

## Philemon.1

Paul and Timothy wrote to Philemon, Apphia, Archippus, and to the church in the house, who were loved and who worked with both of them but the letter is written to Philemon to look after one, Onesimus, who was Paul's son in the Lord and who did not amount to much initially but certainly became a soldier for Christ and helped both Paul and Timothy and now Philemon.

Aren't we all like that? At first we have no idea what to do or how to help anyone because our own confidence is such that we are not sure whether we are to help physically or just spiritually by the laying on of hands and working in the gifts of the Spirit of God.

So now, knowing that Onesimus was useless to Philemon, Paul is entreating Philemon to receive Onesimus whom Paul has sent again to Philemon. Paul tells Philemon, even though Onesimus had left him, he should receive Onesimus forever. Paul is so sure that Onesimus will be a servant to Philemon, *actually above a servant, a brother beloved, specially to me, but how much more unto you, both in the flesh, and in the Lord? If you count me therefore a partner, receive him as myself. If he has wronged you, or owes you something, put that on my account;...I will repay it: albeit I do not say to you how you owe me even your own self besides.*

If we are reading between the lines, it is obvious that Philemon could not stand Onesimus because he was a scoundral (oh how many are around that we have to forgive and forget; some stealing from us, some bad-mouthing us, etc.) but knowing somehow that we were like that Onesimus when we were not saved.

Paul goes on *Yea brother, let me have joy of you in the Lord: refresh my bowels in the Lord. Having confidence in your obedience I wrote unto you, knowing that you will also do more than I say.*

Paul was sure he was going to visit Philemon.