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# BOOK OVERVIEW

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## Philemon

**Author:** the Apostle Paul

**Date:** A.D. 64-65

**Recipient:** Philemon (Philemon 1:1)

**Summary:** the reconciliation of a runaway slave with his Christian master

**Key verses:** Philemon 17-19

**Notes:**

Paul's salutation is also addressed to Apphia, the wife of Philemon, and their son Archippus.

It appears that Philemon was a leader in the church at Colosse and had come to know the Lord through the ministry of Paul.

Apparently, Onesimus not only ran away from his master, but he also stole from him. While Onesimus was in Rome he came under the ministry of the Apostle Paul and became a Christian. The life of Onesimus was so changed that Paul wanted to keep him in Rome, but he felt obligated to return him to his master.

Paul asks Philemon to receive Onesimus with forgiveness and promised to repay Philemon whatever Onesimus had stolen.

Onesimus means "profitable."

Tradition says that Philemon and his family were stoned to death during Nero's persecution.

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