

AN INTRODUCTION TO PHILEMON:

THE PREEMINENT IMPORTANCE OF FORGIVENESS

IT HAS BEEN SAID, "YOU ARE NEVER MORE LIKE GOD THEN WHEN YOU FORGIVE. YET PEOPLE ARE OFTEN VERY UNFORGIVING. AS WE STUDY THE BOOK OF PHILEMON WE WILL DISCOVER THAT BECAUSE THE LORD FORGIVES YOU, YOU MUST FORGIVE OTHERS.

AS WE INTRODUCE THE BOOK OF PHILEMON TODAY, LET'S CONSIDER THREE CRITICAL TRUTHS THAT WILL SERVE AS THE FRAMEWORK FOR OUR STUDY THROUGH THIS INCREDIBLE BOOK.

- I. THE EXTRAORDINARY IMPORTANCE OF FORGIVENESS.
 - A. GOD IS A GOD WHO PRACTICES FORGIVENESS
 - B. GOD IS A GOD WHO TEACHES FORGIVENESS
- II. THE AMAZING EXAMPLE OF FORGIVENESS: PHILEMON
 - A. THE BACKGROUND OF PHILEMON
 - I. IT WAS WRITTEN WHEN PAUL WAS IN PRISON.
 - II. PAUL WROTE THE BOOK WHEN HE WROTE PHILIPPIANS, COLOSSIANS, AND EPHESIANS.
 - B. THE CHARACTERS IN PHILEMON
 - I. PAUL – THE IMPRISONED APOSTLE
 - II. TIMOTHY – WITH PAUL IN ROME
 - III. PHILEMON – THE BELOVED FRIEND
 - IV. APPHIA – THE WIFE OF PHILEMON
 - V. ARCHIPPUS – THE SON OF PHILEMON
 - VI. ONESIMUS – THE RUNAWAY SLAVE
 - C. THE STORY OF PHILE

I. ONESIMUS RUNS AWAY

II. ONESIMUS MEETS PAUL AND JESUS

III. PAUL WRITES A LETTER

III. THE INCREDIBLE RESPONSIBILITY OF FORGIVENESS

A. SINCE YOU HAVE BEEN FORGIVEN, YOU MUST BE FORGIVING.

B. IF YOU DON'T FORGIVE, GOD WON'T FORGIVE YOU.

YOU ARE NEVER MORE LIKE GOD
THEN WHEN YOU ARE FORGIVING.