

We are one family in our belief in our Lord Jesus... We are all slaves to Him and we all need His forgiveness... Therefore, we must all treat each other as brothers in the spirit of fellowship and forgive each other... so that we know how to pray: Forgive us our sins as We also forgive those who sin against us. Of course, this summary does not at all dispense with personal reading of the Bible and deep contemplation of its words.

+ **Chapters:** Just ONE (the shortest of St. Paul's letters).

+ **Writing circumstances:** Wrote during the imprisonment of St. Paul in Rome.

+ **Who is the Book directed to?**

- Saint Philemon who was a Roman citizen from Colossae.

+ **Keys to understanding the Book:**

- St. Philemon believed at the hands of St. Paul during his preaching in Ephesus, after that, when St. Epaphras started the church of Colossae, St. Philemon went with him, and he remained one of the leaders of the church there.

- And like most of the rich people of Rome in the past, Philemon had slaves.. One of them was named Onesimus.

- Onesimus probably cheated or robbed Philemon and then fled.

- And Onesimus went to Paul in prison (most probably asking for his help). Onesimus believed at the hands of St. Paul and kept helping him in his service.

+ **The purpose of the book:**

- St. Paul asks Philemon not only to forgive Onesimus, but also to accept him as his brother in the faith, not as a slave.



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## + Observations:

- The book does not mention the resurrection of our Lord Jesus or His cross publicly (and this is the only epistle of Saint Paul that contains this) because it contains the cross in deeds (St. Paul as a mediator between Philemon and Onesimus ,and between them and our Lord)
- The word Onesimus means (beneficial).
- When Onesimus sent this message to Philemon, Philemon forgave him and accepted him with joy as a brother Indeed.
- after that Onesimus returned to Rome, and after the martyrdom of St. Paul, he became bishop of Berea... And the church celebrates the feast of his departure on the 21st of Amshir.
- As for Saint Philemon and his family (his wife Lycia and their son Archippus), they were martyred at the hands of the pagans, after they served in Colosse, and Philemon was the bishop of Colosse ... and the Church celebrates their martyrdom on the 25th of Amshir.

## + The book arrangement: The message of fellowship and forgiveness

VERSE 1 TO 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Opening prayer.</li> <li>- A due praise for Philemon that sets out St. Paul's request.</li> </ul>
VERSE 8 TO 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- St. Paul request.</li> <li>- St. Paul asked to accept Onesimus and his personal intercession in him.</li> </ul>
VERSE 21 TO 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Closing greetings.</li> <li>- St. Paul affirms his confidence in Philemon's obedience to his request.</li> </ul>



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**S M C O A**

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## + The book summary:

### 1- INTRODUCTORY PRAYER (VERSE 1-7)

+ He begins with a salutation to Philemon and his family... and a prayer of thanksgiving for Philemon's love and faith for which he is famous, and he paves the way for his request by talking about the fellowship of faith among all believers.

so that your fellowship of faith may be effective in knowing all the goodness that is in you for the sake of Christ Jesus. Philemon1:6

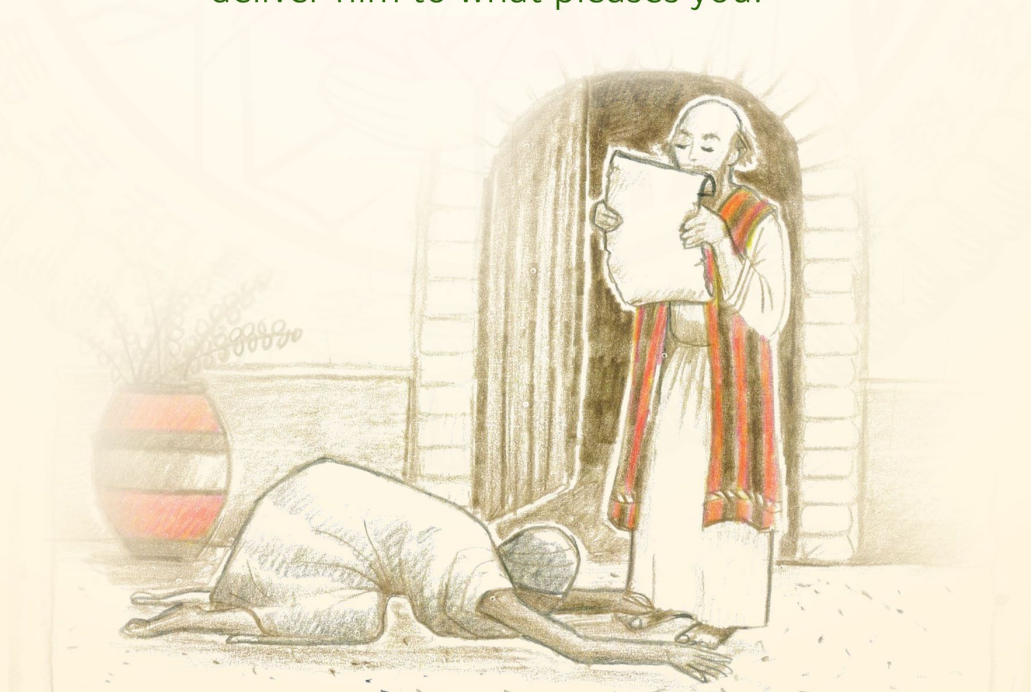
+ Faith must be accompanied by works that confirm it... Works of fellowship = works of love = works of righteousness.

+ And everyone who believes in our Lord Jesus is the inside of this company... Everyone is equal.

## + What do we learn?

+ If you are going to request a difficult or unexpected request from someone, it is wise that you point out good qualities in him and facts that pave the way for your request.

Lord, give me the wisdom that I win the person (without hypocrisy) so that I can deliver him to what pleases you.





COMPANY; NEITHER FREE NOR SLAVE.

## 2- ST. PAUL REQUEST (VERSE 8 -20)

+ Verse 10 to 15 in which Saint Paul says that Onesimus became his son in the faith and served him. they remained one family in Christ; and although he wanted Onesimus to remain with him, the dispute between Onesimus and Philemon had to be resolved in favor of the 2. Verse 16 St. Paul asks Philemon to accept Onesimus as a brother, not as a slave.  
+ Verse 17 to 19: Great intercession from St. Paul for Onesimus, saying to Philemon, “Accept him as if he were myself.”

“No longer as a slave but more than a slave--a beloved brother, especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.”(Philemon 1:16)

+ This verse is very powerful... In order to understand it, we must know that the Roman law had full power over the masters over their slaves... I mean, Philemon has the right to flog and imprison Onesimus as he wants.

+ St. Paul not only says to him to forgive him, he also tells him to accept him as if he were your brother and not your slave.

+ Of course, this is a very strange thing for the rich in Rome and is not acceptable in their society.





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If you think of me as a partner, accept him as I do. Then, if he has wronged you with something, or you owe him a debt, count that on me (Philemon 1:17-18)

+ How great are you, Saint Paul... He acts like the Lord Christ who bore our sins in order to reconcile us to Himself... He tells Philemon that the mistake that Onesimus did and the debt he owes is I who is ready to pay it, reckon it is on me... By that Saint Paul is a mediator who reconciles between Philemon and Onesimus.

+ We also learn what fellowship in Christianity means... Paul = Philemon = Onesimus before our Lord, the 3 are his children who believe in Him and need His forgiveness... Sisters in Christ and need His forgiveness on the cross... Therefore we are all His servants (there is no master or slave) And we must forgive each other (and learn from the parable of the servant who did not forgive).

### + What do we learn?

+ It is not possible for you to know that there are 2 believers in our Lord Jesus and there is a big disagreement between them that you can solve and remain silent because you are afraid of losing one of them... You must wisely and with the help of our Lord intervene to resolve this severe disagreement.

O Lord, let me be a mediator of goodness and forgiveness between your children... so that the devil does not sow discord between us that could make us lose the eternity.



## 3- A CLOSING SALUTATION (VERSE 21-25)

+ In conclusion, St. Paul tells Philemon that he is confident in his faith and obedience, and that he will do even more than what is asked of him.

As I am confident in your obedience, I wrote to you knowing that you also do more than I say. (Philemon 1:21)

+ Beautiful love of the teacher and the father to his children.

### + What do we learn?

+ Just as the prelude to the request needs wisdom, the conclusion of the request also needs wisdom... You lovingly put your trust in the one before you that he is good and that he will not let you down, but he will do more than what you want.

Lord, give me wisdom to encourage your children to learn from your sweet qualities so that we can all learn from them and set them as a goal for ourselves to walk on.



THE MARTYRDOM OF SAINT PHILEMON

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