

***Sermon Title:* "PRAISE OF PHILEMON"**

Date: February 11, 2024 - Philemon 1-7

Central Idea: The better we know Christ, the more we want to share His blessings with others. Are you knowing and sharing Christ with others?

Introduction: Philemon is Paul's only letter of a private nature. It concerns a runaway slave, Onesimus, who had robbed his master, Philemon, and escaped from Colossae to Rome. There Onesimus met the imprisoned apostle Paul. Paul then wrote to Philemon concerning Onesimus. By comparison to Paul's other letters, Philemon is little more than a postcard, but it comes from the tender heart of a friend writing to a friend rather than as an apostle exercising his authority.

I. The Writer, v. 1a

II. The Readers, vv. 1b-2

III. The Greeting, v. 3

IV. The Commendation, vv. 4-7

1. Thanksgiving, vv. 4-5

2. Prayer, v. 6

3. Testimony, v. 7

Conclusion: Good Christians begin confrontation with affirmation. They focus on positive qualities. Paul has so much good to say about Philemon. He was a beloved friend, a man of faith and love, a refreshing Christian, a praying man, a man who obeyed God's will. Can your friends say these things about you?