

Philemon chapter 1

What is the natural outgrowth of our faith in Christ [5]?

Does it sound as though Paul is “battering up” Philemon so he can ask him for a big favor [6-7]? What does Paul commend him for?

By what authority could Paul say “I could be bold and order you to” [8-9]? What does being an old man have to do with it?

Why is Onesimus described as “who formerly was useless to you, but now is useful both to you and to me” [11]?

Does Paul imagine that Philemon has some obligation to help him [13]? What would be the basis of such an obligation?

In verses 15-16 is Paul suggesting that Philemon release Onesimus from bondage?

Onesimus is wonderful and I'd love to keep him here with me, but of course he belongs to you so I must send him back. But then comes verse 17: please “accept him as you would me.” Why must Paul make such a direct request? Why would Philemon not accept Onesimus?

In 18-19, who owes whom?

By the time Philemon has read verses 20-22 do you suppose he is eagerly anticipating Paul's planned visit, or might he be dreading it?

Next week: Hebrews chapters 6, 10, 12

“Accept” in verse 17 is translated from the Greek προσλαμβανω (proslambano)

Pronunciation: pros-lam-ban'-o

Part of Speech: verb

Count: 14

Definition: 1) to take to, take in addition, to take to one's self
1a) to take as one's companion
1b) to take by the hand in order to lead aside
1c) to take or receive into one's home, with the collateral
idea of kindness
1d) to receive, i.e. grant one access to one's heart
1d1) to take into friendship and intercourse
1e) to take to one's self, to take: i.e. food

To take to oneself, i.e. use (food), lead (aside), admit (to friendship or hospitality): - receive, take (unto).