

# THE GIFT OF GRACE IN PHILEMON

*“Perhaps he was for this reason separated from you for a while, that you would have him back forever” (15).*

# Praise for Philemon (1-7)

- *The greeting: “Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus” (1a)*
- *Philemon, “our beloved brother . . .” (1c)*
- *“The church that meets in your house” (2b)*
- *Paul remembered Philemon in his prayers (4).*
- *Philemon loved the Lord and His saints (5).*
- *Philemon is commended for his generosity (6).*
- *“The hearts of saints are refreshed through you” (7).*

# Plea for Onesimus (8-17)

- *Philemon's generous reputation (5)*
- *The nature of Christian love (9)*
- *The conversion of Onesimus (10)*
- *Onesimus had helped Paul in imprisonment (11-14).*
- *The wonderful providence of God (15-16)*

# Promise from Paul (18-25)

- *Paul loves Onesimus, but he must return to Philemon.*
- *“If he has wronged you, charge that to my account” (18).*
- *Paul declares, “I will repay it” (19a).*
- *It was a pledge he fully intended to keep.*
- *“Let me benefit from you; refresh my heart” (20).*
- *“I know you will do more than I say” (21).*
- *He closes by requesting prayer, sending greetings, and with his own prayer for grace (22-25).*

# Principles for Us

- *The Lord says, “Charge that to my account.”*
- *Like the Bible, the theme of the letter is reconciliation.*
- *If we expect to be forgiven, we must forgive.*
- *Baptism does not remove the consequences of sin.*
- *The Lord’s teaching destroyed the system of slavery.*
- *Philemon is an enduring example of God’s providence.*
- *We must show Paul’s genuine compassion for people.*
- *May the last word on our lips be “grace.”*