



GIVING THE GRACE AND MERCY THAT I HAVE RECEIVED

A STUDY OF PHILEMON

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I. THE DIFFICULTY OF GIVING AND RECEIVING GRACE

I would bear any affliction rather than be burdened with a guilty conscience.

Charles Spurgeon

He who cannot forgive breaks the bridge over which he himself must pass.

George Herbert

II. BACKGROUND OF PHILEMON

1. **Who wrote it?** The Apostle Paul
2. **When was it written?** Probably about AD 60 or 61
3. **Where was it written?** From Rome where Paul was enduring his first imprisonment. This was where and when he also wrote Ephesians, Philippians, and Colossians. So, Philemon is considered one of the "Prison Epistles"
4. **Whom was it written to?** A leader in the church at Colossae named Philemon
5. **Why was it written?** To resolve a complicated and difficult problem between two brothers in Christ with grace and mercy. Philemon also serves as an example of reconciliation for Christians in generations to come.
6. **What are the themes of this letter?**

- **Equality**

For you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus. And all who have been united with Christ in baptism have put on the character of Christ, like putting on new clothes. There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male and female. For you are all one in Christ Jesus. And now that you belong to Christ, you are the true children of Abraham. You are his heirs, and God's promise to Abraham belongs to you.

Galatians 3:26-28 (NLT)

- **Forgiveness**

Put up with each other. Forgive the things you are holding against one another. Forgive, just as the Lord forgave you.

Colossians 3:13 (NIRV)

III. OVERVIEW OF PHILEMON

- 1. Paul's greeting (v.1-3)**
- 2. Paul's appreciation for Philemon (v.4-7)**
- 3. Paul's appeal for Onesimus (v.8-22)**
- 4. Paul's sign off (v.23-25)**

IV. "TAKE AWAYS" FROM PHILEMON

1. Believe in others like Jesus

Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his unlimited patience as an example for those who would believe on him and receive eternal life.

1 Timothy 1:15-16 (NIV)

2. Love others like Jesus

"And so I am giving a new commandment to you now—love each other just as much as I love you. Your strong love for each other will prove to the world that you are my disciples."

John 13:34 (TLB)

3. Forgive others like Jesus

Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior. Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.

Ephesians 4:31-32 (NLT)