The Chapters of Philemon

Harold Willmington
Liberty University, hwillmington@liberty.edu

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/outline_chapters_bible

Part of the Biblical Studies Commons, Christianity Commons, and the Religious Thought, Theology and Philosophy of Religion Commons

Recommended Citation
https://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/outline_chapters_bible/46

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the A Guide to the Systematic Study of the Bible at Scholars Crossing. It has been accepted for inclusion in An Alliterated Outline for the Chapters of the Bible by an authorized administrator of Scholars Crossing. For more information, please contact scholarlycommunications@liberty.edu.
Philemon

SECTION OUTLINE ONE (PHILEMON 1)
Paul's short letter to Philemon consists mainly of a plea for this godly man to graciously receive his runaway slave Onesimus, who has become a Christian and whom Paul is now sending back to his master.

I. THE APPRECIATION AND PRAISE FOR PHILEMON (1:1-7)
   A. Philemon is a family man (1:1-3): His wife's name is Apphia, and his son's name is Archippus.
   B. Philemon is a faithful man (1:4-5): Paul gives thanks for Philemon's faith.
   C. Philemon is a fruitful man (1:6-7): He befriended and encouraged both Paul and many other believers.

II. THE APPEAL AND PLEA FOR ONESIMUS (1:8-17)
   A. Forgive him for your own sake (1:8-15).
      1. "Show kindness to Onesimus" (1:8-10).
      2. "Onesimus hasn't been of much use to you in the past, but now he is very useful to both of us" (1:11).
      3. "I really wanted to keep him here with me while I am in these chains for preaching the Good News.... But I didn't want to do anything without your consent" (1:12-14).
      4. "Onesimus ran away for a little while so you could have him back forever" (1:15).
   B. Forgive him for his sake (1:16): He is now your brother in Christ.
   C. Forgive him for my sake (1:17): Paul asks Philemon to receive Onesimus as he would receive the apostle himself.

III. THE ASSURANCE AND PLEDGE FROM PAUL (1:18-25)
   A. The guarantee (1:18-19a): Paul promises to pay Philemon any debt owed by Onesimus.
   B. The gentle reminder (1:19b): Paul reminds Philemon of the great spiritual debt Philemon himself owes the apostle.
   C. The guest room (1:22): Paul asks Philemon to keep a room available for when he is next able to visit.