

SENIOR BIBLE FELLOWSHIP ASSIGNMENT: FEBRUARY 10, 2026

We are going back to the New Testament and discuss Paul's letter to Philemon. Paul writes this letter while he's in prison. This letter to Philemon concerns Onesimus, who is Philemon's slave. At the time of the writing, Onesimus is with Paul. After Onesimus ran away from Philemon, he encountered Jesus through Paul... probably in Rome where Paul was a prisoner. As now a Christ follower, he was helping Paul. In accordance to Roman law, Paul sends Onesimus back to Philemon in Colossae, but with this letter.

This letter isn't one to gain knowledge and truths to base your doctrinal knowledge, but hangs heavily on the applications of all the truths which Paul expects all followers of Jesus to know and more importantly use in their faith walk. Philemon needs to understand Paul's heart, a man who brought him to faith as he reads this letter.

Paul is masterful in his gentle but convicting manner as he appeals to Philemon's profession of faith in Jesus. Is Philemon truly a new man in Christ or is he still a man of the world. We have much to learn from Paul.

QUESTIONS:

1. From verses 1 – 3, what do we learn about Philemon?

2. In verses 4 – 7, what additional things do we learn about Philemon?
 - 2a. In verse 6, Paul says, "...I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective for the full knowledge of every good thing that is in us for the sake of Christ." Recognize that Philemon has probably been a Christian for less than 10 years. Why do you think Paul is telling him this early in the letter?

3. What is the relationship between Philemon and Onesimus?

4. In verses 8 – 13, why do you think Paul does not command Philemon to do what is required, but instead appeals to him?

5. See verses 13 – 22. What are some ways in which Paul appeals to Philemon to do the right thing?
 - 5a. Please share if anyone has ever appealed to you to do the right thing or if you ever appealed to a person to do the right thing.

6. This short letter from Paul contains much wisdom which we should be using as disciples of Jesus Christ. Following are some which I jotted down. Please pick one and share why you chose this and how you've used it in your faith walk.

Optional: Feel free to come up with your own thought of what you mined from this letter.

- The good news about Jesus, breaks down barriers.
- The good news about Jesus, forms relationships.
- The good news about Jesus, unites all believers into the family of God.
- The good news about Jesus, challenges us to leave our old self and become a new person.
- The good news about Jesus, gives us boldness to speak to others about Jesus and his ways.