



TERRENCE TURMAN

Executive Pastor:

Spiritual Formation & Care

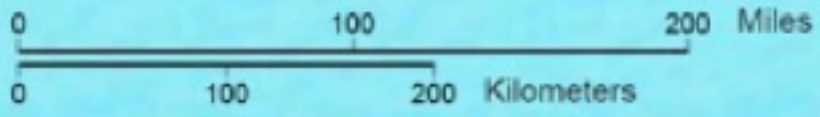
Philemon Quick Facts

- 1) The Letter to Philemon was written by the Apostle Paul.**
- 2) Philemon is in reference to a person named Philemon and not a group of churches.**
- 3) Philemon is shortest letter written by the Apostle Paul at 335 words.**
- 4) Philemon is the only letter of Paul in which he doesn't preach Christ's death and resurrection**



PAUL'S SECOND MISSIONARY JOURNEY

Acts 15:36 - 18:22



ACTS 16:6

Next Paul and Silas traveled through the area of Phrygia and Galatia, because the Holy Spirit had prevented them from preaching the word in the province of Asia at that time.

ACTS 18:23

After spending some time in Antioch, Paul went back through Galatia and Phrygia, visiting and strengthening all the believers.

ACTS 19:10

This went on for the next two years, so that people throughout the province of Asia—both Jews and Greeks—heard the word of the Lord.

Quick Facts About The Church in Colossae

- 1) Colossae was a city famous for wool trading in the Roman Empire. It would be located in modern day Turkey.
- 2) The church in Colossae was likely started by Epaphras who came to faith while the Apostle Paul ministered in Ephesus.
- 3) The Church struggled with the heretical practice of “syncretism” which is to blend preferred aspects of different religions and cultural worldviews.
- 4) Scholars believe it was a Jewish-Gnosticism heresy which blended old covenant practices and eastern mythology that was causing confusion.

Ethics and Theology in Colossians 3

Verse 1 - Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand.

Verse 5 - So put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you. Have nothing to do with sexual immorality, impurity, lust, and evil desires.

Verse 8 - But now is the time to get rid of anger, rage, malicious behavior, slander, and dirty language.

Verse 10-11 - Put on your new nature, and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like Him. In this new life, it doesn't matter if you are a Jew or a Gentile, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbaric, uncivilized, slave, or free. Christ is all that matters, and He lives in all of us.

COLOSSIANS 4:7-9

Tychicus will give you a full report about how I am getting along. He is a beloved brother and faithful helper who serves with me in the Lord's work. I have sent him to you for this very purpose—to let you know how we are doing and to encourage you.

COLOSSIANS 4:7-9

I am also sending Onesimus, a faithful and beloved brother, one of your own people. He and Tychicus will tell you everything that's happening here.

What is prescriptive? These are commands, expectations and God's expressed will from the passage.

What is descriptive? These are historical facts, circumstances and context that build the framework.

Quick Facts About Roman Slavery

- There were an estimated 2.5 million slaves in the Roman Empire making up somewhere between 10-20% of the population
- Pathways into slavery included: Conquest, Birth, Abandonment, Capture and Sell and by self-designation (to pay off a debt or to navigate the class system) making it circumstantially based servitude.
- They served in roles as wide of a range as nurses, cooks and teachers to prostitutes, and gladiators. Some even served in governing roles within the growing empire.

Quick Facts About Roman Slavery

- Slaves had no Roman rights and the quality of their life and potential freedom all depended on their master. They could achieve “manumission” or freedom only after the age of 30.
- There were slave rebellions with the most famous probably being the one led by the gladiator slave Spartacus. As a result, historians believe around 6000 slaves were publicly crucified along the route into Rome which put much of the rebellion fire out of the empire.

Interpretive Key:

The Letter to Philemon is a public letter written with a personal message of advocacy, forgiveness and reconciliation to troubleshoot a potential church unity issue and to advance the gospel.

Flow of The Letter

Address & Greeting (1-3)

Thanksgiving and Prayer (4-7)

Appeal for Onesimus (8-21)

Closing Requests and Remarks. (22-25)

Address & Greeting (1-3)

- Different from his standard introduction, the Apostle chooses humility over authority. (prisoner instead of Apostle)
- Timothy assisted Paul in the writing of the letter
- This letter was written to Philemon personally but also to his family and his church communally.

Thanksgiving and Prayer (4-7)

- Affirms His Christ Identity
- Builds rapport and highlights their communal bond.
- Introduces themes he will revisit later (love, partnership and refreshment).
- Koinania – “fellowship, sharing in common, communion.”

Thanksgiving and Prayer (4-7)

- Makes an appeal based on love. (8-9)
- Makes an appeal based on Onesimus' life change. (10-12)
- Makes an appeal based on the gospel. (13-14)
- Makes an appeal based on theology. (15-16)
- Makes an appeal based on their own relationship (17-21)
(Koinania)

Conclusion (22-25)

-Establishes a sense of accountability and communal witness.

Paul Message to Philemon:

Based on the freedom and forgiveness you have freely received in your spiritual reality from Christ, do the same for Onesimus in his earthly reality.

Philemon's Message To Us:

The Gospel is not just to be believed but it is to be lived.

Paul's Theology of Philemon

Gospel Identity Over Role Identity

Gospel Obligation Over His Roman Right

Gospel Purpose Over His Societal Purpose.

Gospel Acceptance and Gospel Community Over

Worldly Acceptance and Worldly Systems

True Gospel Over the partial truth

Philemon's Theology for Us

Gospel Identity Over Every Other Identity

Gospel Obligation Over Every Earthly Right

Gospel Purpose Over Our Life's Purpose

Gospel Community Over Worldly Acceptance

Gospel Community Over Worldly Systems

Gospel Unity Over The Gospel of Me



We Fight For Unity and That Fight Begins With The
Gospel as our Life, Lens and Leash.