

Outline of
Philemon



Introduction

Authorship

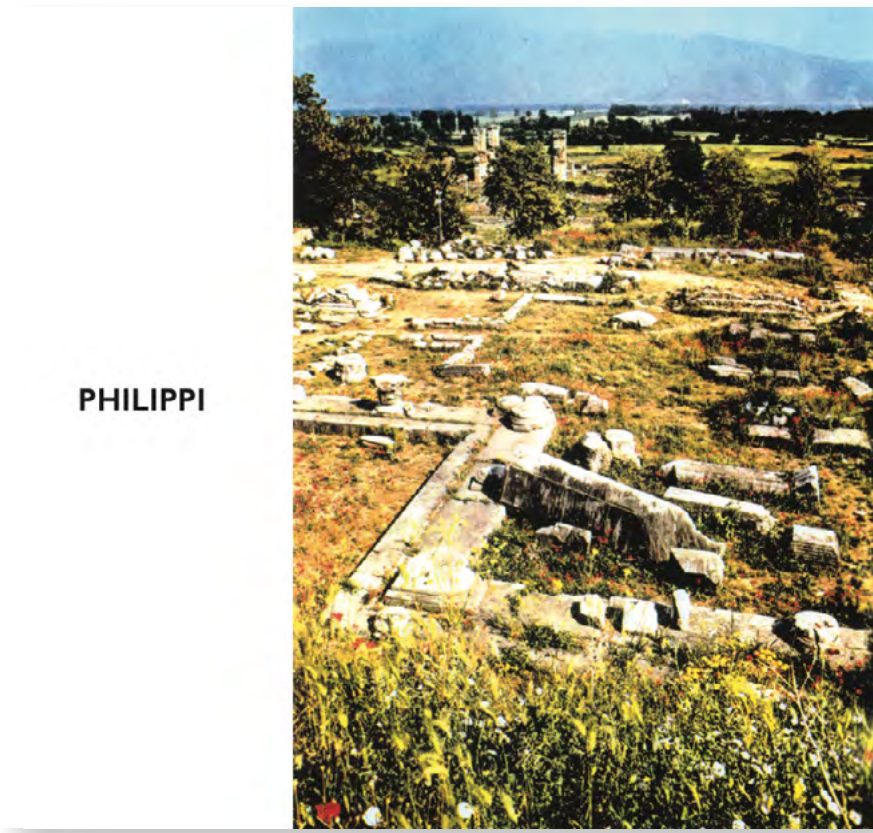
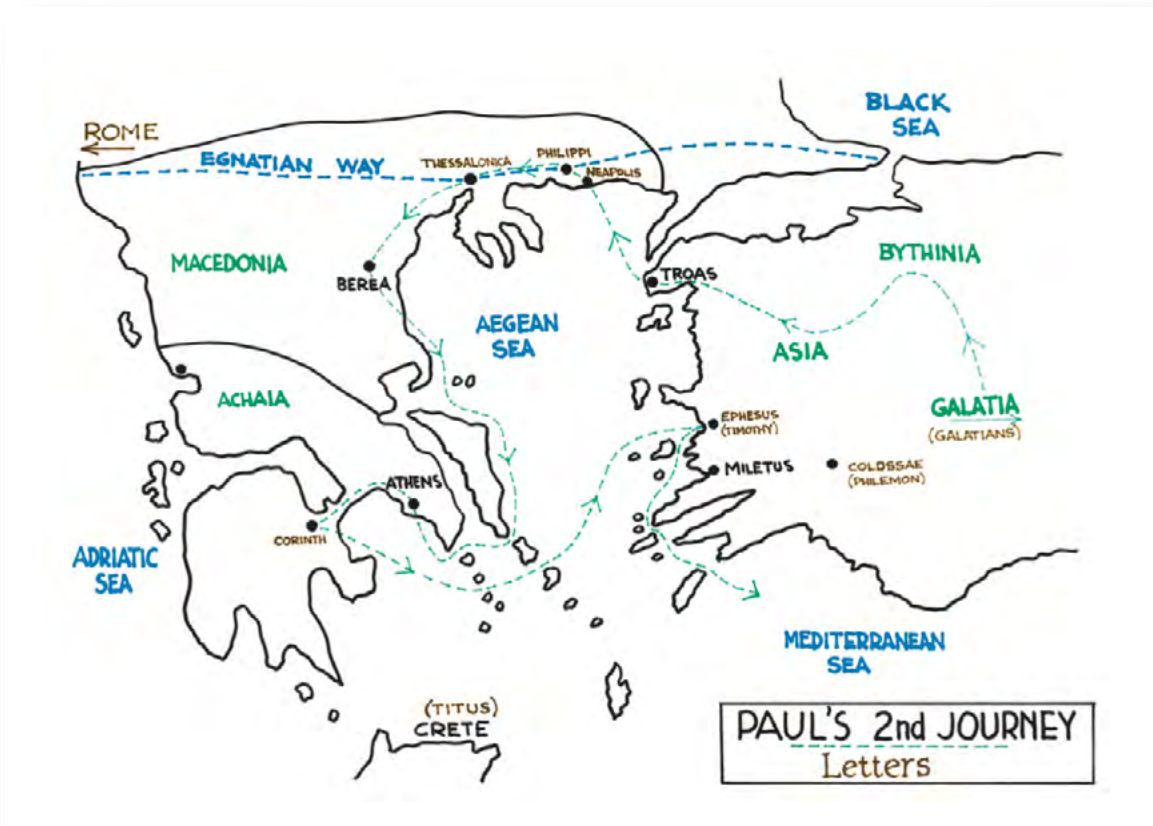
Almost all scholars accept this letter as Pauline; the style and substance are characteristic of Paul.

Structure and Form

This letter is a “letter of recommendation,” the sort that a patron wrote to social peers or inferiors on behalf of a dependent client to ask a favor for him. Some compare it more specifically with a letter that Pliny the Younger later wrote a friend on behalf of an estranged freedman who had pleaded for Pliny’s intercession. Somewhat differently, Pliny allowed that the slaveholder had a right to be angry; the principle of a friend’s intercession, however, is similar. If one classified Paul’s letter rhetorically, it would be “deliberative rhetoric,” the type of speech or writing educated persons in antiquity used to persuade others to change their behavior or attitudes.

Letters were not speeches, but the form of argumentation in speeches can help us appreciate Paul’s approach to persuasion here: his exordium, or opening appeal (vv. 4-7), is followed by the main argument, consisting of proofs (vv. 8-16), which is followed by the peroration, or summary of his case (vv. 17-22). Paul uses methods of argumentation common in his day to persuade well-to-do and well-educated Philemon, who would find such arguments persuasive. The preservation of the letter suggests that Paul succeeded in persuading Philemon, who would not have kept it and later allowed it to be circulated had he not freed Onesimus. The shortest of Paul’s extant letters, this letter to Philemon would have occupied only a single sheet of papyrus.

Source: Keener, Craig S. (2014). *The IVP Bible Background Commentary: New Testament*, Second Edition. InterVarsity Press.



PHILIPPI



Paul Robert Schneider
(August 29, 1897 – July 18, 1939)

The first protestant minister to be martyred by the Nazis.



Phm 1-25 Paul rejoices to hear of the faith and love of Philemon, whom he desires to forgive his servant Onesimus, and lovingly to receive him again.



"I thank my God, making mention of you always in my prayers, hearing of your love and faith which you have toward the Lord Jesus and toward all the saints,..."

Philemon 1:4-5 (NIV)

Quiz on Philemon

1. Philemon is the shortest of Paul's letters to be found in the Bible. How many verses does it contain?

2. Which slave became Paul's 'son' while Paul was in prison?

3. In which epistle does Paul refer to himself as a prisoner of Christ?

4. What had Onesimus done wrong?

5. What do we know about Archippus?

6. Who ministered to Paul while he was in prison?

7. In what way did Paul ask Philemon to receive Onesimus?

8. What did Paul ask Philemon to do if he (Onesimus) owes Philemon anything?

9. What infers that Philemon also was a convert of Paul?

10. Paul thanks God for Philemon's love, not only for Jesus, but for who else?

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