

Lion and Lamb Apologetics'

PHILEMON

AN OVERVIEW

Purpose

To persuade Philemon to forgive Onesimus, his runaway slave, and to accept him as a brother in Christ.

Author

Paul

Date

Written about AD 60 from Rome

Audience

To Philemon, who was likely a wealthy member of church at Colossae, and to all believers everywhere.

Setting

As much as Paul would like to have retained the services of Onesimus, Paul knew that Onesimus's fugitive status, severed relationship, and wrongdoing against his master needed to be addressed. Paul thus wrote this letter as an appeal to Philemon to appreciate the transformation that has occurred in Onesimus's life and to receive him back not merely as a bondservant but as a "beloved brother."

Special Features

This is a private, personal letter to a friend.



Key Verses

"I thank my God always when I remember you in my prayers, because I hear of your love and of the faith that you have toward the Lord Jesus and for all the saints, and 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. For I have derived much joy and comfort from your love, my brother, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you." (1:4-7 ESV)

"So if you consider me your partner, receive him as you would receive me." (1:17 ESV)

Key People

Paul, Philemon, Onesimus

Key Places

Colossae, Rome