

Philemon reader's theater

CHARACTERS: Paul (9), Timothy (6), Philemon (8)

SETTING: bare stage

RUN TIME: 3 minutes

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: Philemon (HCSB)

NOTE: PAUL and TIMOTHY, the authors, and, PHILEMON, the recipient of his letter, narrate this letter. If this is being staged, PHILEMON (appearing to read the letter) should be seated far stage right, PAUL and TIMOTHY seated far stage left, (appearing to write the letter). At rise, ONESIMUS stands next to PAUL and TIMOTHY. PAUL finished writing, hands letter to TIMOTHY and hugs ONESIMUS. Timothy rolls letter and inserts into tube, hands it to ONESIMUS and hugs ONESIMUS. ONESIMUS crosses stage, kneels before PHILEMON, holds out letter. PHILEMON takes it, unrolls it and begins reading.

PHILEMON: Greetings from Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus,

TIMOTHY: and Timothy your brother

PAUL: To Philemon our dear friend and coworker, and to the church that meets in your home.

ALL: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

PAUL: I always thank my God when I mention you in my prayers,

PHILEMON: because I hear of your love and faith toward the Lord Jesus

ALL: and for all the saints.

TIMOTHY: We pray that your participation in the faith may become effective

ALL: through knowing every good thing that is in us for the glory of Christ.

PAUL: For I have great joy and encouragement from your love,

ALL: because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, brother.

PAUL: I, Paul, as an elderly man

TIMOTHY: and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus

PAUL: I appeal to you on the basis of love for my son, Onesimus.

PHILEMON: Once he was useless to you, but now he is useful both to you and to me.

PAUL: I am sending him back to you as a part of myself.

PHILEMON: I wanted to keep him with me, so that in my imprisonment for the gospel he might serve me in your place.

TIMOTHY: But I didn't want to do anything without your consent, so that your good deed might not be out of obligation, but of your own free will.

PAUL: Perhaps this is why he was separated from you for a brief time, so that you might get him back permanently,

PHILEMON: no longer as a slave, but more than a slave—as a dearly loved brother.

TIMOTHY: He is especially so to me, but even more to you.

PAUL: So if you consider me a partner, accept him as you would me.

PHILEMON: And if he has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account.

PAUL: I, Paul, write this with my own hand: I will repay it—

PHILEMON: not to mention to you that you owe me even your own self.

TIMOTHY: Yes, brother, may I have joy from you in the Lord; refresh my heart in Christ.

PHILEMON: I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say. (*PHILEMON stops reading, lays a hand on ONESIMUS' shoulder. ONESIMUS looks up, apprehensive of what his master's reaction will be. . PHILEMON pulls him into an embrace.*)

Online review game

Titus, Philemon, Jude jeopardy <http://www.quia.com/cb/486357.html>