

**Part 1 – The Book of Philemon**

**Philemon 1:1-3**

**The Apostle Paul Sets The Scene**

“**Philemon 1:11** who formerly was useless to you, but now is useful both to you and to me.”

**2 Timothy 3:16-17 All Scripture is inspired by God** and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;

17 **so that** the man of God may be adequate, **equipped for every good work.**

**FORGIVENESS is EVERYTHING, we have nothing without it.**

**Luke 23:33-35** When they came to the place called The Skull, there they crucified Him and the criminals, one on the right and the other on the left.

34 But Jesus was saying, “**Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.**” And they cast lots, dividing up His garments among themselves.

35 And the people stood by, looking on. And even the rulers were sneering at Him, saying, "He saved others; let Him save Himself if this is the Christ of God, His Chosen One."

1 **Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus**, and Timothy our brother,

To Philemon our **beloved brother** and **fellow worker**,

**Acts 7:58** When they had driven him out of the city, they began stoning him; and the witnesses laid aside their robes at the feet of a young man named Saul.

**Acts 8:1** Saul was in hearty agreement with putting him to death....

**Acts 8:3** But Saul began ravaging the church, entering house after house, and dragging off men and women, he would put them in prison.

**Philemon 2** and to Apphia our sister, and to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house:

Apphia is thought to be the wife of Philemon. **(NET)** *(Unlikely)*

Archippus we read about in The Colossians series, in Col. 4:17:

**Colossians 4:17** Say to Archippus, "Take heed to the ministry which you have received in the Lord, that you may fulfill it."

**Philemon 3** **Grace to you and peace** from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Titus 2:11-12** **For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, 12 instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age,**

**2 Timothy 2:22** Now flee from youthful lusts **and pursue** righteousness, faith, love **and peace**, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.

**2 Corinthians 11:18-33** Since many boast according to the flesh, I will boast also. 19 For you, being so wise, tolerate the foolish gladly. 20 For you tolerate it if anyone enslaves you, anyone devours you, anyone takes advantage of you, anyone exalts himself, anyone hits you in the face. 21 To my shame I must say that we have been weak by comparison. But in whatever respect anyone else is bold—I speak in foolishness—I am just as bold myself. 22 Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they descendants of Abraham? So am I. 23 Are they servants of Christ?—I speak as if insane—I more so; in far

more labors, in far more imprisonments, beaten times without number, often in danger of death. 24 Five times I received from the Jews thirty-nine lashes.

25 Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, a night and a day I have spent in the deep. 26 I have been on frequent journeys, in dangers from rivers, dangers from robbers, dangers from my countrymen, dangers from the Gentiles, dangers in the city, dangers in the wilderness, dangers on the sea, dangers among false brethren; 27 I have been in labor and hardship, through many sleepless nights, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure. 28 Apart from such external things, there is the daily pressure on me of concern for all the churches. 29 Who is weak without my being weak? Who is led into sin without my intense concern? 30 If I have to boast, I will boast of what pertains to my weakness. 31 The God and Father of the Lord Jesus, He who is blessed forever, knows that I am not lying. 32 In Damascus the ethnarch under Aretas the king was guarding the city of the Damascenes in order to seize me, 33 and I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall, and so escaped his hands.

**Philemon** 4 I thank my God **always**, making mention of you in my prayers,

5 **because** I hear of your **love and of the faith** which you have toward the Lord Jesus and toward all the saints;

6 and I pray that the fellowship of your faith may become effective through the knowledge of every good thing which is in you for Christ's sake.

“Fellowship” In this context, the noun has an active sense of “partnership” in the ministry of the faith. Κοινωνία - (koinōnia)

Summary of what Paul has he said so far:

- 1. Paul called him: “our beloved brother” in verse 1**
- 2. Paul called him: “fellow worker” in verse 1**
- 3. Reinforced that he Paul THE Apostle: in verse 4 said “I thank my God always, making mention of you in my prayers,”**
- 4. Then Paul stated that the reason for that was, Paul had heard of his faith toward the Lord Jesus.**
- 5. Paul then reinforces Philemon’s love and service toward the saints.**