# PHILEMON – INTRODUCTION

- 1. A slave by the name of ONESIMUS apparently fled Colossae and his master, PHILEMON, and journeyed to Rome where he meets Paul.
- 2. Paul teaches ONESIMUS the Gospel and converts him to Christ.
- 3. This letter is PAUL'S plea to PHILEMON on behalf of ONESIMUS to receive ONESIMUS back.

#### I. AUTHOR OF THE BOOK

- A. PAUL "Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus."
- B. Timothy is also present, and is ministering to Paul.

## II. PLACE AND DATE OF WRITING

- A. PLACE: Roman prison where Paul is confined for two years (Acts 28, Philemon 1:1, 10, 22).
- B. DATE: A.D. 61-62

#### III. THEME AND PURPOSE OF THE BOOK

- A. THEME: A Picture Of Christian Living. Theory put into practice.
- B. PURPOSE:
  - 1. Encourage Philemon to accept ONESIMUS back in love.
  - 2. Let PHILEMON know that ONESIMUS was now a fellow brother in Christ, not merely a slave in the flesh.

# IV. ARRANGEMENT OF THE BOOK

- A. An outline:
  - I. SALUTATIONS v.1-3.
  - II. PAUL'S THANKSGIVINGS FOR PHILEMON'S FAITHFULNESS v. 4-7.
  - III. PAUL'S PLEA TO PHILEMON v. 8-22.
    - A. Plea to take ONESIMUS back in love v. 8-12.
    - B. Plea to accept ONESIMUS back willingly v.13-14.
    - C. Plea based on the fact that ONESIMUS will benefit PHILEMON v. 15-16.
    - D. Plea based on partnership and spiritual indebtedness v. 17-20.
    - E. PAUL'S confidence in PHILEMON'S decision v. 21.
    - F. PAUL'S request for lodging v. 22.
  - IV. GRACIOUS SALUTATIONS FROM FELLOW PRISONERS AND WORKERS v. 23-25.

## V. OUTSTANDING LESSONS FROM THE BOOK

- A. God's way of correcting social evils is changing the heart of man first, not his circumstances.
- B. Our relationship with Christ is tested by our relationship with others.
- C. Christianity changes some relationships and intensifies others.