

## Paul's Letter to

# PHILEMON *was / is...*

“Therefore, though I might be very bold in Christ to command you what is fitting, yet for love’s sake I rather appeal to you—being such a one as Paul, the aged, and now also a prisoner of Jesus Christ—I appeal to you for my son Onesimus, whom I have begotten while in my chains, who once was unprofitable to you, but now is profitable to you and to me. I am sending him back. You therefore receive him, that is, my own heart, whom I wished to keep with me, that on your behalf he might minister to me in my chains for the gospel. But without your consent I wanted to do nothing, that your good deed might not be by compulsion, as it were, but voluntary.” (*Philemon 8-14*)

\*\*

about being

*a biblical mediator*

(fill in the blank)

\*\*

about forgiving

(fill in the blank)

\*\*\*

about praying

(fill in the blank)

\*\*\*

about repenting

(fill in the blank)

\*\*\*

about working

*with others (1, 17, 24)*

(fill in the blank)

\*\*\*

best studied as

*a godly, working triangle*

(fill in the blank)

\*\*\*

controversial

(fill in the blank)

PAUL

Descriptive

triangular

Philemon

Onesimus

Meditation

*Paul's most relational Epistle*

\*\*

far more

*positive than negative*

(fill in the blank)

\*\*

like and unlike

*ordinary personal letters*

(fill in the blank)

\*\*\*

neglected

(fill in the blank)

\*\*\*

primarily about

*three main characters*

(fill in the blank)

\*\*\*

profoundly

*practical for all believers*

(fill in the blank)

\*\*

relatively easy

(fill in the blank)

\*\*\*

respectful

(fill in the blank)

\*\*

somewhat like

(fill in the blank)

\*\*\*

to be applied

*as we minister with others*

(fill in the blank)

**Directions:** after reading through **Philemon** and the notes in a good study Bible, describe the Epistle by filling in the blank lines above with the following suggested answers. — *and restrained (8-14), because of slavery (Col. 4:1), by most theologians, for one another (4-6, 22, 25), like Onesimus (10-11), like Philemon (12, 17-18), Philippians 4:1-6, and to understand. At the end, discuss the most important descriptive phrases and make personal applications. In doing so, think about what Paul did and what he encouraged Philemon to do. Also think about the ministry of Onesimus (13-16) which is often overlooked.* — © 2022 by Jon F. Mahar, Hakusan City, Japan and Alexander, Maine, U.S.A.