

LESSON 2: PHILEMON 1:10-25

Paul's Plea for Onesimus (cont'd)

1. In what way has Onesimus changed since running away from Philemon (vv. 10-16)? How has he become worthy of his name (v. 11)? What words or phrases describe Paul's relationship with Onesimus (vv. 10, 12, 16)?
2. How does Paul extend himself to persuade Philemon to accept Onesimus (vv. 17-20)? What will it require of Philemon to do as Paul asks? What do you learn about Paul's leadership style? (With regard to writing in his own hand (v. 19), compare Rom. 16:22; 1 Cor. 16:21; Gal. 6:11; Col. 4:18; and 2 Thess. 3:17.)
3. What risks was Onesimus taking by returning to Philemon? What do you imagine his feelings were? Was it right for him to return? And was it right for Paul to send him back to Philemon?
4. What does this letter teach concerning the gospel's impact in our lives? Our relationships?