it is even more so for Philemon
Your slave but also your brother in Christ

V. Expression of Grace – 17-21

1. Christ-like grace is offered – 17-19
Receive him as you would receive me – 17
God receives us in Christ – Eph. 1:6
Paul will pay for wrongs done to him – 18-19
Charge his debts to Paul's account
2. Paul's confidence in Philemon – 20-21
Philemon's response will bring him joy
Be a source refreshing in Christ's love
His confidence goes beyond his request
He believes Philemon will do more than asked

VI. Closing Words – 22-25

1. Paul's desire to visit – 22
Prepare a place for me to visit you
Pray that God would work it out
2. Greet Epaphras my fellow-prisoner – 23
Sent by Colossian church to Paul – Col. 1:7
3. His co-workers send greetings – 24
Mark, Aristarchus, Demas & Luke
4. Blessing of Christ's grace – 25
His grace is needed to respond to Onesimus