

# Postcards From Heaven

(Philemon)

- Introduction:
1. The book of Philemon is a brief letter that Paul sent to a man by the name of Philemon.
  2. Why would a personal letter be preserved and a part of our Bible?
  3. I believe the answer to that question will become apparent as you see the great lessons contained in this short “postcard.”

## I. Paul’s Prayer For Philemon

- A. (Philemon 1-7).
- B. Notice how Paul identified himself as a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and not Rome.
- C. Could it be that Paul accomplished more from a few years in jail than we have in a lifetime of freedom?
- D. Paul practiced what he preached with regard to prayer (1 Thess. 5:17).

## II. Paul’s Petition For Onesimus

- A. (Philemon 8-17).
- B. Paul makes it clear that he could have used his apostolic authority to command Philemon on behalf of Onesimus, but instead he petitions him.
- C. The demand of “Law” is good, but the appeal of “Love” is often better.
- D. Paul’s petition for Onesimus is hard to refuse.
  1. Paul, the aged (v. 9).
  2. Paul, the prisoner (v. 9).
  3. Onesimus is now a brother (v. 10).
  4. Onesimus is profitable to you and me (v. 11).
  5. This could be God’s plan (v. 15).
  6. You owe me (v. 19).
  7. I have confidence in you (v. 21).

## III. Paul’s Promise to Philemon

- A. (Philemon 18-25).
- B. If you desire, I will repay you whatever Onesimus cost you (vs. 18-19).
- C. By writing with his own hand, he offers a surety of his I.O.U.

- Conclusion:
1. From this “postcard,” we learn several helpful truths.
  2. We see the possibilities of God’s providence.
  3. We see the power of tact and motivation.
  4. We see the bonds of fellowship within the family of God.