

**Everyone
Needs a Godly
Mediator**

Why is the right mediator so important?

The right mediator is impartial

The right mediator desires reconciliation & restoration

The right mediator looks for the best outcome for all

The best mediator goes above and beyond & even intercedes with help from their own resources to bring both reconciliation and restoration

Review of Philemon leading up to last section

Paul, a prisoner at that time, wrote this epistle to Philemon who hosted the Colossian church in his home.

Onesimus is a runaway slave who fled from his master (Philemon), and he may have stolen from him.

Paul has brought the salvation of Jesus Christ while meeting Onesimus and has sent him back to Philemon with this letter.

Paul has asked Philemon to forgive Onesimus and welcome him as a brother in Christ rather than a slave.

Philemon 1:17-20 (ESV) ¹⁷ So if you consider me your partner, receive him as you would receive me. ¹⁸ If he has wronged you at all or owes you anything, charge that to my account. ¹⁹ I, Paul, write this with my own hand: I will repay it—
to say nothing of your owing me even your own self. ²⁰ Yes, brother, I want some benefit from you in the Lord. Refresh my heart in Christ.

Paul continues his request & mediates on Onesimus's behalf – asking that Philemon treat him as if Paul returned to him.

It is likely Paul who introduces Jesus to Philemon, since He indicates Philemon owes him his very life. News reaching Paul of the reconciliation of these two men would, indeed, refresh his heart.

Paul mediates to such an extent that he promises to take Onesimus's debt upon himself. These actions demonstrate deep love and empathy.

Who introduced you to Jesus and who can ***you*** introduce to Jesus?

Philemon 1:21-25 (NIV2011) ²¹ Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask. ²² And one thing more: Prepare a guest room for me, because I hope to be restored to you in answer to your prayers.

²³ Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, sends you greetings.
²⁴ And so do **Mark**, Aristarchus, Demas and Luke, my fellow workers.
²⁵ The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

Paul's confidence is in the hope of Philemon, as a Christian, will follow the direction of the Holy Spirit.

As Paul closes out the letter, note that Paul and Mark's relationship has been restored and they worked together in the Kingdom. The grace of Christ to be with our spirit is what we need more than anything.

Perhaps as a final precaution to make sure that Philemon would follow Paul's direction, Paul says he plans to return.

When thinking of the joy of restoration, consider who mediates for you.

Who is the mediator between God and us?

1 Timothy 2:5-6 (NASB1995) ⁵ For there is one God, *and* one mediator also between God and men, *the* man Christ Jesus, ⁶ who gave Himself as a ransom for all, the testimony *given* at the proper time.

Romans 8:33-34 (ESV) ³³ Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.