

“The Follow-Through of Gospel Fellowship”
Short and Sweet, Pt. 8 – Philemon 1-25
August 18, 2019

I. Introduction to Philemon

- A. It was a letter from the Apostle Paul to his Colossian convert Philemon.
- B. Paul was writing on behalf of Philemon’s runaway slave Onesimus.
 - 1. Onesimus had met Paul, who had then led him to Christ.
 - 2. Though Paul was fond of Onesimus, he was sending him back to Philemon.
- C. Paul’s plea was that Philemon would accept and forgive Onesimus.

II. Paul’s Appeal to Philemon

- A. Paul begins by praising Philemon for his faithfulness to Christ and to the saints.
- B. Paul tells Philemon in vs. 6 that he’s praying that Philemon’s fellowship with Christ would result in even more good actions.
- C. Paul then brings up Onesimus:
 - 1. He reveals how they met and the bond they now had in Christ.
 - 2. He urges Philemon to receive Onesimus back as a brother.
- D. Paul models “Christ” for both Philemon and Onesimus.
 - 1. Philemon is to charge Onesimus’ debts to Paul’s account.
 - 2. Philemon already owes Paul everything.
 - 3. To bless Onesimus was to bless Paul.

***Colossians 3:13** - Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.*