

Postcards from the Bible- Philemon July 25, 2021- David Rhodes

Philemon 1:1-25

"This letter is from Paul, a prisoner for preaching the Good News about Christ Jesus, and from our brother Timothy. I am writing to Philemon, our beloved co-worker,² and to our sister Apphia, and to our fellow soldier Archippus, and to the church that meets in your house.³ May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace.⁴ I always thank my God when I pray for you, Philemon,⁵ because I keep hearing about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all of God's people.⁶ And I am praying that you will put into action the generosity that comes from your faith as you understand and experience all the good things we have in Christ.⁷ Your love has given me much joy and comfort, my brother, for your kindness has often refreshed the hearts of God's people.⁸ That is why I am boldly asking a favor of you. I could demand it in the name of Christ because it is the right thing for you to do.⁹ But because of our love, I prefer simply to ask you. Consider this as a request from me—Paul, an old man and now also a prisoner for the sake of Christ Jesus.¹⁰ I appeal to you to show kindness to my child, Onesimus. I became his father in the faith while here

in prison.¹¹ Onesimus hasn't been of much use to you in the past, but now he is very useful to both of us.¹² I am sending him back to you, and with him comes my own heart.¹³ I wanted to keep him here with me while I am in these chains for preaching the Good News, and he would have helped me on your behalf.¹⁴ But I didn't want to do anything without your consent. I wanted you to help because you were willing, not because you were forced.¹⁵ It seems you lost Onesimus for a little while so that you could have him back forever.¹⁶ He is no longer like a slave to you. He is more than a slave, for he is a beloved brother, especially to me. Now he will mean much more to you, both as a man and as a brother in the Lord.¹⁷ So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me.¹⁸ If he has wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge it to me.¹⁹ I, PAUL, WRITE THIS WITH MY OWN HAND: I WILL REPAY IT. AND I WON'T MENTION THAT YOU OWE ME YOUR VERY SOUL!²⁰ Yes, my brother, please do me this favor for the Lord's sake. Give me this encouragement in Christ.²¹ I am confident as I write this letter that you will do what I ask and even more!²² One more thing—please prepare a guest room for me, for I am

hoping that God will answer your prayers and let me return to you soon.²³ Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, sends you his greetings.²⁴ So do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke, my co-workers.²⁵ May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit."

Father Bonds

- Appeal to a son (Philemon) (v.19)
- Appeal for a son (Onesimus) (v.10-15,17)

Faulty Bonds (v.16a)

"He is no longer like a slave to you..."

Fraternal Bonds (v.16b)

"He is more than a slave, for he is a beloved brother, especially to me. Now he will mean much more to you, both as a man and as a brother in the Lord."

Galatians 3:28

"There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."