

GOD'S MASTERWORK, VOLUME SIX

LETTERS TO GOD'S PEOPLE—A SURVEY OF ROMANS—PHILEMON

PHILEMON: AN APPEAL FOR GRACE AND FORGIVENESS

A SURVEY OF PHILEMON



The Heart of the Matter

About six years before his execution, Paul wrote a “postcard” to his longtime friend, Philemon, a citizen of Colossae. This, the shortest of the apostle’s writings, is one of the grandest illustrations of grace and forgiveness in all of Scripture. It is a warm, passionate appeal to a slave owner to accept back, forgive, and reinstate his runaway slave named Onesimus. Because of the obvious analogy with our being accepted by God and forgiven through His grace, this little letter has become one of the most treasured in the New Testament. See if you don’t agree as we work our way through these twenty-five verses.



Discovering the Way

1. First-Century Slavery: The Roman World

Learn about the role of slavery in the Roman culture and how Paul taught Christians to respond.

2. A Survey of the Philemon “Postcard” (Philemon 1–3, 4–17, 18–25)

This short letter includes a greeting and salutation, a commendation and a request, and a promise and a conclusion.

3. Some Pertinent Analogies for Today

Discover how the book of Philemon applies to your life as a Christian in a free society.

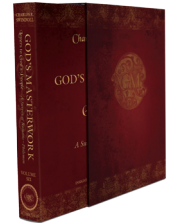


Starting Your Journey

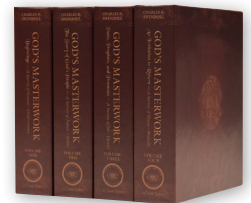
Reflect on your life. Have you ever tried to flee God’s presence? Thank God that through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ He has dealt with your enslavement to sin!



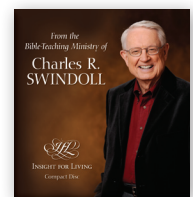
Tools for Digging Deeper



God's Masterwork, Volume Six: Letters to God's People—A Survey of Romans–Philemon
by Charles R. Swindoll
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God's Masterwork, Volumes One–Four (A Survey of the Old Testament)
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“God's Love in Romans 8” Meeting God in Familiar Places
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Committed to Excellence in Communicating Biblical Truth and Its Application



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PHILEMON

	Paul's Commendation	Paul's Request	Paul's Promise
<i>Greeting (1:1–3)</i>		On the basis of the slave's conversion <u>(1:8–11)</u> On the basis of the slave owner's friendship <u>(1:12–17)</u>	
	<i>VERSES</i> 4–7	<i>VERSES</i> 8–17	<i>VERSES</i> 18–21
Tone	Praise	Plea	Promise
Direction	Looking back	Looking within	Looking beyond
Central Statement	"I thank my God always." (1:4)	"I appeal to you." (1:10)	"I will repay it." (1:19)
Theme	Forgiving and accepting one another as brothers and sisters in Christ		
Key Verses	1:10–11, 15–18		
Christ in Philemon	Jesus is the Master, in whom believers are brothers and sisters in Christ (1:9, 15–16).		

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