

## Day 2 – The Author and the Recipients

1. As you begin today's time in the word, **ask** God to strengthen your relationship with Him through your time in His word. Ask that you would not allow your time of studying the Bible to become an academic experience, but truly ask that your spirit would be renewed as your surrender this time to the Lord.

- An important step in the overview process is to look at what you learn about the one who wrote the book being studied. The Holy Spirit inspired the writing of all Scripture and God directed men to record truths so that He might be made known to all mankind. Mark (by using a colored pen or pencil), perhaps with a circle or rectangle, each time something was said about **the author**. **The author** might describe himself by name or by using pronouns like "I" or "me," or perhaps with the plural pronouns "us," "we," or "our."

Inductive study includes answering the "5 Ws and an H" questions, which are explained in the "Inductive Study Methodology" in the Appendix. When you think about these questions you will learn the purpose of the book you are studying. Begin to look at the identity of **the author** by answering the following questions. How is **the author** identified or how does **the author** identify himself? List the truths about **the author** found in the book of Philemon.

- Now read through the book of Philemon looking for any references to **the recipients**. Who received the book of Philemon? Use a different color or symbol from the way you marked the references to **the author**, so that you can see these references at a glance. As you are marking, think about what you are learning about **the recipients**. Remember part of the observation process will be to answer the "5 Ws and an H" questions to help you observe the text. **The recipients** might be identified as "you"

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or “your,” or in the plural form “we” or “our.” Mark any way **the recipients** are addressed. What do you learn about **the recipients**?

2. Record any thoughts you have from Philemon that have helped you understand **the author’s** character and his relationship with **the recipients**.

3. What **other individuals** are mentioned in the book of Philemon? References to these **other individuals** can be marked with a different colored marking. Briefly record what was said about these **other individuals**.

4. At the end of each day of study you will be asked to reflect on what you have studied and how the Scripture can apply to your life. Always be open and allow the Lord to speak to you through His holy word. Today in closing, think about what was modeled by Paul’s attitude that is expressed in Philemon. What does this teach you about the character of a follower of Christ?

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Paul wrote in Romans 8:29 that Christians have been predestined to be conformed to the image of Jesus Christ. Dr. Robert Mulholland wrote that a mature believer is to be in the “process of being conformed to the image of Christ for the sake of others.” How did Paul model this lifestyle in the book of Philemon?

Close in prayer seeking the Lord’s help with the role He has entrusted to you in your family, in your church, in your neighborhood, and in your community.