

**INTRODUCTION, BACKGROUND, AND CONTEXT  
PAUL’S LETTER TO PHILEMON  
PHILEMON 1:1-2**

**BIBLE STUDY RESOURCES:**

- Holy Bible
- PHILEMON Teaching Schedule
- Participant’s Questionnaire/Worksheet
- Paul’s Letters and Missionary Journeys
- Outline of Paul’s Letter to PHILEMON

**TOPICS:**

Author, Addressee(s)/Audience, Date Written, Setting, Occasion/Purpose for Writing, Message, and Themes: Respect, Barriers, and Forgiveness

**OPEN IT QUESTIONS**

A. Have you personally experienced or witnessed someone else being treated as an outsider--excluded from cliques, placed in castes, or otherwise negatively categorized? Briefly explain.

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B. Have you personally been rendered powerless by someone with political power, position power, or influence power and control over some aspect of your life—on the job, in your home, in your church? Briefly explain

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1. Who wrote this letter? (1:1)

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2. To whom was this letter written? (1:1-2)

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3. When and where was Philemon written? (*See Paul's Letters and Missionary Journeys Chart*)

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4. What are some characteristics of the City of Colossae?

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5. What do we know about the church from this brief introduction?  
(1:1-2)

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6. What types of relationships did the Apostle Paul have with the various people mentioned in verses 1 and 2 of this letter.

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7. For what reason(s) did Paul write to Philemon?

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8. What is the overall message in the Letter to Philemon?

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9. What are the main themes in the book of Philemon?

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10. What is the importance of mutual respect among fellow believers?

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11. What is the importance of breaking down societal barriers and reconciling differences?

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12. How can you reach out to those from diverse cultures and social standing?

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13. What is the importance of forgiveness, especially between fellow believers?

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14. **Life Application:** Christian relationships must be filled with forgiveness and acceptance. Who has wronged you? With what brother or sister in Christ do you feel estranged, distant, or angry? Who do you need to forgive? Build bridges, not walls.

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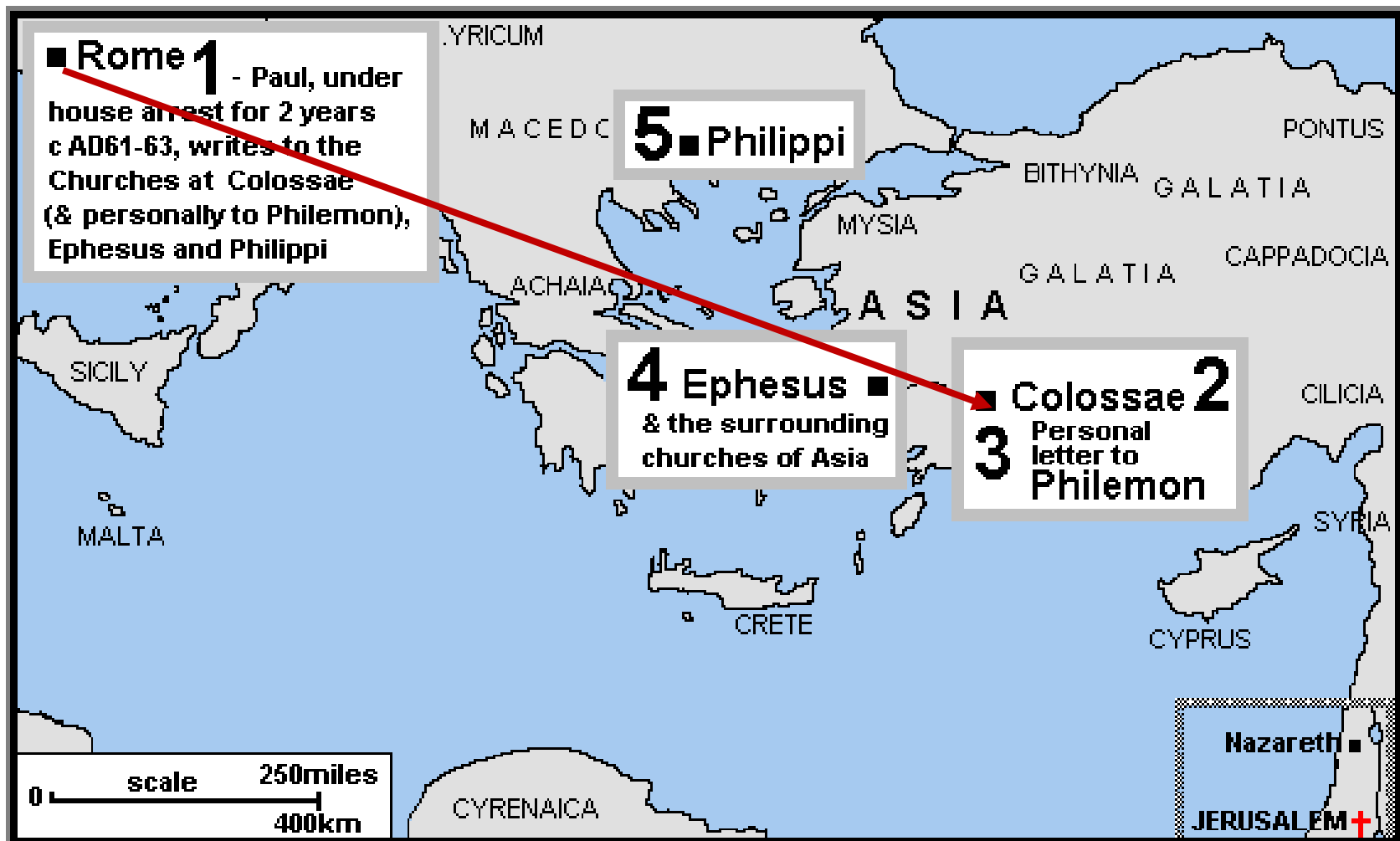
[Resources: Life Application Concise New Testament Commentary and Adult LessonMaker Application]

## PAUL'S LETTERS AND MISSIONARY JOURNEYS

YEAR A.D.	MAJOR EVENTS	ACTS	PERIOD	LETTERS
34	Conversion, Damascus, Arabia	9	3 years - Arabia	
37	Jerusalem, Tarsus, Syria, Cilicia			
46-47	Antioch, Jerusalem	11	1 year - Antioch	
48-49	First Missionary Journey and Antioch	13-14		Galatians
50	Jerusalem Council and Antioch	15		
51-53	Second Missionary Journey	16-18	18 months - Corinth	1 Thessalonians 2 Thessalonians
53-54	Antioch			
54-57	Third Missionary Journey	19-21	3 years - Ephesus	1 Corinthians 2 Corinthians Romans
57	Jerusalem Arrest	22-23		
57-59	Caesarea Prisoner	24-26	2 years	
59-60	Journey to Rome	27-28		
60-67 circa <i>(Approximately 60 AD)</i>	Rome House Arrest	28	5-7 years circa	Ephesians Colossians Philemon Philippians 1 Timothy Titus 2 Timothy

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Map Showing Location from which Paul Wrote the Prison Epistles  
Highlighting the Letter Written from **Rome** to **Philemon**  
and the Churches at Colossae (House Churches)



## **EPISTLE TO PHILEMON**

- I. The apostolic greeting (1:1-2)
- II. The character of Philemon (1:3-9)
- III. Intercession for Onesimus (1:10-21)
- IV. Salutations and conclusion (1:22-25)

WORDsearch Outlines.