

COLOSSIANS AND PHILEMON STUDY QUESTIONS

LESSON 1 QUESTIONS

PAUL EXALTED JESUS; DEFENDED HIS MINISTRY

COLOSSIANS 1:1-29

1. There are five paragraphs in the first chapter of Colossians. On the following table, write a summary of seven words or less for each paragraph.

| | |
|---------|--|
| 1:1, 2 | |
| 1:3-8 | |
| 1:9-20 | |
| 1:21-23 | |
| 1:24-29 | |

2. In Colossians 1:1, 2, Paul greeted the recipients of the epistle.
- In 1:1, there are four basic pieces of information. What are these pieces of information?
 - In 1:2, Paul identified the recipients of the epistle.
 - What did he request from God for them?
 - There is a single sentence in 1:3-8. In these verses, Paul gave thanks for their faith.
3. There is a single sentence in 1:3-8. In these verses, Paul gave thanks for their faith.
- In 1:3, Paul identified the Son of God as "the Lord Jesus Christ." Why wasn't any one of these three names sufficient?
 - In 1:4, Paul gave thanks for two things in the lives of these Christians. For what did Paul give thanks?
 - Paul, in 1:5, said, "because of the hope..."
 - According to his statements in 1:4,5, what did this hope produce?
 - How did Paul describe this hope?
 - What is the significance of these two facts?
 - In 1:6, Paul made descriptive statements about the gospel.
 - What did he say?
 - What difference does this make?
 - In 1:7, Paul made three descriptive statements about Epaphras.
 - What are these statements?
 - Paul spoke of Epaphras as a "bondservant" and as a "servant." What, if anything, is the difference between a "servant" and a "bondservant"?
 - In 1:8, Paul said Epaphras told them about the Colossian Christians "love in the Spirit." How would you describe the meaning of this to a new believer?
4. There are two sentences in 1:9-20 – 1:9-17; 1:18-20. In these sentences, Paul gave extensive descriptive information about Jesus.
- In 1:9, Paul spoke of "the knowledge of His will."
 - To whom does Paul refer by the use of the word "His"?
 - How would you explain "the knowledge of His will" to a new believer?
 - What is the difference between "spiritual wisdom" and "spiritual understanding"?
 - In 1:10, 11, Paul described five scenarios of how these people should live.
 - What are these five scenarios? What do they mean?
 - In 1:11, Paul identified the purposes of these five qualities. What are they?
 - In 1:12, Paul spoke of an act of God on their behalf.
 - What was it?

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2. What does it mean?
 - e. In 1:13, Paul identified a two-fold action of God.
 1. Identify the actions.
 2. What is the difference between them?
 - f. In 1:14, Paul used the words, "in whom." To whom does this refer?
 - g. In 1:14, Paul spoke of "redemption" and "the forgiveness of sins." What, if any, is the difference between the two statements?
 - h. In 1:15, Paul used two phrases to give a description of Jesus. Explain each phrase.
 - i. In 1:16, Paul gave two additional descriptive phrases about Jesus.
 1. What are they?
 2. What do they say about Jesus?
 - j. Again, in 1:17, Paul used two more phrases to tell us something about Jesus.
 1. What are they?
 2. What do they mean?
 - k. In 1:18, Paul gave three more descriptive phrases about Jesus.
 1. What are they?
 2. What do they mean?
 3. How did Paul identify the purpose achieved by these qualities?
 - l. How would you explain Paul's statement in 1:19?
 - m. In 1:20, Paul listed two accomplishments of Jesus.
 1. What does each mean?
 2. What, if any, is the difference between them?
5. In 1:21-23, Paul described the transformation of the lives of these Colossian Christians.
- a. In 1:21, Paul gave three descriptive statements about their former way of life.
 1. What are they?
 2. How do they differ from each other?
 - b. In 1:22, Paul contrasted their former situation with their present one.
 1. How did he describe their present situation?
 2. What purpose did Paul identify for this action of Jesus?
 3. What is the difference between "holy," "blameless," and "beyond reproach"?
 - c. In 1:23, Paul made a conditional statement.
 1. What is that statement?
 2. What is the significance of the conditional word, "if"?
6. In 1:24-29, Paul changed the direction of his discourse to talk about his ministry.
- a. In 1:24, Paul said, "Now I rejoice in my sufferings".
 1. How would you explain this difficult statement?
 2. What was his announced purpose for this suffering?
 3. There is a second difficult statement in this verse – "I do my share on behalf of His body the church in filling up that which is lacking in Christ's afflictions." What did Paul mean?
 - b. In 1:25, Paul stated that he was "made a minister."
 1. What does "minister" mean?
 2. What was his stated purpose for this claim?
 3. What two purposes does Paul list for being "made a minister"?
 - c. In 1:26, 27, Paul spoke of a "mystery".
 1. What is this "mystery"?
 2. To whom does Paul refer by the word "whom" in verse 27?
 3. How would you describe Paul's meaning in the statement, "Christ in you"?

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4. What does Paul mean by "the hope of glory"?
- d. In 1:28, Paul, again, made a descriptive statement about his ministry.
 1. What is this descriptive statement?
 2. What is the difference between "admonishing" and "teaching"?
 3. What does Paul mean by "present every man complete in Christ"?
7. Look back over your study of this beautiful chapter. How have you changed your view of yourself in the presence of God as a result of this study? How will this new understanding change your actions on behalf of God and His church?

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LESSON 2 QUESTIONS

THE DEFENSE OF PAUL'S MINISTRY AND DOCTRINE

COLOSSIANS 2:1-23

1. There are four paragraphs in the second chapter of Colossians. In seven words or less, write a brief summary of each paragraph on the following table.

| | |
|---------|--|
| 2:1-5 | |
| 2:6-15 | |
| 2:16-19 | |
| 2:20-23 | |

2. In Colossians 2:1-5, Paul attempted to defend his apostleship.
 - a. Why would he have to convince the Colossians of his great care for them and his burning desire to visit them?
 - b. Why was it so important for Paul to defend his apostleship, both here and in seven other epistles?
 - c. In 2:3, Paul mentioned "wisdom" and "knowledge". What is the difference between the two?
3. In Colossians 2:6-15, Paul warned the Colossian Christians about false teachers creeping into the church.
 - a. As Paul taught, in his epistles, he referred to the Son of God as "Jesus Christ," "Christ Jesus," "The Lord Jesus Christ," "Christ Jesus the Lord" and several other terms as well. What difference, if any, would the use of these identifying terms make?
 - b. In this paragraph, 2:6-15, Paul drew a contrast between Christ and the mystical religions and angel worship that the enemies were trying to get these people to follow. What points did Paul make in this contrast?
 - c. In this paragraph, Paul speaks of two kinds of circumcision.
 1. What are they?
 2. What is the difference between them?
 3. What message is Paul trying to convey in this manner?
 - d. In 2:12, Paul spoke of being "buried with Him in baptism." What was Paul trying to say?
 - e. In this verse Paul contrasted "being buried with Christ" and "being raised with Him." What message was Paul trying to convey by this contrast?
 - f. Read 2:14 several times.
 1. What is he saying in this verse?
 2. When speaking of the "certificate of debt", Paul said, "he has taken it out of the way" and then added, "having nailed it to the cross." What does the second quotation add to the first?
 - g. In 2:15, Paul said, "When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities."
 1. Who are these rulers and authorities?
 2. How did He disarm them and make a public display of them?
4. In 2:16-19, Paul gives some careful instructions against angel worship.
 - a. Paul warns them about people judging the Christians concerning food, drink and festivals and new moons and Sabbaths.
 1. What would the problem be with this?
 2. What solution did Paul offer?
 - b. In 2:17, Paul presents a contrast.
 1. What things are being contrasted?
 2. What did Paul say about these things?

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- c. In 2:18, Paul mentioned a prize of which these Christians could be defrauded.
 - 1. What is that prize?
 - 2. How could they be defrauded of it?
- d. Read 2:18, 19 several times.
 - 1. What image does Paul use to describe the Christians?
 - 2. What does Paul say about this?
- 5. In 2:20-23, Paul gave the Colossians Christians some careful instructions to follow. In these four verses, Paul described the appeal of mystical religions and angel worship.
 - 1. What did he say about them?
 - 2. What warning does he give the Colossian Christians?
- 6. Reflect on chapter two.
 - a. What parallels, if any, do you see in relation to the church today?
 - b. What warnings do you see that are personally helpful?

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LESSON 3 QUESTIONS

HOLY LIVING IN EVERY RELATIONSHIP

COLOSSIANS 3:1-4:1

1. There are six paragraphs in the passage Colossians 3:1 – 4:1. Write a brief summary of eight words or less for each paragraph on the following table.

| | |
|----------|--|
| 3:1-4 | |
| 3:5-11 | |
| 3:12-17 | |
| 3:18, 19 | |
| 3:20, 21 | |
| 3:22-4:1 | |

2. In Colossians 3:1-4, Paul encouraged the Colossian Christians to seek God's best for their lives.
- In 3:1, Paul said, "if you have been raised with Christ."
 - What is the implication of that statement?
 - How would you explain Paul's intent when he said, "keep on seeking the things above"?
 - What is the significance of Paul's mention of Jesus sitting at God's right hand?
 - In Colossians 3:2, Paul said, "set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth." What did he mean?
 - In Colossians 3:3, Paul said, "you died and your life is hid with Christ in God"
 - What was Paul talking about?
 - How would you explain Paul's words when he said, "your life is hidden with Christ in God"?
 - In Colossians 3:4, Paul spoke of Christ being "revealed."
 - To what is Paul referring?
 - In this verse he also spoke of the Colossian Christians being "revealed". What was he talking about?
3. In Colossians 3:5-11, Paul described a new life that he encouraged these Colossian Christians to pursue.
- In Colossians 3:5, Paul instructed these Christians to consider their earthly bodies as "dead" to five different evils.
 - How would you explain the words that Paul used in this quotation?
 - Read 3:5 again. He closes the verse with the words "which amount to idolatry."
 - Is Paul saying that greed amounts to idolatry or that all five qualities amount to idolatry?
 - On what basis did you make your decision?
 - Observe that Colossians 3:6 begins with the word "for." This indicates that an explanation is forthcoming. What explanation did he give?
 - In Colossians 3:7, Paul spoke of these five evil qualities again. In this verse, he spoke of "living in them," the five evil qualities. He also spoke of "walking in them." What is the difference between the two statements?
 - In Colossians 3:8, Paul drew a contrast with 3:6, 7. There are five evil qualities in 3:6, 7. There are also five evil qualities in verse eight. Compare and contrast the two lists.
 - In what way, if any, are the two lists different?
 - In what way, if any, are the two lists alike?
 - In Colossians 3:9, Paul commands them not to lie to each other. He then said, "since you have laid aside the old self."
 - What does this mean?
 - He also mentions "with its evil practices." To what is he referring here?

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- f. Colossians 3:10 is a continuation of the idea in 3:9. How would you put the meaning of this verse in your own words?
- g. Colossians 3:11 is also a continuation of the idea from 3:9, 10. In 3:11, Paul mentioned a very unusual cultural situation. Study the list of groups.
 - 1. He mentioned "Greeks and Jews." What is there about this quotation that would, in most cases, make one of these groups very angry?
 - 2. What is a Scythian?
 - 3. Each group of two appear to be direct opposites. Observe however, that Scythians and Barbarians are mentioned differently from the other three pairs. Are they opposites?
 - 4. In what way or ways are "Greek and Jews" and "circumcised and uncircumcised" different?
 - 5. What, exactly, did Paul mean when he said, "but Christ is all in all."
- 4. In Colossians 3:12-17, Paul talked at length about holy living.
 - a. In Colossians 3:12, Paul urged the Colossian Christians to live a holy life.
 - 1. Paul described these Christians as "holy and beloved" and "chosen of God." What does he mean by these references?
 - 2. Please define the holy qualities Paul mentioned in this verse:
 - a. Compassion d. Gentleness
 - b. Kindness e. Patience
 - c. Humility
 - 3. Why would Paul speak of "a heart of compassion." Why not just mention the quality?
 - b. In Colossians 3:13, Paul spoke of personal relationships within the body of Christ.
 - 1. What is the difference between "bear with one another" and "forgive each other"?
 - 2. In this verse, Paul sets a standard for Christian forgiveness.
 - a. What is the standard?
 - b. What does it mean?
 - c. In Colossians 3:14, Paul adds one more quality to the list of five – love. Study this verse carefully. What is Paul saying about unity?
 - d. Rather quietly, in 3:15, Paul adds two more quality to the list of six holy qualities.
 - 1. Define or at least describe these two qualities.
 - 2. In this verse, Paul used the analogy of "the body." What was Paul saying by the use of this analogy?
 - e. In Colossians 3:16, Paul gives four specific instructions to further their holy lifestyle.
 - 1. What are these instructions?
 - 2. What does Paul mean by "the word of Christ"?
 - 3. Is Paul saying "let the word of Christ richly dwell in you with all wisdom" or is he saying, "with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another"?
 - 4. Describe each of the following:
 - a. Psalms
 - b. Hymns
 - c. Spiritual songs.
 - 5. What is the relationship Paul seeks between their singing and teaching and admonishing one another.
 - f. In Colossians 3:17, Paul instructed them to do everything they do in word and deed "in the name of the Lord Jesus."
 - 1. What does this mean?
 - 2. Why is it important?
- 5. In Colossians 3:18, 19, Paul gives a number of instructions concerning holy family relations.
 - a. In 3:18, Paul gave wives some instructions for holy family relationships.
 - 1. What does Paul mean when he tells the wives to be subject to their husbands?

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2. He qualifies this by adding "as is fitting in the Lord." What does he mean by "fitting"?
- b. In 3:19, Paul instructed the husbands to love their wives.
 1. What does he mean?
 2. What did he mean when he said, "do not be embittered against them"?
 3. Just a thought! Why did Paul have to instruct the husbands to love their wives, but did not have to give the wives the same instruction?
6. In 3:20, 21, Paul gave some instructions for holy child care.
 - a. In 3:20, Paul addressed the children.
 1. The text says the child should be obedient to the parents "in everything." Are there ever any situations where this would be an impossible command?
 2. Our New American Standard Version states "to the Lord" while the Greek text says "in the Lord." Is there any difference between the two statements or are they synonymous?
 - b. In 3:21, Paul addressed the fathers in a Christian family.
 1. Paul instructed the fathers not to "exasperate" their children. What does this mean?
 2. Why does Paul feel the need to give this instruction to the fathers?
 3. Why do you suppose he did not say "parents" instead of "fathers"?
 4. The reason for the instruction not to exasperate the children is so that they do not lose heart. What does this mean?
7. In Colossians 3:22-25, Paul gives instructions concerning holy servant relationships.
 - a. In 3:22, Paul tells the Christian slaves, in rather broad terms, how to serve their masters, Christian or pagan.
 1. Because Paul's statement is so broad, what does a servant do whose master demands unscrupulous non-Christian conduct by his slave?
 2. People in our time wonder why Paul didn't instruct Christian owners simply to free their slaves. How would you answer this question?
 3. In 3:22, Paul qualified his instructions with three phrases:
 - a. Not with external service, as those who merely please men.
 - b. But with sincerity of heart.
 - c. Fearing the Lord.
 - d. How would each phrase affect the servant's work?
 - b. In 3:23, Paul continued his instructions to the Christian slaves. What does this add to the instructions of 3:22?
 - c. In 3:24, Paul defines the reward system for Christian slaves. What would the slave understand when he heard them read this verse?
 - d. Colossians 3:25 is a warning for Christian slaves.
 1. What warning does he give?
 2. What does Paul mean when he said, "without partiality"?
 - e. In giving instruction to Christian slave owners, in 4:1, Paul spells out a principle of conduct. Describe this principle.
 - f. It seems strange that 4:1 should be included as part of chapter three. What reason can you offer for this unusual linkage?
 - g. How would you apply 3:22 – 4:1 to our culture when there are neither slaves nor slave owners?
8. Reflect on Paul's teachings in chapter three. How can our study of this chapter prepare us to be good examples of Christ's life and character in the home and work place?

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LESSON 4 QUESTIONS

HOLY LIFE FOR SLAVE OWNERS AND FELLOW WORKERS

COLOSSIANS 4:2-18

1. There are four paragraphs in Colossians 4:2 – 18. Write a brief summary of eight words or less for each paragraph on the following table.

| | |
|---------|--|
| 4:2-6 | |
| 4:7-9 | |
| 4:10-17 | |
| 4:18 | |

2. In Colossians 4:2-6, Paul gives instructions for prayer.
- In 4:2, Paul gave instructions to the Colossian Christians concerning their prayer life. In this brief verse there are three instructions:
 - What are these instructions?
 - What does alertness have to do with prayer?
 - In 4:3,4, Paul requested that they pray for him. What was the nature of his request?
 - In 4:5, 6, Paul gave instructions about conduct in the presence of non-Christians.
 - In the first part of 4:6, Paul gave two descriptions of our conduct in the presence of unbelievers. What are these descriptive phrases?
 - What purpose does Paul identify with this care?
3. In Colossians 4:7-9, Paul explains that Tychicus will give them information about his situation.
- In 4:7, Paul described Tychicus in three ways.
 - What did he say?
 - What did this mean?
 - In 4:8, Paul explained, at least in part, why he sent Tychicus to them. What two reasons did Paul give?
 - In 4:9, Paul mentions that Onesimus was also coming.
 - How would this information affect the Colossian Christians?
 - Paul also mentions that Philemon was coming. What does he say about Philemon?
 - What significance can we attach to the fact that Paul sent both Tygicus and Onesimus to bring this letter?
4. In Colossians 4:10 – 17, Paul sends greetings from fellow workers.
- Paul spoke of Aristarchus in 4:10 as a "fellow prisoner." Does this mean that he was a prisoner in the same way that Paul was?
 - In 4:11, Paul gave some information about Aristarchus, Mark and Jesus Justus. What did he say?
 - In 4:12, Epaphras, though he was from Colossea, did not make the trip. The text does not explain this. Have you any idea why he did not go also?
 - In 4:13, Paul gives an impression of Epaphras. What did he say?
 - In view of Paul's statement in 4:11, what can we say about Luke and Demas in verse 14?
 - In 4:15, Paul sent greetings to Nympha. What can we discover about her from the text?
 - In 4:16, Paul gave instructions to circulate this letter to the other churches in the area. In view of the situation in Colossea, why would he give such instructions?
 - In 4:17, Paul sends a forceful message to Archippus.
 - Who is Archippus?
 - Why would Paul send this message?

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5. In 4:18, Paul sent his personal greeting. Read this verse very carefully. What does it tell you?

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LESSON 5 QUESTIONS

MAKE UP YOUR MIND

PHILEMON 1-25

1. In a Bible Encyclopedia or Bible Dictionary, read as much as possible about what it meant to be a slave in the first century.
2. There are five paragraphs in the short epistle of Paul to Philemon. On the following table, write a summary of eight words or less for each paragraph.

| | |
|---------|--|
| 1 – 3 | |
| 4 – 7 | |
| 8 – 16 | |
| 17 – 22 | |
| 23 – 25 | |

3. In verses one through three, Paul extended his greetings to Philemon's family and the Colossian Church.
 - a. In verse one, Paul identified himself as a "prisoner of Christ Jesus." Think carefully about this identification.
 1. How would the Roman authorities evaluate this claim?
 2. Check the other epistles written from prison. (List them.) How did Paul identify himself in these epistles?
 3. How can you account for the difference between his self-identification in this epistle and the ones where he was writing from prison?
 - b. In verse one, Paul included the name "Timothy our brother" as the senders of this epistle.
 1. In seven of the thirteen epistles that bear the name of Paul, he lists someone who writes along with him. The remaining six epistles bear only the name of Paul.
 - a. Why would Paul list Timothy as a co-author of this epistle?
 - b. What does Paul mean when he identified Timothy as "our brother"?
 2. Paul spoke of Philemon in two ways: "beloved brother" and "fellow worker." How does the word translated "brother" relate to the church that met in Philemon's house?
 - c. In view of the content of this brief epistle, why does Paul, in verse two, address this epistle also to Apphia, Archippus and "the church in your house" as well as to Philemon?
 - d. In verse three, as in 12 of his 13 epistles, Paul wished Philemon "grace and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ." What is the significance of this wish?
4. In verses 4-7, Paul expressed his gratitude for the Christ-like quality he observed in Philemon's life.
 - a. In verse four, Paul used the word "you." To whom does Paul refer with the use of this word?
 - b. In verse five, Paul explained his thanksgiving.
 1. Read these first five verses again. To whom does Paul refer with the word "your"?
 2. In verse three, Paul referred to the Son of God as "Lord Jesus Christ." In verse five, however, he referred to Him as "Jesus Christ." What, if anything, is the difference between these two ways of identifying the Messiah?
 3. In verse five, Paul speaks of "your love and faith toward the Lord Jesus and toward all the saints."
 - a. What does he mean by the word "saints"?
 - b. In view of your overview of these 25 verses, why was it important for Paul to say this?
 - c. In verse six, Paul described his prayer and wish on behalf of Philemon.
 1. What does Paul mean when he said, "the fellowship of your faith"?

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2. How does "the fellowship of your (Philemon's) faith" become effective through the knowledge of every good thing.?"
 3. What does Paul add to his petition by the inclusion of the words, "which is in you for Christ's sake"?
 - d. In verse seven, Paul spoke of having, "come to have much joy and comfort in your love."
 1. What does he mean by this statement?
 2. How is this statement vital to Paul's purpose in the epistle?
 - e. In verse seven, Paul also said, "because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you."
 1. Why is this important?
 2. What does it add to Paul's message in the epistle?
 3. Paul, a second time, referred to Philemon as "brother." What is the significance of this?
5. Verses 8-16, Paul begins his plea for Onesimus.
- a. What message does Paul send by saying, "though I have enough confidence to order you"?
 - b. In verse eight, Paul spoke of the ability to command Philemon to do that which is "proper." What does Paul mean by the word "proper"?
 - c. In verse nine, Paul continued, "yet for love's sake I rather appeal to you."
 1. What is added by this statement?
 2. What is the difference between "order you" and "appeal to you"?
 - d. What does Paul mean when he said, "since I am such a person as Paul the aged"?
 - e. Look at the way Paul wrote the sentence in verses eight through eleven.
 1. What is the relationship between the statements "I am such a person as Paul the aged," and "And now also a prisoner of Christ Jesus"?
 2. Why would Paul say these things?
 - f. In verse 10, Paul made his appeal. Study what he said.
 1. What does Paul mean, "I appeal for my child"?
 2. Why would he say this?
 - g. In verse 11, Paul made a play on words.
 1. What is gained by the "useful" "useless" emphasis?
 2. How does this help Paul's argument?
 - h. In verse 12, Paul made an emotional statement.
 1. What did he say?
 2. How would this help Paul's purpose?
 - i. In verse 13, Paul explained what he really wanted to see happen.
 1. How could what Paul wants be on Philemon's behalf?
 2. Why does he stress his imprisonment AGAIN?
 - j. In verse 14, Paul explained his attitude.
 1. What explanation can you give for what Paul described as "without your consent"?
 2. Paul explained his concern, "that your goodness should not be as it were by compulsion, but of your own free will." In view of what Paul has said up to this point, what could he possibly mean by this statement?
 - k. In verse 15, Paul described a possible reason as to why this whole thing may have happened. If Paul was right, what is the meaning of his statement in this verse?
 1. In verse 16, Paul continued his explanation. What was Paul really trying to say clearly in this effort?
6. In verses 17-22, Paul increased the pressure on Philemon.
- a. In verse 17, Paul spoke of two things: "regard me as a partner" and "accept him as you would me."
 1. What do these two situations have to do with each other?
 2. What is the implication of Paul's statement?
 3. Could their partnership depend upon this? Should it?

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- b. Read verse 18 very carefully.
1. What could Paul possibly mean when he said, "IF he has **wronged** you in ANYTHING"?
 2. Again, what could Paul mean when he said, "If he **owes** you ANYTHING"?
 3. Think seriously about Paul's statement, "charge that to my account".
 - a. Paul was a Roman prisoner. Would he have had a large amount of personal funds?
 - b. How could he seriously make such a promise?
 - c. Again, read verse 19 very carefully.
 1. What would be the significance of Paul writing, "this with my own hand"?
 2. Paul added a parenthetical statement, "lest I should mention to you that you owe to me even your own self as well." Think carefully about whether or not it is appropriate to tell someone they are in your debt because you led them to faith in Christ.
 - d. In verse 20, Paul addressed Philemon a third time as "brother."
 1. What should be the impact of this repetition?
 2. Paul made two requests.
 - a. What does Paul mean when he said, "Let me benefit from you in the Lord"?
 - b. What did Paul mean when he said, "Refresh my heart in Christ"?
 - c. How do these requests fit with Paul's announced purpose in verse 14?
 - e. Read verse 21 a couple of times.
 1. If Paul was this confident of Philemon's obedience, why would he put such impossible pressure on him as he did in the previous 19 verses?
 2. Paul said, "Since I (*absolutely*) know you will do even more than what I say."
 - a. Again, if this is true, then why the badgering pressure applied in the previous 19 verses?
 - b. Again, how can one understand this to be compatible with Paul's announced purposes in verse 14?
 - f. Read verse 22 several times.
 1. How would you describe the tone of Paul's instructions in this verse?
 2. Keep in mind that it would take Paul several weeks to travel from Rome to Colosseum. It would take about a minute to prepare a sleeping place for him. How would you describe Paul's reason for the instruction in this verse?

7. Verses 23-25, Paul gives his parting greetings from himself and several of his co-workers in Rome.

 - a. In verses 23 and 24, Paul sends greetings from five people. Get all the information you can about these people.
 1. Epiphras
 2. Mark
 3. Aristarchus
 4. Demas
 5. Luke
 - b. In verse 25, Paul closes the epistle as he began it, wishing them the grace of God. Read verses three and twenty-five several times.
 1. In what ways are they similar?
 2. In what ways are they not quite alike?
 3. Why do you think Paul wrote this way?

8. In retrospect, think carefully about your study of Philemon.

 - a. If you could talk to the apostle Paul about this brief epistle, what questions would you ask?
 - b. Again, if you could talk with the apostle Paul about this epistle, what would you want to say to him?
 - c. Why do you think the council included this epistle in the Bible?
 - d. What does this epistle teach us for our problems today?