

*Paul's Letter to*  
**Philemon**



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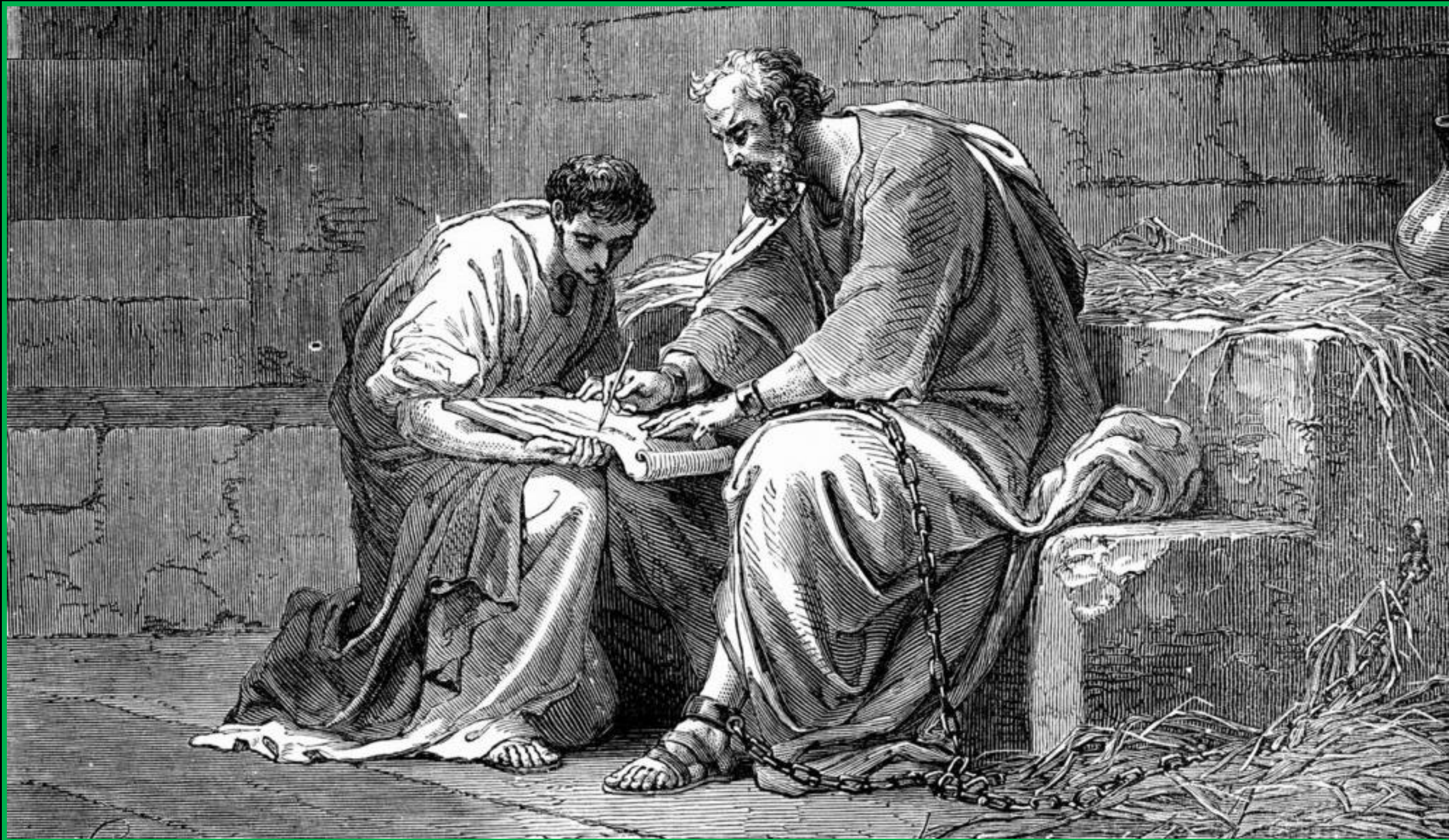
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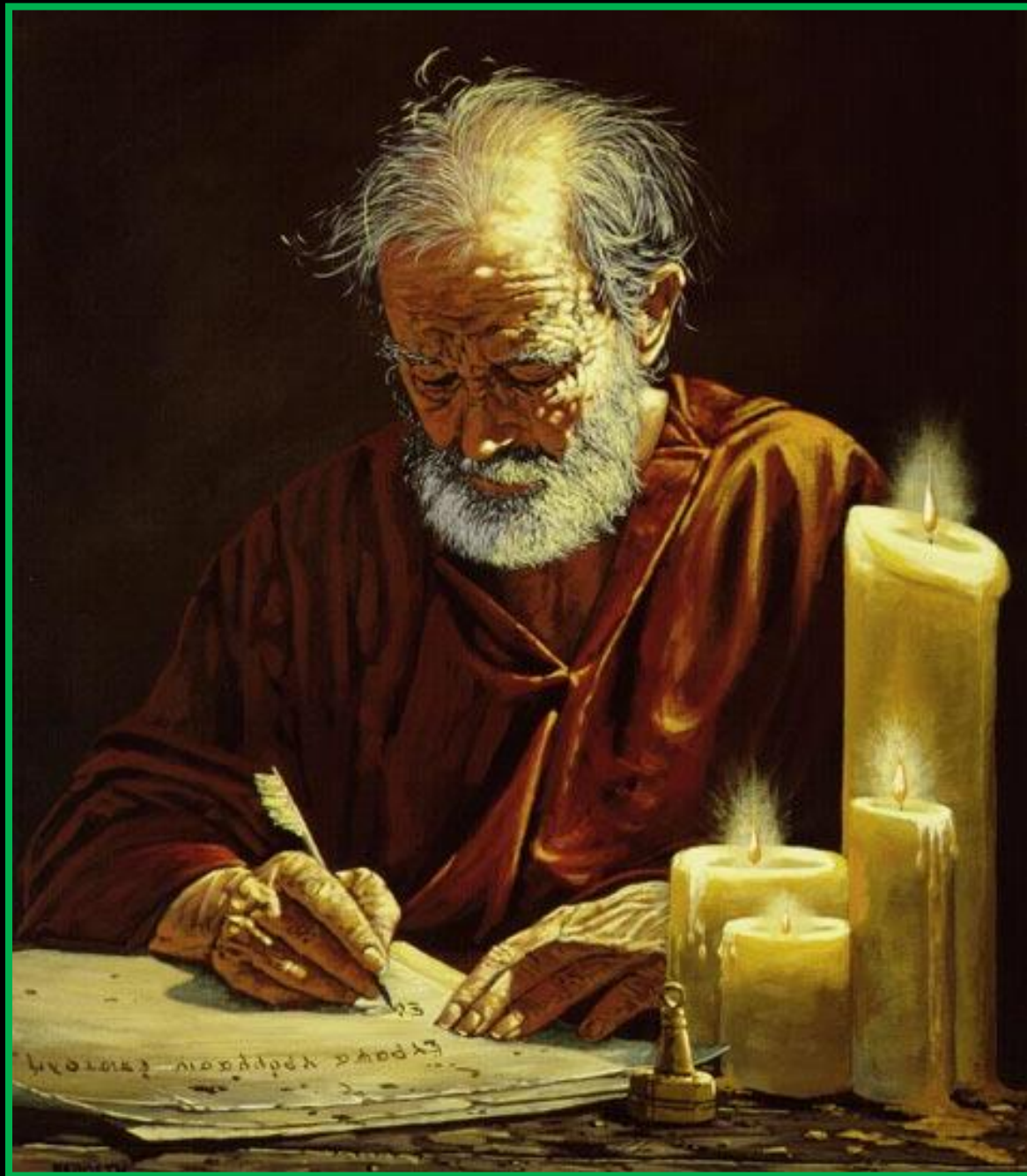


# The Book of Philemon

God's Grace Changes Men

Changed Men Are Peacemakers





# The Book of Philemon

Soft Skills for Kingdom Unity  
Godly Wisdom to Move Even Princes

Philemon is exquisitely beautiful and delicate, a model of courtesy and politeness, perfect for adorning Christianity.

Philemon and Colossians, written by Paul at the same time, are very different, showing the range of Paul's wisdom and our duty.





About 40 of our young children  
are learning the wisdom of a soft  
answer instead of grievous words.

A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger.

Proverbs 15:1

"A soft answer turneth away  
wrath: but grievous words stir up anger."  
Proverbs 15:1



SOFT WORDS



"Can I help you with anything?" "You can have it."  
"Sorry for snapping at you." "No you didn't!" "It's ok, let's not argue about it"  
"You can play with that for now." "Sure! We can play what you want to play!"  
"Let's play something that everyone would enjoy."  
"You are great at work!" "Ok, maybe you are right!"



GRIEVOUS WORDS



"You're so mean! I'm not playing with you ever again!"  
"Go away!"  
"No you didn't"... "Yes I did"... "No you didn't"... "Yes I did..!!"  
"You're so weird!"  
"don't want to play that!" "No, do it yourself!" "Give it to me!"  
"That's mine! Give it to me!"  
"You're wrong; you don't know what you are talking about."

By long forbearing is a prince persuaded, and a soft tongue  
breaketh the bone.

Proverbs 25:15

*Paul's Letter to*  
**Philemon**



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# Soft Skills for Christians

Illustrated by the Apostle Paul  
To Win the Agreement of Philemon

Why is Philemon in the Bible?

It is an inspired volume of our  
66-book divine library.

16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

II Timothy 3:16-17



Why is Philemon in the Bible?

There are several aspects of God's  
grace or true godliness that  
can easily be taught.

# Possible Ways to Teach and Apply Philemon

- REPENTANCE ... by Onesimus.
- FORGIVENESS ... by Philemon.
- PEACEMAKING ... by Paul.
- CONVERSION ... of Onesimus by Paul.
- MERCY ... by Paul and Philemon to Onesimus.
- CHANGE ... is how the gospel affects men of every kind and station.
- CHRISTIANS ... are courteous, gentle, humble, meek, wise peacemakers.
- SLAVERY ... is not condemned or defended as many use the epistle.
- ALLEGORY ... of Christ's intercession was not Paul's or the Spirit's intent.
- FREEDOM ... for Onesimus as a servant in Christ (1 Co 7:20-24; Ga 3:28; 1 Ti 6:1-2).

Philemon is in the Bible to teach us  
how to make peace so our church  
will be ONE as Jesus taught.

That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.

John 17:21

Philemon is in the Bible for us to  
have a great church for God's  
glory and our pleasure.

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!

Psalm 133:1

Let us prove Christianity to the world the Lord's way ... *by great peace and unity in our church.*

That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.

John 17:21



34 A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.

35 By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

John 13:34-35

# Three Kinds of Slides

And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.

Luke 4:4

=

God's Word the Bible

Jonah, an early prophet, lived no later than the reign of Jeroboam II of Israel.

II Kings 14:25

=

Supporting Information

When God's word tells you to do something ...

**Do It!**

=

Lesson or Rule to Learn

## The Situation

Paul appealed to a rich master to forgive a runaway servant and take him back on better terms.

What you will read is really not fair ... Philemon the rich master does not stand a chance.

Paul combined appeals that are incomparably courteous, gracious, wise, and powerfully persuasive.

If you ever had to read, write, or  
deliver a persuasive speech, this  
**one trumps any human effort.**

(Compare the epistle of Caius Pliny in a similar situation.)

Will you learn this kind of gentle  
love of one another with me so  
we can be ONE as Jesus prayed?

Paul was a man's man.  
Do not doubt it

He had more zeal than Jehu, but  
he knew how to use it wisely,  
and he continued zealous.



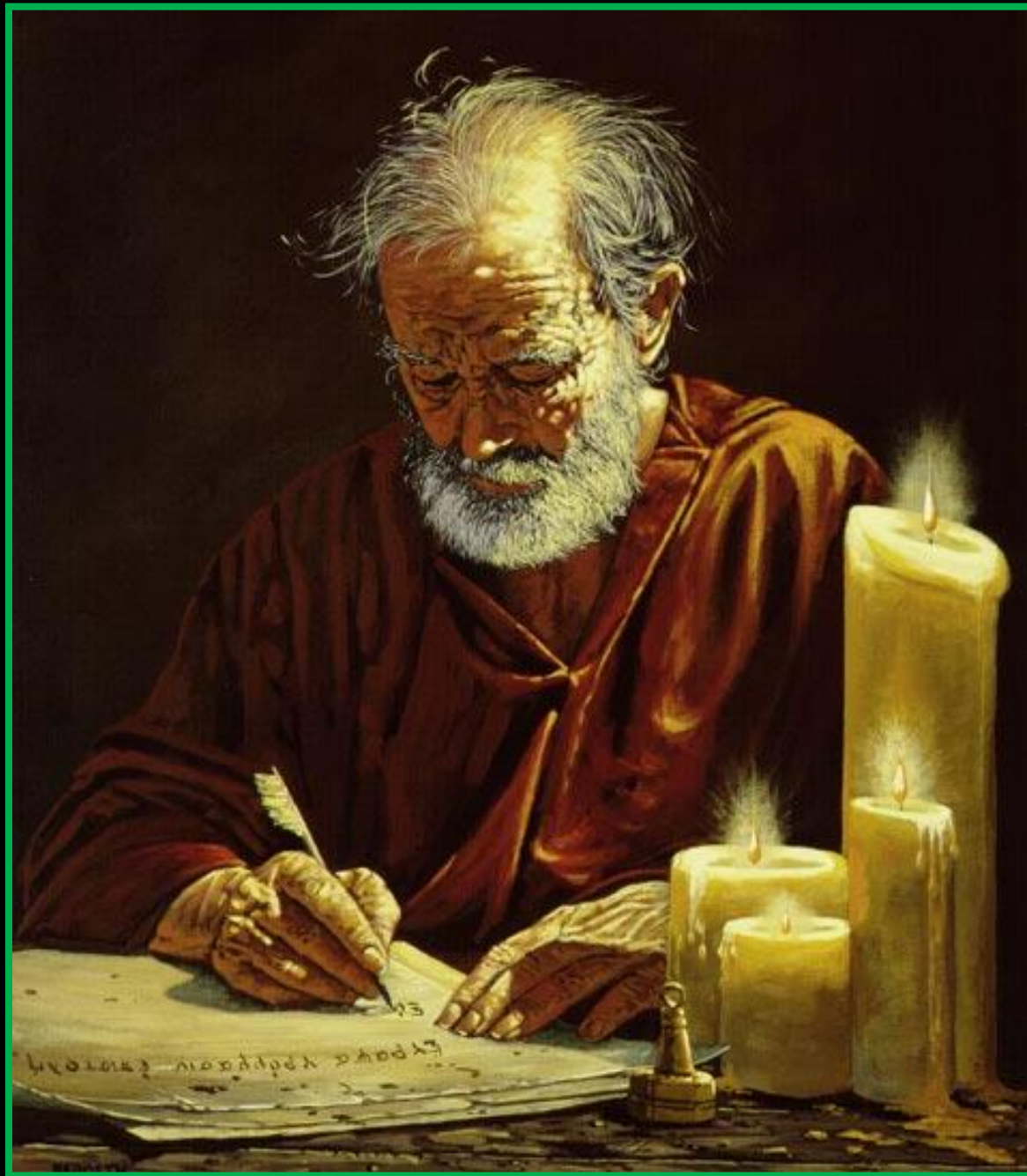
13 For ye have heard of my conversation in time past in the Jews' religion, how that beyond measure I persecuted the church of God, and wasted it:

14 And profited in the Jews' religion above many my equals in mine own nation, being more exceedingly zealous of the traditions of my fathers.

Galatians 1:13-14

Let's go!

Philemon is between Titus and  
Hebrews and overlooked  
to our own loss.



It has 25 verses just like Jude ...

but it is totally different from Jude  
and his scathing condemnation of  
apostates and false teachers.

God chose to include in the divine library this personal letter about a private conflict of two men.

Each underlined word or phrase in the verses should be analyzed for kind wisdom to move Philemon.

Each explanation of the verses  
can be used to help you be  
a godly peacemaker.

1 Paul, a prisoner of Jesus Christ, and Timothy our brother,  
unto Philemon our dearly beloved, and fellowlabourer,

- Paul identified himself as a prisoner, not the apostle of the Gentiles.
- He was a prisoner for Jesus. Philemon was not and would have cared.
- Paul was not alone, but the excellent Timothy, our brother, was there.
- They (plural “our”) addressed Philemon as their dearly beloved friend.
- They included Philemon as a fellowlabourer of these two champions.





**Soft Skill #1**

Lower your own rank and  
authority to get down.



**Soft Skill #2**

Raise the other's rank  
and importance to honor.

2 And to our beloved Apphia, and Archippus our fellowsoldier, and to the church in thy house:

- This beloved Apphia, a woman's name, was likely Philemon's wife.
- Archippus was likely a pastor at Colosse or Laodicea (Col 4:17).
- Both Paul and Timothy were included (plural "our") in greeting both.
- They also greeted the church that met in Philemon's house in Colosse.
- These others likely added ... a wife ... a minister ... and a chose church.



**Soft Skill #3**

Gently include any dear  
or important persons.

3 Grace to you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

- This common greeting of Paul's was to the three and church identified.
- Note the plural pronoun *you*, which requires more than just Philemon.
- Follow the pronouns – plural second person (y) and the singular (t).
- Christians greet or salute with more than ... *“How are you? I am fine.”*
- If Christians invoked God and Christ like this, it would end much folly.



**Soft Skill #4**

If exhorting a brother,  
always invoke the Lord.

4 I thank my God, making mention of thee always in my prayers,

- Note the singular pronouns for Paul only ... *I ... my ... thee ... my*.
- Paul now went private with Philemon for the personal matter at hand.
- Paul commended Philemon by thanking God for him in prayers.
- Paul praised Philemon by always making mention of him in his prayers.
- Praying for a person is a powerful way to commend and endear them.



**Soft Skill #5**

A matter of offence or  
conduct is to be private.



9 Debate thy cause with thy neighbour himself; and discover  
not a secret to another:

10 Lest he that heareth it put thee to shame, and thine infamy  
turn not away.

Proverbs 25:9-10

Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother.

Matthew 18:15



**Soft Skill #6**

Prayer should always  
precede confrontation.

5 Hearing of thy love and faith, which thou hast toward the Lord Jesus, and toward all saints;

- Paul told Philemon that he had a great reputation, even in Rome.
- His well-known virtues were faith and love, but Paul put love first.
- This is Paul altering the order to emphasize needed love (see II Peter 1:5-8).
- He put Philemon's love and faith toward Jesus first, where it belongs.
- Philemon's love for all saints was also known, and Paul would call on it.



**Soft Skill #7**

Use a reputation where possible for your appeal.



**Soft Skill #8**

Commend those traits  
that will help your case.

6 That the communication of thy faith may become effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus.

- The communication of his faith was his giving to help needy Christians.
- Effectual = effective = achieving its desired or proper result.
- Giving to others causes them to praise God about you (II Cor 9:12-14).
- Paul prayed for Philemon's excellent trait of charity to be known by all.
- Any good that we do contrary to nature is in, by, and to the Lord Jesus.



**Soft Skill #9**

Commend and praise  
the good in the person.





**Soft Skill #10**

Appeal to your desire for  
others to see his virtues.

7 For we have great joy and consolation in thy love, because the bowels of the saints are refreshed by thee, brother.

- Paul went back to the plural (“we”) to enhance the praise of Philemon.
- Philemon’s charity gave Paul and Timothy great joy and consolation.
- Paul ignored Philemon’s faith here, so he could stress brotherly love.
- Philemon’s charity revived saints in trouble, which Paul would call on.
- Paul had called him dearly beloved and fellowlabourer, now brother.



**Soft Skill #11**

Identify and emphasize  
all the good his traits do.

8 Wherefore, though I might be much bold in Christ to enjoin thee that which is convenient,

- Paul appealed to his praise of Philemon's character and reputation.
- He kindly reminded Philemon his kingdom authority as an apostle.
- Enjoin = command or require.
- He could have ordered Philemon to it, but he chose a gentler path.
- He introduced his letter's purpose as a matter clearly proper and right.



**Soft Skill #12**

Take the gentlest course  
you can in a first effort.



**Soft Skill #13**

Do not threaten or warn  
until absolutely needed.

9 Yet for love's sake I rather beseech thee, being such an one as Paul the aged, and now also a prisoner of Jesus Christ.

- Since they were loving friends, Paul would ignore his gospel authority.
- Beseech = beg or implore.
- Instead of ordering Philemon to a good deed, Paul chose to beg him.
- Paul plied Philemon emotionally that he Paul was now an old man.
- Not only was Paul old, but he was also an old prisoner for Jesus.



**Soft Skill #14**

Appeal to brotherly love  
if true and a sound basis.





**Soft Skill #15**

Emotional appeals to  
circumstances are wise.

Is this verse fair to Philemon?

*“Is our friendship enough for you  
to hear a simple request from  
this old prisoner in Rome?”*

Paul crunched Philemon's bones.

Proverbs 25:15

By long forbearing is a prince persuaded, and a soft tongue  
breaketh the bone.

Proverbs 25:15

10 I beseech thee for my son Onesimus, whom I have begotten in my bonds:

- Paul used beseech again – to beg or implore – in successive sentences.
- Before naming Onesimus and the request, Paul called him my son.
- Philemon heard the name he resented ... as the apostle's own son.
- Then Paul immediately declared the runaway as a converted man.
- And for the third time, Paul reminded Philemon he was in prison.



**Soft Skill #16**

Emphasize any affection  
or connection to help.



**Soft Skill #17**

Appeal to any standing in  
Christ of involved parties.



11 Which in time past was to thee unprofitable, but now profitable to thee and to me:

- Paul identified any fault of Onesimus as a past event no longer true.
- Onesimus by conversion was now a valuable person to both of them.
- Onesimus could and would benefit Philemon, if he took him back.
- Onesimus was valuable to Paul, which he would give up for Philemon.
- He granted in the next verses that he belonged to Philemon first.



**Soft Skill #18**

Identify any change in  
facts that alters the case.



**Soft Skill #19**

Appeal to the profit of  
making the right choice.

12 Whom I have sent again: thou therefore receive him, that is, mine own bowels:

- This runaway did not return only on his own but also on Paul's errand.
- Onesimus returned voluntarily by Paul's advice and with his reference.
- Therefore, Philemon should receive Onesimus by Paul's involvement.
- Since Paul was involved in the deal as stated, it was like receiving Paul.
- Paul appealed emotionally to his affection (bowels) for Onesimus.



**Soft Skill #20**

Go to bat and commit  
yourself for another party.



**Soft Skill #21**

Evoke as much sympathy  
as you can for all involved.

13 Whom I would have retained with me, that in thy stead he might have ministered unto me in the bonds of the gospel:

- Paul told Philemon he desired to keep Onesimus with him in Rome.
- This was a strong endorsement of Onesimus's conversion and value.
- Philemon was not in Rome, but Onesimus helped Paul as by Philemon.
- Paul mentioned his imprisonment a fourth time; did Philemon get it?
- Onesimus was an asset to Paul, but he was Philemon's by priority.



**Soft Skill #22**

Admit you get along well  
with the one they resent.





**Soft Skill #23**

Appeal to your pain by  
choosing to confront.

Parents may tell a child a spanking hurts them more than the child, altering Paul's appeal.

14 But without thy mind would I do nothing; that thy benefit should not be as it were of necessity, but willingly.

- Paul allowed Philemon to be in charge of the location of Onesimus.
- Whether in Rome or Colosse, Paul wanted Philemon to decide himself.
- Paul appealed to his self-denial to send Onesimus back to Philemon.
- Onesimus could have helped Paul, but he would not betray Philemon.
- Philemon could benefit by Onesimus, either in Rome or in Colosse.



**Soft Skill #24**

Put the burden of choice  
and action on the person.



**Soft Skill #25**

Show the benefit to be  
gained by their wisdom.

15 For perhaps he therefore departed for a season, that thou shouldest receive him for ever;

- Paul appealed to the providence of God for the benefit of Philemon.
- Paul drew the dots of Onesimus's departure and conversion for good.
- Paul explained the runaway's fault to be for good like Joseph in Egypt.
- Everything that happened had turned to Philemon's potential good.
- The only thing left for Philemon's good was his reception of Onesimus.



**Soft Skill #26**

All events of time are by  
God's direction for good.



**Soft Skill #27**

Maximum profit requires  
our trusting obedience.



16 Not now as a servant, but above a servant, a brother beloved, specially to me, but how much more unto thee, both in the flesh, and in the Lord?

- Paul went further – Onesimus was no longer merely a pagan servant.
- He was now a brother in Christ fit for brotherly love and agreement.
- Paul considered him such to himself on a very high scale of usefulness.
- But he saw how much more value Onesimus could be to Philemon.
- Not only did he have fleshly gifts, but was now a committed Christian.



**Soft Skill #28**

If a brother is involved,  
remind of brotherhood.




**Soft Skill #29**

Appeal to all the benefits  
in the flesh and in Christ.

This squeeze is unmatched  
in short letters by any  
writer anywhere.

Philemon is being manipulated  
to godliness by a master  
in the Holy Ghost.

And by God's great wisdom  
we have a private letter  
shared with us.



God addressed slavery by  
rules for servants and  
masters, like for  
marriage.

A Christian would not be crushed  
by servitude or slavery, as 40% of  
the Roman world was servants.

(I Cor 7:20-24; Gal 3:28; Tit 2:9-10; I Pet 2:18-23)



From the servant's view,  
duty was not altered by a  
pagan or Christian master.

1 Let as many servants as are under the yoke count their own masters worthy of all honour, that the name of God and his doctrine be not blasphemed.

2 And they that have believing masters, let them not despise them, because they are brethren; but rather do them service, because they are faithful and beloved, partakers of the benefit. These things teach and exhort.

I Timothy 6:1-2

17 If thou count me therefore a partner, receive him as myself.

- Paul appealed to Philemon on the basis of their kingdom relationship.
- If Philemon rejected Paul's request, he would deny their gospel bond.
- Paul knew Philemon counted him a partner, but he put him to the test.
- Any resentment Philemon had of Onesimus, he was to see him as Paul.



**Soft Skill #30**

Put the brotherly duty on  
the party to prove it so.



**Soft Skill #31**

Turn the conflict as if you  
were the offending party.

18 If he hath wronged thee, or oweth thee ought, put that on mine account;

- Paul knew there was wrong and debt, but he reduced its significance.
- Paul had said enough for past offences to hardly be a present concern.
- Anything Philemon held against Onesimus, he should charge it to Paul.
- Here is where wisdom could bring up 10,000 talents and 100 pence.



**Soft Skill #32**

Minimize the offence as  
much as justly possible.



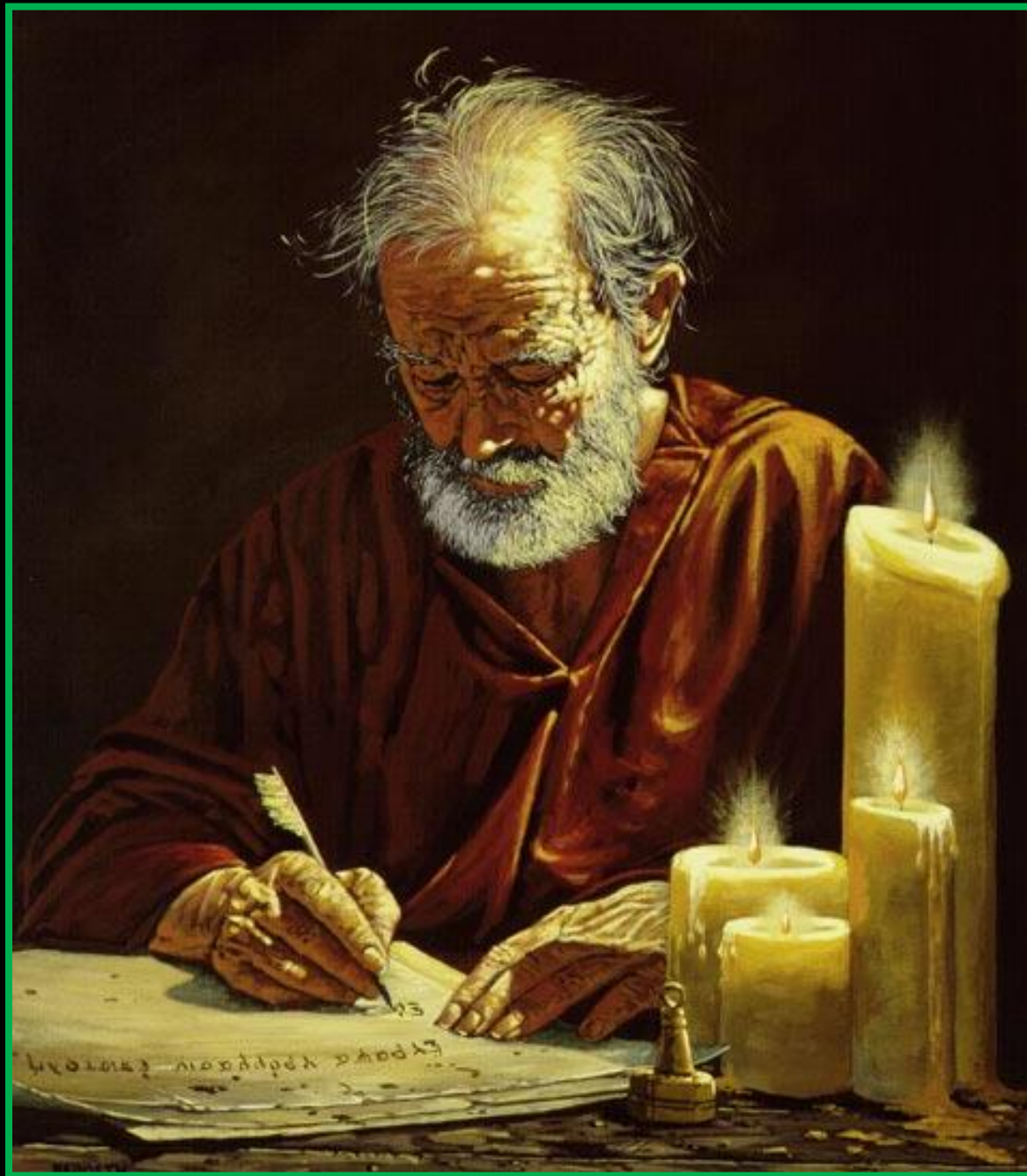
**Soft Skill #33**

When you can, take  
the offence on yourself.



19 I Paul have written it with mine own hand, I will repay it:  
albeit I do not say to thee how thou owest unto me even thine  
own self besides.

- Paul did not ordinarily write his epistles but used others to do it.
- Writing it himself kept the matter private and was a fit surety bond.
- Whatever Philemon still held against Onesimus, Paul would repay it.
- Paul gently reminded Philemon he owed Paul his soul by conversion.
- Note how Paul gently said he was not saying what he said! Perfect!





**Soft Skill #34**

Bring every fact to bear  
to prove total privacy.



**Soft Skill #35**

Remind the party of what  
you have done for them.



**Soft Skill #36**

Learn to soft sell reproof  
by denying your criticism.

28 And they drew nigh unto the village, whither they went: and he made as though he would have gone further.

29 But they constrained him, saying, Abide with us: for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent. And he went in to tarry with them.

Luke 24:28-29

20 Yea, brother, let me have joy of thee in the Lord: refresh my bowels in the Lord.

- Paul told Philemon his Christian obedience would rejoice his heart.
- He told him that his reception of Onesimus would refresh his bowels.
- He modified both personal blessings as being in the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Paul the old prisoner asked a simple favor for his joy and refreshment.



**Soft Skill #37**

Make a personal appeal  
to the joy you will have.





**Soft Skill #38**

Explain the kingdom joy  
his godliness could bring.

21 Having confidence in thy obedience I wrote unto thee, knowing that thou wilt also do more than I say.

- Paul appealed to his confidence in Philemon's character and conduct.
- To not do what Paul requested would be to deny his own reputation.
- Paul expressed confidence Philemon would go above and beyond.



**Soft Skill #39**

Appeal to a person's  
character and reputation.



**Soft Skill #40**

Remind them of zeal for  
exceeding magnificence.

And David said, Solomon my son is young and tender, and the house that is to be builded for the LORD must be exceeding magnificent, of fame and of glory throughout all countries: I will therefore now make preparation for it. So David prepared abundantly before his death.

I Chronicles 22:5

22 But withal prepare me also a lodging: for I trust that through your prayers I shall be given unto you.

- Paul told Philemon to be ready for his visit in the near future.
- How could Philemon deny Paul, if he would at his home soon?
- Paul asked that Philemon pray for him, which implies agreement.
- Paul reverted to plural pronouns (y) for the four parties in Colosse.
- Paul knew that more than just Philemon were praying for his visit.



**Soft Skill #41**

Promise gentle follow-up  
to encourage action.



**Soft Skill #42**

Pray about it; prayer says  
agreement and action.



23 There salute thee Epaphras, my fellowprisoner in Christ Jesus;

- Paul told Philemon there were other kingdom servants saluting him.
- Epaphras had been pastor of Colosse, but was now in prison (Col 1:7; 4:2).
- Kingdom servants saluting Philemon would be kind and wise pressure.
- This is the fifth reference of Paul being in prison. Did Philemon get it?

24 Marcus, Aristarchus, Demas, Lucas, my fellowlabourers.

- Paul told Philemon there were other kingdom servants saluting him.
- These glorious kingdom men are also listed in Colossians 4:9-14.
- It is very likely that Paul wrote Colossians at the same time from Rome.
- It is very likely that Paul sent both epistles to Colosse by Onesimus.
- Colossians calls Onesimus, a faithful and beloved brother (Col 4:9).

25 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.  
Amen.

- This common closing of Paul's was to the three and church identified.
- Note the plural pronoun *your*, which means more than just Philemon.
- The grace of Jesus Christ is for, upon, and with obedient Christians.
- Christians greet or salute with more than ... "*Gotta go, Bye.*"

## Subscription to the Epistle

*Written from Rome to Philemon, by Onesimus a servant.*

- This is uninspired matter, but very likely true for internal reasons.
- Onesimus is listed with Tychicus as coming from Paul to Colosse (4:7-9).
- The subscription to Colossians includes Tychicus and Onesimus.

What you have read is really not  
fair ... Philemon the rich master  
did not stand a chance.

Paul combined appeals that are incomparably courteous, gracious, wise, and powerfully persuasive.

If he had to, Paul could be very authoritative and demanding, if his gentle appeals did not work.

1 Now I Paul myself beseech you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ, who in presence am base among you, but being absent am bold toward you:

2 But I beseech you, that I may not be bold when I am present with that confidence, wherewith I think to be bold against some, which think of us as if we walked according to the flesh.

II Corinthians 10:1-2



Did Paul manipulate Philemon?

Of course! Yes! For godliness!

Did Paul flatter Philemon?

Of course not! Not even close!

Will you learn this kind of gentle  
love of one another with me so  
we can be ONE as Jesus prayed?

Will you be peacemakers in this church and put any brothers at one again, like Paul did?

Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.

Matthew 5:9

Who should you apologize to ...  
even again ... for not being  
gentle like Jesus and Paul  
for peace, unity, and joy?

Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.

Matthew 5:9

Let us have the beautiful and  
aromatic church that David  
wrote about in Psalm 133.

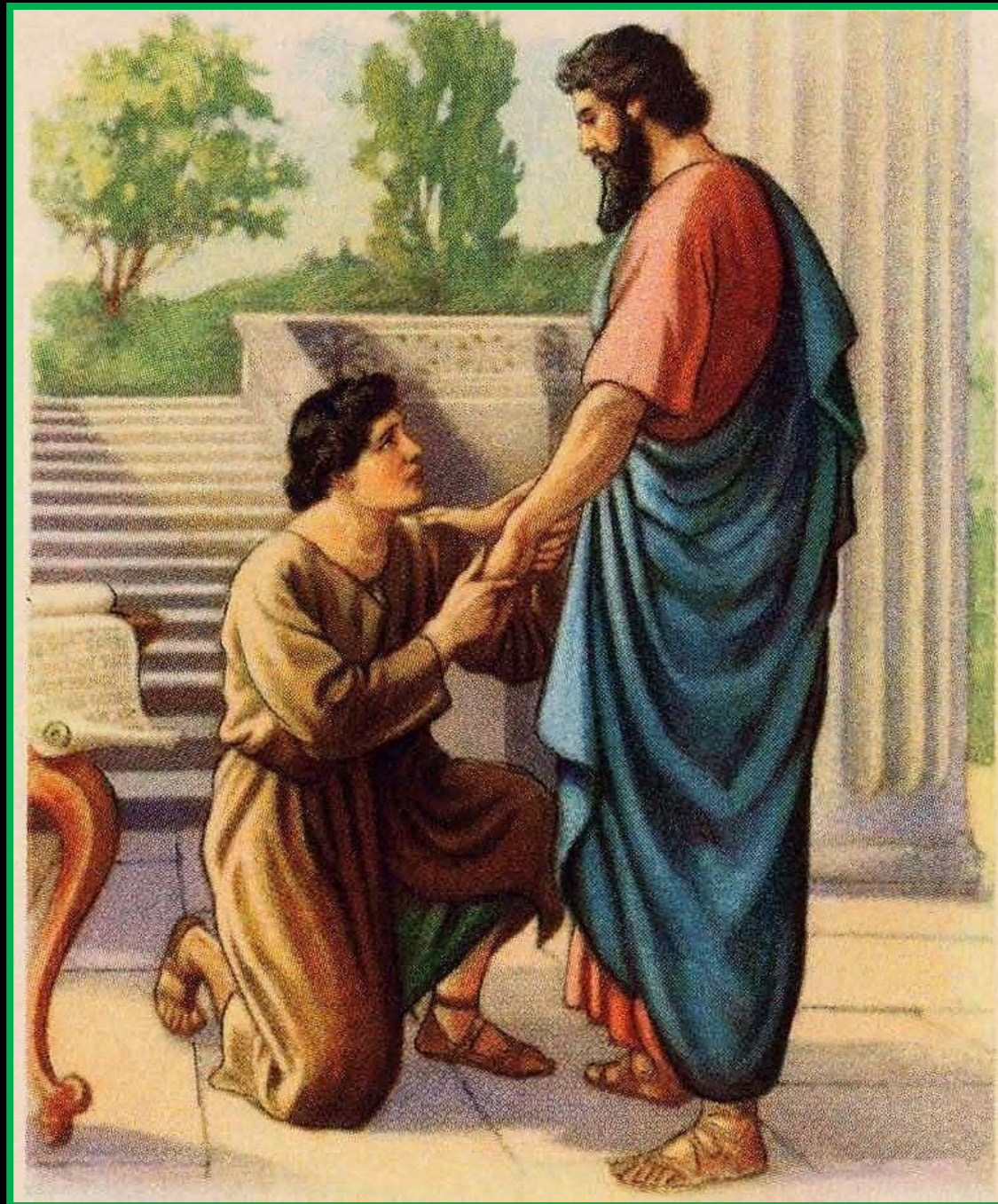


Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!

Psalm 133:1

Did Paul's letter to Philemon work?

Church history says it did, and we would be fools to think otherwise.





# For Further Study

**Proverbs 15:1 Commentary** ... [http://www.letgodbetrue.com/proverbs/commentaries/15\\_01.php](http://www.letgodbetrue.com/proverbs/commentaries/15_01.php).

**Proverbs 25:15 Commentary** ... [http://www.letgodbetrue.com/proverbs/commentaries/25\\_15.php](http://www.letgodbetrue.com/proverbs/commentaries/25_15.php).

**Righteous Relationships (outline)** ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/righteous-relationships.pdf>.

**Relationships Chart** ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/relationships-chart.pdf>.

**Love is the Greatest** ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/love-is-the-greatest-2.pdf>.

**For Love of a Soul** ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/love-of-a-soul.pdf>.

**One Another Duties** ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/bible/church/one-another/sermon.php>.

**Proverbs 27:17 Commentary** ... [http://www.letgodbetrue.com/proverbs/commentaries/27\\_17.php](http://www.letgodbetrue.com/proverbs/commentaries/27_17.php).

**Proverbs 22:11 Commentary** ... [http://www.letgodbetrue.com/proverbs/commentaries/22\\_11.php](http://www.letgodbetrue.com/proverbs/commentaries/22_11.php).

**Forgiveness of Sins** ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/forgiveness-of-sins-2.pdf>.

**10,000 Talents** ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/ten-thousand-talents.pdf>.

**Proverbs 29:21 Commentary** ... [http://www.letgodbetrue.com/proverbs/commentaries/29\\_21.php](http://www.letgodbetrue.com/proverbs/commentaries/29_21.php).

**Proverbs 18:19 Commentary** ... [http://www.letgodbetrue.com/proverbs/commentaries/18\\_19.php](http://www.letgodbetrue.com/proverbs/commentaries/18_19.php).

[www.LetGodBeTrue.com](http://www.LetGodBeTrue.com)

## Appendix of Miscellaneous Notes (1)

- The book contains no statement or argument for proof or defense of the gospel.
- There was never canonical contesting the authenticity of this epistle.
- Philemon was rich by name, refreshed many, church in his house, servants, love of all saints, room.
- The heart and means to do good like Philemon are possessed by few – one or the other, not both.
- Stealing or purloining is not necessary for Onesimus, leaving his station could have cost the estate.
- In Colossians and Philemon ... Archippus, Aristarchus, Marcus, Epaphras, Luke, Demas, Timothy.
- Colossians mentions Onesimus and praises him, but is silent about Philemon.
- Jesus taught His disciples to be wise as serpents and harmless as doves (Matt 10:16), like Paul here.
- A brother offended is harder to be won than a walled city (Pr 18:19), like Philemon to Onesimus.
- Martin Luther may have said, “We are all God’s Onesimus’s.” But Philemon is not an allegory.
- Righteous relationships are important (Malachi 4:5-6; Luke 1:17; Eph 4:3; James 3:17-18; etc.).
- Bitterness is like drinking poison and hoping the other will die – vain folly of self-inflicted pain.
- A converted slave is the Lord’s freeman ... a free man is the Lord’s slave (I Cor 7:20-24).
- Here is an example of peacemaking – a love triangle – that if practiced would perfect churches.
- The opening and closing may be ignored to focus on fewer verses directly pertaining to Philemon.

## Appendix of Miscellaneous Notes (2)

- The book has no definitive and provable position on slavery either good or bad, only implications.
- Many have used the epistle to force runaway slaves back to masters or to denigrate slavery (Barnes).
- We do not know how Paul and Onesimus connected. Paul may have met him when visiting Colosse.
- Onesimus could have been to Philemon from bond slave to hired servant to contracted apprentice.
- Wives would be wise to learn Paul's skill with Philemon along with Abigail's with David.
- Love is the greatest, and this is its greatest demonstration by one man to put two others in love.
- Paul ignored his apostolic rights over Philemon, which obligated Philemon to do so to Onesimus.
- Paul could not have written better if he had needed the greatest favor himself from Philemon.
- It is comparable to II and III John in length and to individuals, but they full of church and doctrine.
- Paul the aged and glorious apostle with kingdom needs everywhere ... helped a lowly runaway.
- Paul the aged and glorious apostle with kingdom needs everywhere ... was obsessed for peace.
- Repentant sinners deserve the same love and supreme efforts as for oneself or the king of a nation.
- The courtesy and gentility of the gospel of Jesus Christ is very different from other religions.
- Strength is maintained and best used with gentleness as Jesus and Paul taught and showed.
- The gospel radically transforms (changes) all relationships by the treatment of connected persons.

## Appendix of Miscellaneous Notes (3)

- We could turn this into an emotional gospel lesson; we would then do so to the Good Samaritan.
- What should we then do to the Parable of the Sower, Unjust Judge, etc.? Limit them to their lessons.
- Christ is not in Philemon as the real lesson hidden beneath a real situation, but as Cause and End.
- Here is Christian grace in action with the grandest display of useful humility and persuasive wisdom.
- Doing the right thing for the right reason is an obvious conclusion of Paul's goal and arguments.
- Going above and beyond the call of duty is what Paul expected of Philemon and should of us also.
- Leading people to godliness rather than ordering or punishing them to it is a lesson from the apostle.