

## Philemon

### “Put that on My Account”

#### Introduction (1-3)

- A. Paul extended greetings to Philemon and the church that met in his home (1-2).
  - B. Paul expressed his desire that Philemon would experience God’s grace and peace (3).
- I. Build a godly reputation (4-7).
- A. In relation to Jesus Christ, build a reputation for faith and love (4-5).
    - 1. Paul was thankful to God every time he remembered Philemon in his prayers (4).
    - 2. Paul had heard of Philemon’s faith and love for Jesus Christ and for God’s people (5).
  - B. In relation to your neighbor, build a reputation for effective outreach (6).
    - 1. Paul prayed that Philemon would share his faith effectively (6a).
    - 2. Paul prayed that Philemon would share his faith out of full knowledge of Christ (6b).
  - C. In relation to other Christians, build a reputation for refreshing people’s hearts (7).
    - 1. Philemon’s love gave Paul great joy and comfort (7a).
    - 2. Philemon’s love had been expressed through refreshing the hearts of God’s people (7b).
- II. Develop spiritual maturity (8-25).
- A. A mature Christian values love over guilt as the proper source of motivation (8-9).
    - 1. Paul possessed the spiritual authority to order Philemon to do the right thing (8).
    - 2. Paul challenged Philemon to do the right thing based on love (9).

- B. A mature Christian values the life changing power of God (10-11).
  - 1. Paul described Onesimus as his own spiritual son, converted during Paul's imprisonment (10).
  - 2. Paul described Onesimus as a changed man, useful instead of useless (11).
- C. A mature Christian values the cause of Christ over personal rights (12-14).
  - 1. Paul sent Onesimus, who was his very heart, back to Philemon (12).
  - 2. Paul had desired to retain Onesimus to help him in his work of spreading the gospel (13).
  - 3. Paul refused to retain Onesimus without Philemon's voluntary consent (14).
- D. A mature Christian values spiritual relationships over material possessions (15-16).
  - 1. Paul suggested that Onesimus' departure resulted in an eternal relationship (15).
  - 2. Paul suggested that Onesimus' departure resulted in a brotherly relationship (16).
- E. A mature Christian values forgiveness over restitution (17-21).
  - 1. Paul asked Philemon to receive Onesimus as himself (17).
  - 2. Paul offered to make restitution for anything Onesimus had done wrong (18-19).
  - 3. Paul expressed confidence in Philemon to honor and even exceed his request (20-21).

#### Conclusion (22-25)

- A. Paul requested lodging in anticipation of answered prayers for his release (22).
- B. Paul extended greetings from those fellow workers who were present with him (23-24).
- C. Paul expressed his desire that God's grace would be evident in Philemon's spirit (25).