

Good-for-Something Philemon 1-25

NEIL TRAINER

June 10, 2018



NOTES

Good-for-Something Philemon 1-25

Suggested Questions for Individual
Study or Group Discussion*



- What nicknames have you been given? How well do they reflect who you are? How do you feel about them?
- *Read Philemon 1-25.* What is the Apostle Paul's main purpose in writing this short letter?
- What qualities of Philemon's life and faith are affirmed by Paul? How does Paul implicitly appeal to these in his request of Philemon?
- How has Onesimus' life changed as he has gone from Philemon's slave to fugitive to Paul's "son"? How would this affect his understanding of himself and his self-worth?
- What does Onesimus' name mean (see footnote for v. 10)? How does Paul play on that meaning? How has Onesimus "become useful" to both Paul and Philemon?
- Who is in the wrong between Philemon and Onesimus? Why?
- What power does Philemon hold over Onesimus? How does Paul beseech Philemon to respond with mercy instead? Where do justice, repentance, and restitution fit into the reconciliation Paul mediates?
- When you have been wronged or offended, how might God call you to respond similar to how Paul wants Philemon to receive Onesimus?
- How might you be like Onesimus by having someone you need to return to in order to make things right? Do you have someone who can help you as Paul helped Onesimus?
- For whom might you act like Paul in facilitating reconciliation? How might you honor Christ and all parties involved?
- How can your small group or others pray for you and support you in this through the coming week?

*Select or adapt questions to fit the needs and makeup of your group.

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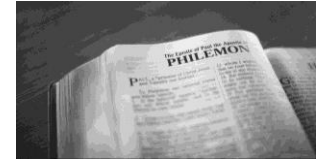
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