

PHILEMON

AUTHOR:

Philemon is a letter written by the apostle Paul.

DATE:

The letter to Philemon was written at the same time as Colossians; 60 AD.

RECIPIENTS:

Paul wrote his letter to Philemon. Philemon was a believer at the church in Colossae (modern day Turkey).

CONTEXT:

Philemon had a servant named Onesimus who had stolen from him and then run away to Rome. When Onesimus reached Rome he met Paul who led him to faith in Christ. The law said that a master could execute a rebellious slave. Philemon had a difficult choice to make. This letter to Philemon was probably brought at the same time as Paul's letter to the church in Colossae.

PURPOSE:

Paul wrote to Philemon to ask him to have mercy on Onesimus. The letter is a beautiful picture of forgiveness. The book of Philemon is also a picture of what God the Father has done for us in Jesus by giving us mercy we do not deserve.