

BOOK OF PHILEMON

12/19/09

The book of Philemon is a letter about grace and forgiveness. Before we read the letter, let's ask 3 questions to address some foundational concepts about grace and forgiveness.

*Question #1 -- Did Paul teach that a believer must ignore the actions of other people? (The following letter to Timothy was written after Paul's letter to Philemon.)

2 Tim. 4:14 Paul recognized the evil works of Alexander the
coppersmith -- he said, "the Lord reward
him according to his works"
15 Paul warned Timothy

*Question #2 -- Did Paul teach that a believer should allow other people to dictate the terms of grace and forgiveness?

2 Cor. 11:20 not taking abuse from others
Gal. 5:15 however, not biting and devouring others
1 Sam. 18:11 Saul tried to kill David
1 Sam. 19:10 Saul tried to kill David again
1 Sam. 24:1-8 David refused to kill Saul in the cave
1 Sam. 26:5-11 David restrained Abishai from killing Saul
21 Saul asked David to return
22-24 David declined
Rom. 12:19-20 willing to serve the needs of your enemy

*Question #3 -- Did Paul ever have any experience where it took some time for him to extend grace and forgiveness to another person? (Notice the story of John Mark.)

Acts 12:12 Mary -- the mother of John Mark
25 Barnabas and Saul took John Mark with them
Acts 13:4-5 when Barnabas and Paul traveled together, John
Mark went with them
13 later, John Mark left them
Acts 15:36 later, Paul and Barnabas discussed traveling together
again
37 Barnabas wanted to take John Mark with them
38 Paul did not like that idea -- because John Mark had
previously left them
39-40 contention -- separate travels
Col. 4:10 Paul mentioned Marcus
Philemon 24 Paul mentioned Marcus
2 Tim. 4:11 Paul mentioned Mark

Paul	verse 1	author of letter
Philemon	verse 1	wealthy slave-owner
Apphia	verse 2	wife of Philemon
Archippus	verse 2	son of Philemon and Apphia
Onesimus	verse 10	runaway slave, who was returning to his master

* 4 parts of the letter

Philemon 1-7	appreciation for Philemon and family
8-16	Paul's petition for Onesimus
17-21	Paul's promise to Philemon
22-25	conclusion

Philemon 1	Paul was a prisoner (in Rome) -- 1 of 4 prison epistles (also -- Ephesians, Philippians and Colossians) -- friend of Philemon
2	Apphia and Archippus -- church in their home
Col. 4:17	Archippus -- servant in the Lord
Philemon 3	greeting to the family
5-7	their kindness to believers
8-9	Paul began his appeal to his friend
10	Onesimus -- became a believer during his time with Paul
11	Onesimus -- was previously unprofitable to Philemon (probably a thief and definitely a runaway slave) -- became profitable to Paul
12	Onesimus -- obligation to return to Philemon
13-14	Paul wanted Onesimus to remain with him -- but he did not want to violate his relationship with Philemon
15-16	although Onesimus departed for a while, he returned as a "brother"
17	"if you count me as a partner, receive him as myself"
18	"if he has wronged you, put it on my account"
19	"I will repay it"
20-21	"cheer me up by doing this for me"
22	prepare lodging for me
23-24	Epaphras, Marcus, Aristarchus, Demas and Lucas sent their greetings
Col. 4:10	Aristarchus and Marcus
12	Epaphras
14	Luke and Demas
Philemon 25	the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you