Written by: Paul

When: around 53-55 C.E.

The **shortest** of Paul’s letters in the NT (25 verses)

Written from jail at the same time as Paul’s letter to Colossians

Philemon is a person (His wife is named Apphia) whose house may have served as the gathering place for the Colossian church.

The Big Lead: “What do we do with **Onesimus**?”

Onesimus:

* Slave of Philemon
* Probably ran away
* Probably stole from Philemon
* Becomes a believer during Paul’s time in prison

In the Roman Empire, where slavery was common, slave owners had the right to punish severely and even put to death a slave who had been caught after running away.

The Big Answer: “Welcome Onesimus as a brother, not a slave.”