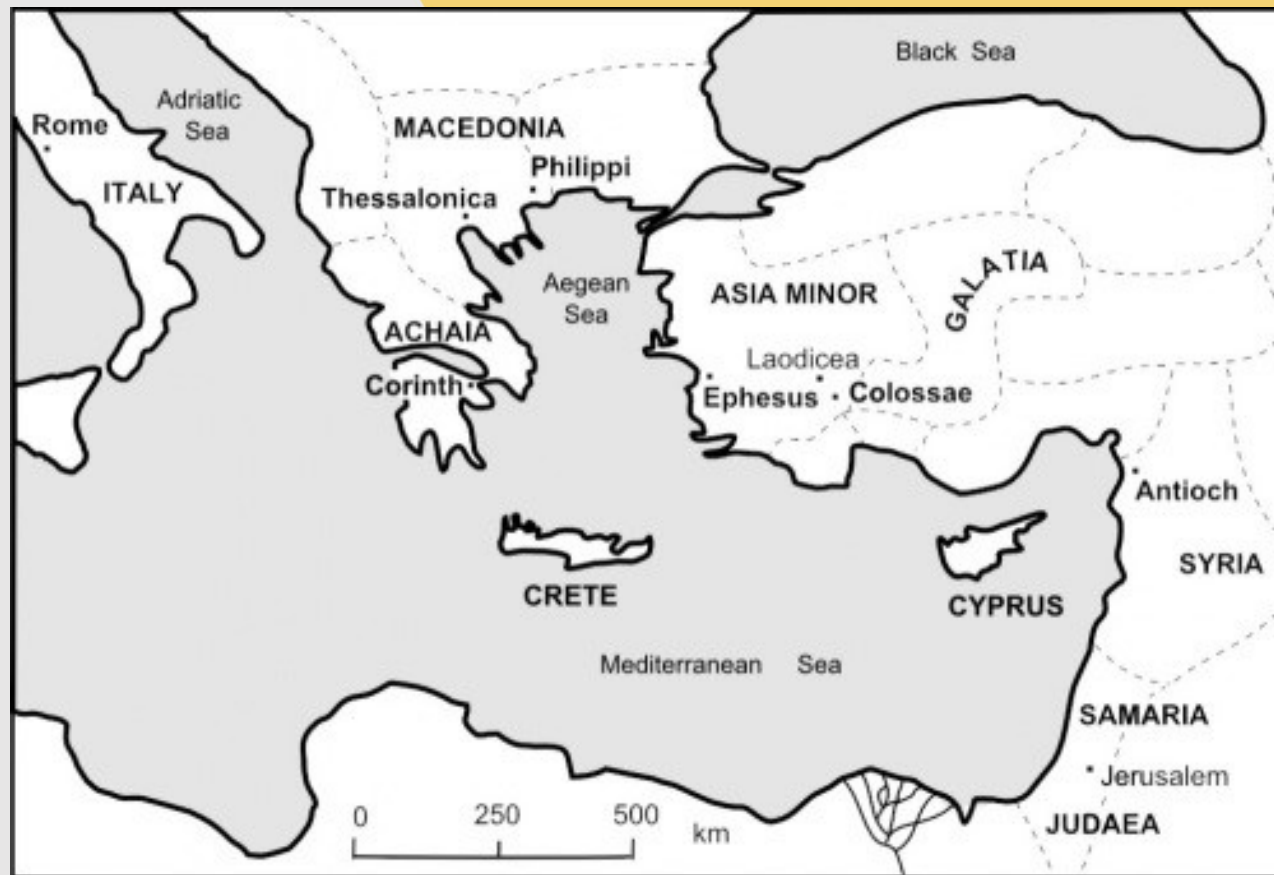


The background features a light gray field. On the left, a large yellow circle contains a stylized olive branch with several leaves. On the right, there is a large, irregular orange shape. A blue wavy line curves across the bottom of the image, passing between the yellow circle and the orange shape.

The Book of Philemon

Background

- One of Paul's Epistles- Letters
- Shortest book in the New Testament
- Letter addressed to specific person
- Philemon was an affluent Roman citizen in Colossae



Philemon 1:1-3

¹ Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,
To Philemon our beloved fellow worker ² and Apphia our sister
and Archippus our fellow soldier, and the church in your
house:

³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord
Jesus Christ.

Philemon 1: 4-6

⁴ I thank my God always when I remember you in my prayers, ⁵ because I hear of your love and of the faith that you have toward the Lord Jesus and for all the saints, ⁶ and I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective for the full knowledge of every good thing that is in us for the sake of Christ.

Philemon 1:7

⁷ For I have derived much joy and comfort from your love, my brother, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you.

Philemon 1:8-11

⁸ Accordingly, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do what is required, ⁹ yet for love's sake I prefer to appeal to you—I, Paul, an old man and now a prisoner also for Christ Jesus— ¹⁰ I appeal to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I became in my imprisonment. ¹¹ (Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me.)

Who is Onesimus?

- Former slave of Philemon
 - Slavery- not uncommon & risky
- Becomes a follower of Jesus after meeting Paul in Rome
- Continues the ministry along with Titus, Timothy, and



Colossians 4: 7-9

⁷ Tychicus will tell you all about my activities. He is a beloved brother and faithful minister and fellow servant in the Lord. ⁸ I have sent him to you for this very purpose, that you may know how we are and that he may encourage your hearts, ⁹ and with him Onesimus, our faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you. They will tell you of everything that has taken place here.

Philemon 1:8-11

⁸ Accordingly, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do what is required, ⁹ yet for love's sake I prefer to appeal to you—I, Paul, an old man and now a prisoner also for Christ Jesus— ¹⁰ I appeal to you for *my child, Onesimus*, whose father I became in my imprisonment. ¹¹ (Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me.)...

Philemon 1: 12-14

¹² I am sending him back to you, sending my very heart. ¹³ I would have been glad to keep him with me, in order that he might serve me on your behalf during my imprisonment for the gospel, ¹⁴ but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your goodness might not be by compulsion but of your own accord.

Philemon 1:15-16

¹⁵ For this perhaps is why he was parted from you for a while, that you might have him back forever, ¹⁶ no longer as a bondservant but more than a bondservant, as a beloved brother—especially to me, but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

Philemon 1: 17-20

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.

Philemon 1: 21-22

²¹ Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say. ²² At the same time, prepare a guest room for me, for I am hoping that through your prayers I will be graciously given to you.

Philemon 1: 23-25

²³ Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, sends greetings to you, ²⁴ and so do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke, my fellow workers.

²⁵ The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.



So What

- We are a new creation in Christ

2 Corinthians 5:17

¹⁷"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come:
The old has gone, the new is here!"

So What

- We are a new creation in Christ
 - Philemon and Onesimus are on the same level
 - We serve the same master
- Called to be Counter Cultural
 - Public but not selfish
 - Barriers to living a life for Jesus

What “slave” are you being asked to let go of, so you can live for Christ?

TIME OF GIVING

Online giving is also available on our church website,
www.westmiddlebury.org, and on our Tithely app.

Offering boxes are
available at both entrances.

2 Corinthians 9:7

