

THE BOOK OF PHILEMON

INTRODUCTION

"But he was a terrible employee Dad." Greg was a manager at the local plant. He and his dad had built the business up from the sorry state that the last owner had it in. Their clientele now is world-wide, and they employ over 300 in five locations. The business was not so large that Greg did not know all of his employees by name though. "Dad, he stole from the company and then left his job a year ago! I cannot in good conscience rehire him." "Greg, I understand where you're coming from. What you don't know is that for the past six weeks, I've been working with him. He is ready to apologize and make amends for what he has done. I will pay whatever he owes the company. He needs to work, and our company is best for him." If you were Greg, what would you do?

Memory Verse: Philemon 18 If he hath wronged thee, or oweth *thee* ought, put that on mine account;

BIBLE LESSON

The book of Philemon is a short letter Paul wrote to Philemon. Philemon was a beloved worker in the LORD. Philemon lived in Colossae and had church in his home.² He was a well off person that had slaves in his employ. One of these slaves was a man named Onesimus, whose name means 'useful' or 'profitable'. **This letter and this lesson teaches that we should advocate, as Paul did, for those that we know have been changed in God.**

Paul is himself a prisoner of Rome at this time. Philemon 1-3

Paul blesses and prays for Philemon. Philemon 4-7

The request is made. Philemon 8-14

Onesimus should be welcomed back. Philemon 15-17

Paul's pledges to Philemon, like a Father to a son. Philemon 18-21

Further instructions Paul gives. He just might visit! Philemon 22-25

APPLICATION

Is there anyone in your life you can vouch for that needs the benefit of the doubt? Discuss.