

SUPER HEROES...SUPER MEN – Part One
Philemon

A. The **PEOPLE** in the letter

1. The **AUTHOR** = Paul (v1)
 - a. Paul wrote this short letter during his **first** Roman imprisonment
 - b. This letter has many **distinct** features
2. The **ADDRESSEE**: Philemon (v1)
 - a. Philemon was led to **Christ** by Paul (see v19)
 - b. He was a prominent **member** in the church (see v2)
 - c. He was very active in **servicing** Christ (v1)
 - d. His name means “**loving**”
3. The **ACCUSED**: Onesimus (v10)
 - a. Onesimus was a **slave** owned by Philemon
 - b. His name means “**useful**”
4. The **ADDITIONAL**
 - a. *Apphia* – Probably Philemon’s **wife** (v2)
 - b. *Archippus* (two options)
 - 1) He was Philemon’s **son**
 - 2) He was the **pastor** of the Colossae church (Colossians 4:17)

B. The **PROMPTING** for the letter

1. The **CRIME** of Onesimus
 - a. Onesimus had run away to **Rome** (v11)
 - b. Onesimus apparently stole **money** (v18-19)
 2. The **CONVERSION** of Onesimus
 - a. While in Rome, Onesimus **meets** Paul
 - b. While with Paul, Onesimus is **converted** (v10)
 - c. Onesimus becomes **profitable** (v11, 13)
 3. The **CONFRONTATION** of Onesimus
 - a. Onesimus must **confront** Philemon
 - b. Philemon was now a **brother**
- C. The **PURPOSE** of the letter
1. The **REFLECTION** of forgiveness
 - a. This letter is about asking Philemon to **forgive**
 - b. Man is never more like **God** than when he forgives
 2. The **REASONS** for forgiveness
 - a. No matter how much someone **hurt** you, they still could be profitable to you (v11)
 - b. Their hurting you could have been **part** of God’s plan for spiritual conversion or growth in their life (v15)
 - c. Forgiveness **refreshes** the body of Christ (v20)