

Three Short Bible Books!

Philemon, 2 John, and 3 John

June 14-28

Class 1, Wednesday, June 14, 2023 (Philemon)

"Therefore, although in Christ I could be bold and order you to do what you ought to do, yet I prefer to appeal to you on the basis of love." (Philemon 8-9a)

The Three Books

With only three weeks between series and needing a good class that would be helpful, I decided to teach the three shortest books in the New Testament:

Philemon, 25 verses

2 John, 13 verses.

3 John, 14 verses

Despite their brevity, they are in the New Testament for a reason—they all have universal lessons that are still much needed today!

The Book of Philemon

I hope you remember that I told you a good Bible Dictionary is an essential tool for studying the Bible. That is very evident in this book, for in only 25 verses, there are ___ different names! Most of them don't directly impact the meaning, but they are still important and many of them appear in other New Testament books.

The names mentioned are Paul, Timothy, Philemon, Apphia, Archippus, Onesimus, Epaphras, Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke.

Do you know who they are?

Key Characters in Philemon

Paul: _____

Philemon: _____

Apphia: _____

Aristarchus: _____

Onesimus: _____

A Note on Slavery in the New Testament

Slavery is a key issue in Philemon. It was widespread in the Roman Empire and could be based on race, citizenship, or social class. New Testament preachers did not directly condemn slavery, but they taught characteristics (love, equality, kindness, etc.) that should make slavery obsolete—at least where Bible teaching prevails.

General Outline of Philemon

1. Paul's i _____ (1-3)
2. Paul's t _____ (4-7)
3. Paul's p _____ (8-21)

This is a masterful and heartfelt plea based on Paul's love for Philemon and for Onesimus. He is asking several things:

- Accept Onesimus w _____ .
- Accept Onesimus as a b _____ .
- Send me any b _____ .
- Do even m _____ .

4. Paul's p _____ (22)
5. Paul's c _____ (23-25)

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