



SINGLE CHAPTER BOOKS

Interesting Facts About the Book of Philemon

- It is only 25 verses long.
- It is the 3rd shortest book in the Bible.
- It has more verses than Obadiah but fewer words.
- Only Jude has more words but the same number of chapters.
- Philemon is Paul's shortest letter.
- It is the only single-chapter book written by Paul.
- Paul wrote it while imprisoned around 60 AD.
- The letter is about 3 people: Paul, Philemon, & Onesimus.
- There are 13 epistles of Paul in the New Testament.
- 21 of the 27 New Testament books are epistles.



Colossians 4:7-9

*“As to all my affairs, Tychicus, who is a much-loved brother and faithful assistant and fellow bond-servant in the Lord, **will give you all the information**. I have sent him to you for this very purpose, that you may know how we are doing and that he may encourage your hearts; and with him is Onesimus, our faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you. They will let you know everything about the situation here [in Rome].”).*

Epistles

- Greek word *epistole*:
 - Letter
 - Message
- Used to address issues the churches faced and give instructions
- Matthew 16:19 & 18:18; Ephesians 2:20
- “**Prison Epistles**”: Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, & Philemon

Prison Epistles

- Ephesians 3:1: *"...I, Paul, am the prisoner of Christ Jesus..."*
- Ephesians 4:1: *"So I, the prisoner for the Lord..."*
- Philippians 1:13: *"My imprisonment in [the cause of] Christ..."*
- Colossians 4:3: *"...Christ, for which I have been imprisoned"*
- Colossians 4:18: *"...Remember my chains..."*
- Philemon 1:1: *"Paul, a prisoner [for the sake] of Christ..."*
- Philemon 1:10: *"...while a captive in these chains."*

“I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.”

- Romans 8:18

“...he and all his household were baptized... he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God—he and his whole household.”

- Acts 16:33-34

“...would rather be away from the body, and be present with the Lord.”

- 2 Corinthians 5:8

“For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain”

- Philippians 1:21

Philemon 1:1–3

Salutation

- 1. Paul, a prisoner [for the sake] of Christ Jesus (the Messiah, the Anointed), and our brother Timothy, to Philemon our dearly beloved friend and fellow worker,*
- 2. and to [your wife] Apphia our sister, and to Archippus our fellow soldier [in ministry], and to the church that meets in your house:*
- 3. Grace to you and peace [inner calm and spiritual well-being] from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ*

Philemon 1:4–9

Philemon's Love and Faith

4. *I thank my God always, making mention of you in my prayers,*
5. *because I hear of your love and of your faith which you have toward the Lord Jesus and toward all the saints (God's people).*
6. *I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective and powerful because of your accurate knowledge of every good thing which is ours in Christ.*
7. *For I have had great joy and comfort and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints (God's people) have been refreshed through you, my brother.*
8. *Therefore [on the basis of these facts], though I have enough confidence in Christ to order you to do what is appropriate,*
9. *yet for love's sake I prefer to appeal to you—since I am such a person as Paul, an old man, and now also a prisoner [for the sake] of Christ Jesus—*

Philemon 1:10-16

A Plea for Onesimus to be Freed

10. *I appeal to you for my [own spiritual] child Onesimus, whom I have fathered [in the faith] while a captive in these chains.*
11. *Once he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you as well as to me.*
12. *I have sent him back to you in person, that is, like sending my very heart.*
13. *I would have chosen to keep him with me, so that he might minister to me on your behalf during my imprisonment for the gospel;*
14. *but I did not want to do anything without first getting your consent, so that your goodness would not be, in effect, by compulsion but of your own free will.*
15. *Perhaps it was for this reason that he was separated from you for a while, so that you would have him back forever,*
16. *no longer as a slave, but [as someone] more than a slave, as a brother [in Christ], especially dear to me, but how much more to you, both in the flesh [as a servant] and in the Lord [as a fellow believer].*

“What the letter to Philemon does is to bring the institution [of slavery] into an atmosphere where it could only wilt and die. Where master and slave were united in affection as brothers in Christ, formal emancipation would be but a matter of expediency, the legal confirmation of their new relationship.”

- F.F. Bruce

Philemon 1:17-25

17. *So, if you consider me a partner, welcome and accept him as you would me.*
18. *But if he has wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge that to my account;*
19. *I, Paul, write this with my own hand; I will repay it in full (not to mention to you that you owe to me even your own self as well).*
20. *Yes, brother, let me have some benefit and joy from you in the Lord; refresh my heart in Christ.*
21. *I write to you [perfectly] confident of your obedient compliance, since I know that you will do even more than I ask.*
22. *At the same time also prepare a guest room for me [in expectation of a visit], for I hope that through your prayers I will be [granted the gracious privilege of] coming to you [at Colossae].*
23. *Greetings to you from Epaphras, my fellow prisoner here in [the cause of] Christ Jesus,*
24. *and from Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke, my fellow workers.*
25. *The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.*

THE RÉSUMÉ OF ONESIMUS.



ONESIMUS

Servant. Fugitive. Disciple. Bishop.

Born: Phrygia
Resident: Colossae, Rome, Ephesus



CHANGED BY
JESUS CHRIST

EXPERIENCE



Slave to Philemon (Colossae) | Pre-Conversion (c. 60 AD)

- Performed all household duties, including managing accounts.
- Learned Colossian language and cultural norms.



Fugitive and Confident (En route to Rome) | Circa 61-62 AD

- Successfully executed a complex escape from Colossae.
- Navigated trade routes and avoided detection across the Mediterranean.
- Survived in the underworld of Rome.



Disciple of Jesus Christ (Roman Prison) | Circa 62-63 AD

- Converted to Christianity through the preaching of the Apostle Paul.
- Devoted oneself to study of the Scriptures and prayer.
- Grew spiritually under Paul's mentorship.

SUMMARY

A testament to the life-transforming power of Jesus Christ.
From slavery to freedom in Christ, from useless fugitive to profitable servant and leader.



Reconciled Brother (Epistle to Philemon) | Circa 63 AD

- Returned willingly to Philemon with Apostle Paul's letter.
- Reconciled with former master as a "beloved brother in Christ".



Bishop of Ephesus (Ephesus) | Later Life (Post-c. 80 AD)

- Appointed Bishop by other leaders, overseeing the Ephesian Church.
- Preached the Gospel with conviction, leading many to faith.
- Exhibited strong leadership, wisdom, and shepherd's care.

EDUCATION & TRAINING

Scriptural Studies

Under Apostle Paul | Roman Prison

Ministry and Leadership

Ephesian Church

Household Management

Philemon's Household

SKILLS & ATTRIBUTES

Faith & Loyalty

Strategic Planning

Evangelism & Preaching

Community Leadership

Reconciliation & Forgiveness

WHO ARE
YOU?

Onesimus
Paul or
Philemon

