

God's Twitter Account

Five Timeless Texts to His Followers: Philemon

1

Background of Philemon

In this letter, Paul sends a compassionate plea to Philemon, a slave owner in Colosse. Paul's letter from Rome asks him to treat Onesimus not as a runaway slave but as a loved brother in Christ. It gives us insight into how we need to forgive others. Galatians 3:28 becomes evident in Philemon, "There is neither...slave nor free...in Christ Jesus." What can we learn from Philemon?

2

Three-Fold Breakdown

1. Paul's appreciation and support of Philemon (vs. 1-7).

- Philemon is a family man.
- Philemon is a faith-filled leader.
- Philemon is a friend.

2. Paul's request for Onesimus (vs. 8-17).

- Forgive him for your own sake.
- Forgive him for his sake.
- Forgive him for my sake.

3

Three-Fold Breakdown

3. Paul's personal guarantee and pledge to Philemon for Onesimus (vs. 18-25).

- Paul promised to pay Philemon's debt.
- Paul asks for a place to stay.
- Paul's personal appreciation for his team.

4

Take Home Truths

- God's eternal Truth.
 - The truth of Christ **changes** people.
- God's unfailing, steadfast love.
 - The love of Christ **draws** people.
- God's desire for our obedience.
 - The obedience of Christ **protects** people.

5

Conclusion:

Paul imbedded a Gospel truth in the words, "charge that to my account" (Philemon 18). What is your attitude when others wrong or offend you?

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