

# *Lesson 8* COLOSSIANS 4:7-4:18 AND PHILEMON

FOR THINE IS THE KINGDOM, THE POWER AND THE GLORY  
FORGIVE US OUR SINS AS WE FORGIVE THOSE WHO SIN AGAINST US

Paul is closing his letter to the church at Colossae. However, there is another letter called the sister epistle to Colossians. It is the letter to Philemon. They are sisters because they are connected and to separate them is to miss part of the important message Paul is trying to teach his churches.

1. Read Colossians 4:7-18. Make a list of those names Paul mentions and their characteristics.

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2. Whose name appears in Colossians 4:9? Read Philemon. Who is it about?

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3. In Colossians 4:16, where else was this letter to be read? What do you read about the Laodiceans in Revelation 3:14-22? What does the rereading of this letter tell you about the early church?

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4. In Paul's letter to Philemon, what are the circumstances? What do you notice are the characteristics of Philemon and Apphia (probably husband and wife)?

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5. What does Paul ask of Philemon and what does he say should be the motivation of his heart? (verse 9). Has there been a time in your life where you needed to forgive someone who was clearly guilty and found the strength to forgive because of the love you have received from the Lord Jesus? Write out a prayer thanking God for his power at work in you.

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6. What changed in the relationship between Onesimus and Philemon once Onesimus met Paul?

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7. In verses 18-21, what does Paul offer to do? How do you see Paul imitating his Lord and Savior with this promise?

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**APPLICATION:** To forgive another who has wronged you is possible. When we do that the kingdom of God invades the earth through our obedience to Him. Then his power is manifested in our lives, and we bring God glory. Colossians 1:27 becomes a reality. The mystery of God is revealed in our lives...Christ in you, the hope of glory. We no longer have to wait on death to take us to that glory.... we are living in it.

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**PRAYER:** Glorious and loving Father, you desire to use each of our lives to bring the kingdom of God on earth as it is in heaven. Continue to guide our hearts and minds to be obedient to your will. Create in each of us a desire to do your will no matter where that leads us. We praise you for your Son Jesus that opened the door to a richer and more righteous way of living. Thank you, Father, for your amazing grace and mercy. May we continue to be lights for your kingdom. We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen.