

Vancouver Chinese Evangelical Free Church

Post Secondary Sunday School

Philemon

Apostle Paul sent a letter his beloved brother in Christ, Philemon of Colossae, asking him to exercise the "brotherly love" of the Gospel in restoring the lost relationship between him and his runaway slave, Onesimus, who had recently been converted to Christian faith through the personal ministry of Paul.

The Epistle is acclaimed by renowned Christian teachers through out ages as "*one of the most charming letters ever written. . . carefully and skillfully*" (Knox); "*an exceedingly amiable letter, not without humor and brotherliness towards the slave*" (Muller-Bardorff); "*a model of the art of letter writing, revealing . . . simple dignity, refined courtesy, and warm sympathy. It also illustrates the way in which existing human relationships may be made means of expressing Christian love.*" (Metzer)

**References**

1. Barth, Markus and Blanke, Helmut. *The Letter to Philemon*. The Eerdmans Critical Commentary. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Publishing, 2000.
2. Gorday, Peter, Ed. *Colossians, 1-2 Thessalonians, 1-2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon*. Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove: IVP Press, 2000.
3. O'Brien, Peter T. *Colossians, Philemon*. Word Biblical Commentary Vol . 44. Milton Keynes: Word Publishing, 1987.
4. Saarinen, Risto. *The Pastoral Epistles with Philemon & Jude*. Brazos Theological Commentary on the Bible. Edit. R. R. Reno. Grand Rapids: Brazos Press, 2008.

**Course Schedule**

October 8	Philemon	1. Background I
25		2. Background II
November 1		3. 1-7
8		4. 8-14

15		5. 15-20
22		6. 21-25
29		7. Theological Significance