

HEART OF CHRIST

Philemon 1-25

Key Verses: 10,11

1. Read verses 1-3. What does Paul mean by introducing himself as a prisoner of Christ Jesus? What do verses 1b-2 tell about the recipients of Paul's letter? Why does he call Archippus a "fellow soldier"? (Eph 6:12; 2Ti 2:3)
2. Why did the church meet in this home? What does this tell us about the New Testament church? How can we make our home a house church?
3. Why are grace and peace mentioned together? (3) Read verses 4-7. What was Paul's thanksgiving topic? What is faith? (Jn 6:29) How can one share it? What is love? (1Jn 4:16,19) How can we show it to others?
4. Read verses 8-16. Who was Onesimus? What does his name mean? How had he been changed? Read verses 17-21. What specific request did Paul make? How did he back up his request and show its importance?
5. How did he expect Philemon's relationship with Onesimus to change? What does Paul mean by saying "...knowing that you will do even more than I ask"? Read verses 22-25. Where was Paul? What was his hope and plan?
6. Who are the people whom Paul introduces? How does he introduce each one? What do you know about each of these? How does this short letter reveal the heart of Christ in Paul?