

PHILEMON

AT-A-GLANCE



N.T. BOOK #18



AUTHOR: APOSTLE PAUL



WRITTEN: 60-62 AD

Old Testament: 39 Books

New Testament: 27 Books

18

CLAIMS TO FAME: Written about a slave with encouragement to treat all equally

PROBLEMS OR ISSUES THIS BOOK IS ADDRESSING:

- The book was written so that a slave would be accepted as a beloved brother among Christians, and Paul wanted to encourage Christians to not think in snobbish terms.

MOST FAMOUS VERSES:

No longer as a slave, but better than a slave, as a dear brother. He is very dear to me but even dearer to you, both as a fellow man and as a brother in the Lord. ***Philemon 1:16***

I pray that your partnership with us in the faith may be effective in deepening your understanding of every good thing we share for the sake of Christ. ***Philemon 1:6***

Important Points about the Book:

- In this letter Paul has found a slave, whom he is returning to Philemon, his owner. Paul asks Philemon to forgive the slave and return him to Paul because Paul has found him useful in preaching the gospel.
- Paul's message is that even though slavery was an accepted part of Roman society, we should treat each other as equals, like he encouraged Philemon to treat his slave as a brother.

Welcome to the Book of Philemon, a postcard from Paul that packs a powerful message about forgiveness, reconciliation, and the transformative love of Christ. Written by the Apostle Paul around 60-62 AD while he was under house arrest in Rome, this personal letter is addressed to Philemon, a wealthy Christian in Colossae, and concerns Onesimus, a runaway slave. In just 25 verses, Philemon challenges us to see others through the lens of God's grace and to live out the gospel in our relationships.

February 1, 2026 – (Philemon 1:1-7)

Theme: Thankfulness for the faithful ministry and love of believers.

- **Monday:** Colossians 1 – Paul's gratitude for the Colossian church's faith.
- **Tuesday:** 1 Thessalonians 1 – Thanking God for faithful believers.
- **Wednesday:** Psalm 100 – A call to give thanks for God's goodness.
- **Thursday:** Acts 4 – The early church's bold service and prayer.
- **Friday:** Romans 1 – Paul's longing to encourage faithful believers.

February 8, 2026 – (Philemon 1:8-16)

Theme: Restoring relationships through Christ's transformative grace.

- **Monday:** Genesis 33 – Jacob and Esau's reconciliation.
- **Tuesday:** Matthew 18 – Jesus' teaching on forgiveness and reconciliation.
- **Wednesday:** 2 Corinthians 5 – The ministry of reconciliation through Christ.
- **Thursday:** Psalm 133 – The blessing of unity among brothers.
- **Friday:** Luke 15 – The joy of restoration in the parable of the prodigal son.

February 15, 2026 – (Philemon 1:17-25)

Theme: Unity and mutual support in the body of Christ through hospitality.

- **Monday:** Romans 15 – Welcoming one another for God's glory.
- **Tuesday:** Hebrews 13 – Hospitality as a mark of Christian love (repeated from Jude series but distinct context).
- **Wednesday:** Acts 2 – The early church's fellowship and generosity.
- **Thursday:** 1 Peter 4 – Using gifts to serve and show hospitality.
- **Friday:** Psalm 84 – The joy of dwelling in God's presence with His people.