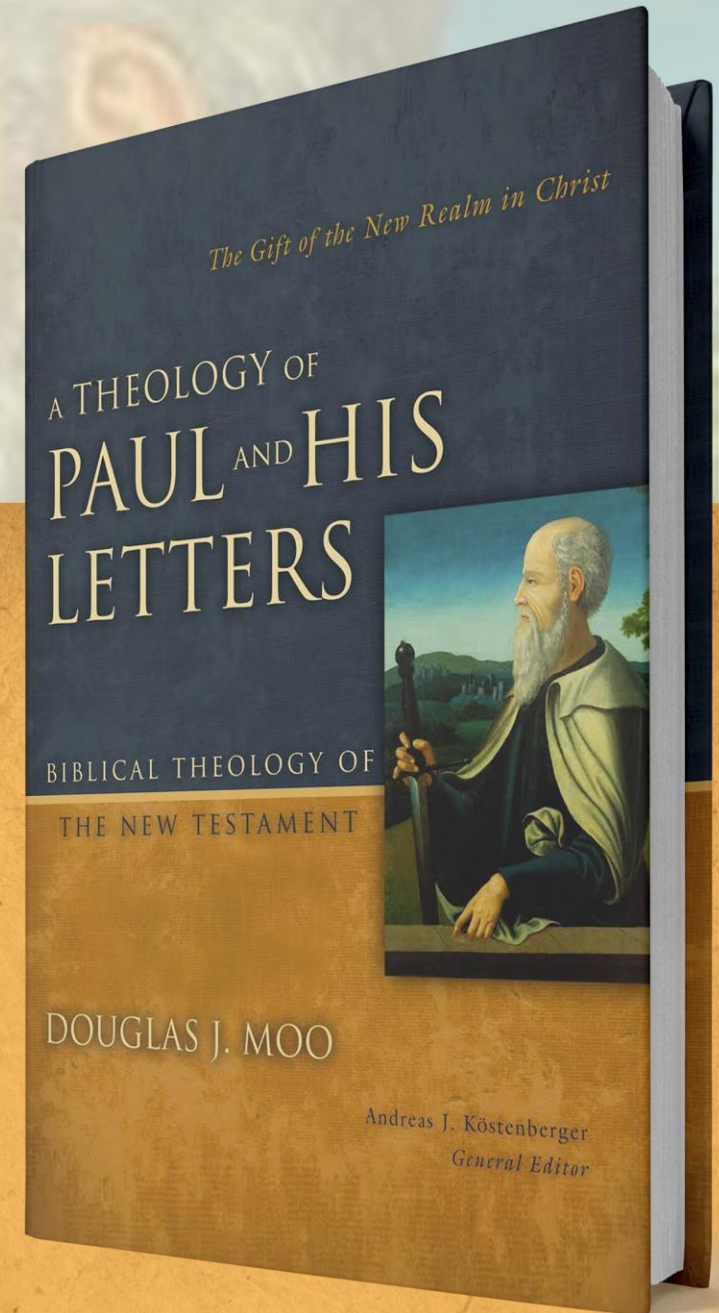


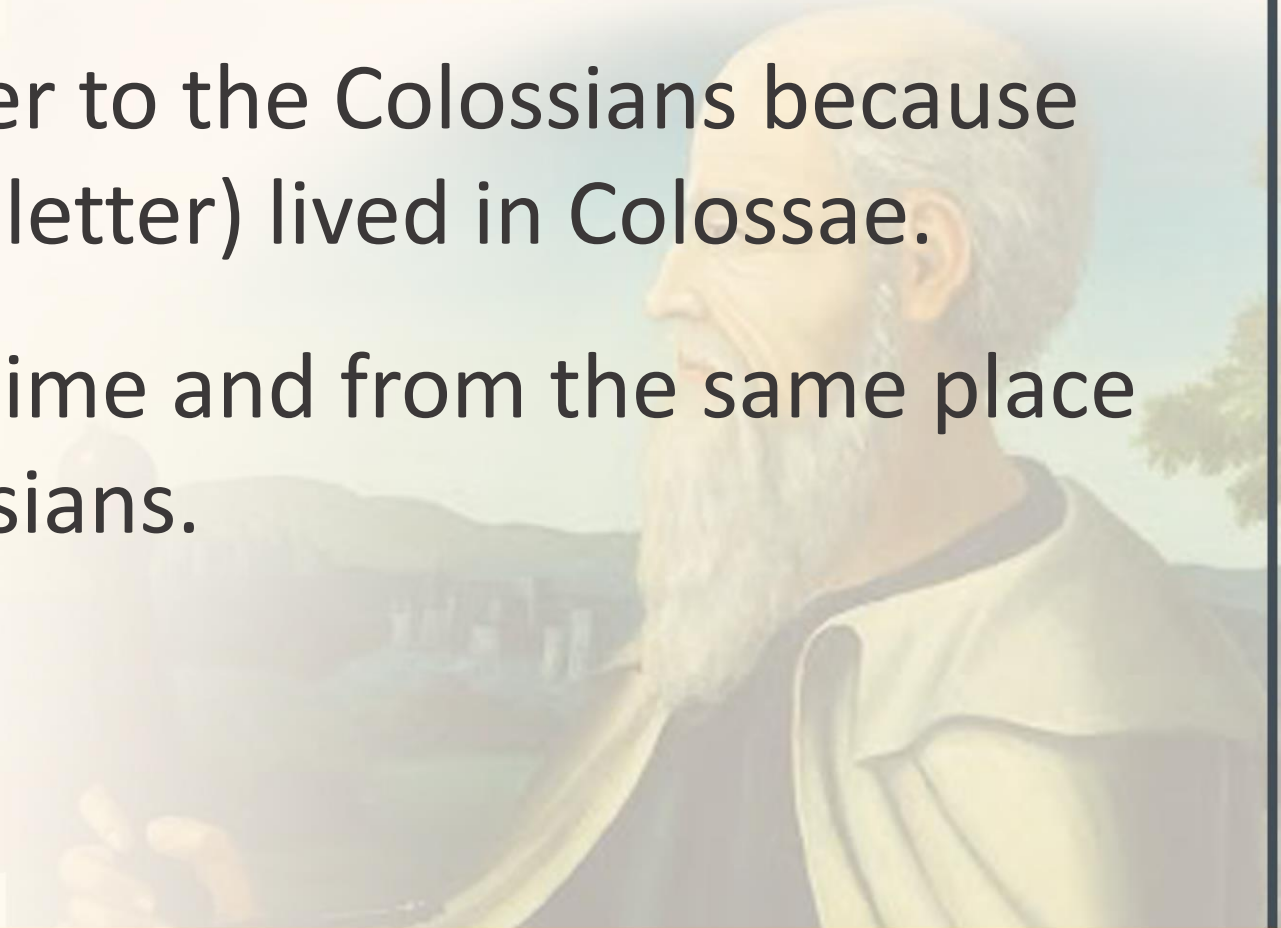
CHAPTER 11

Philemon



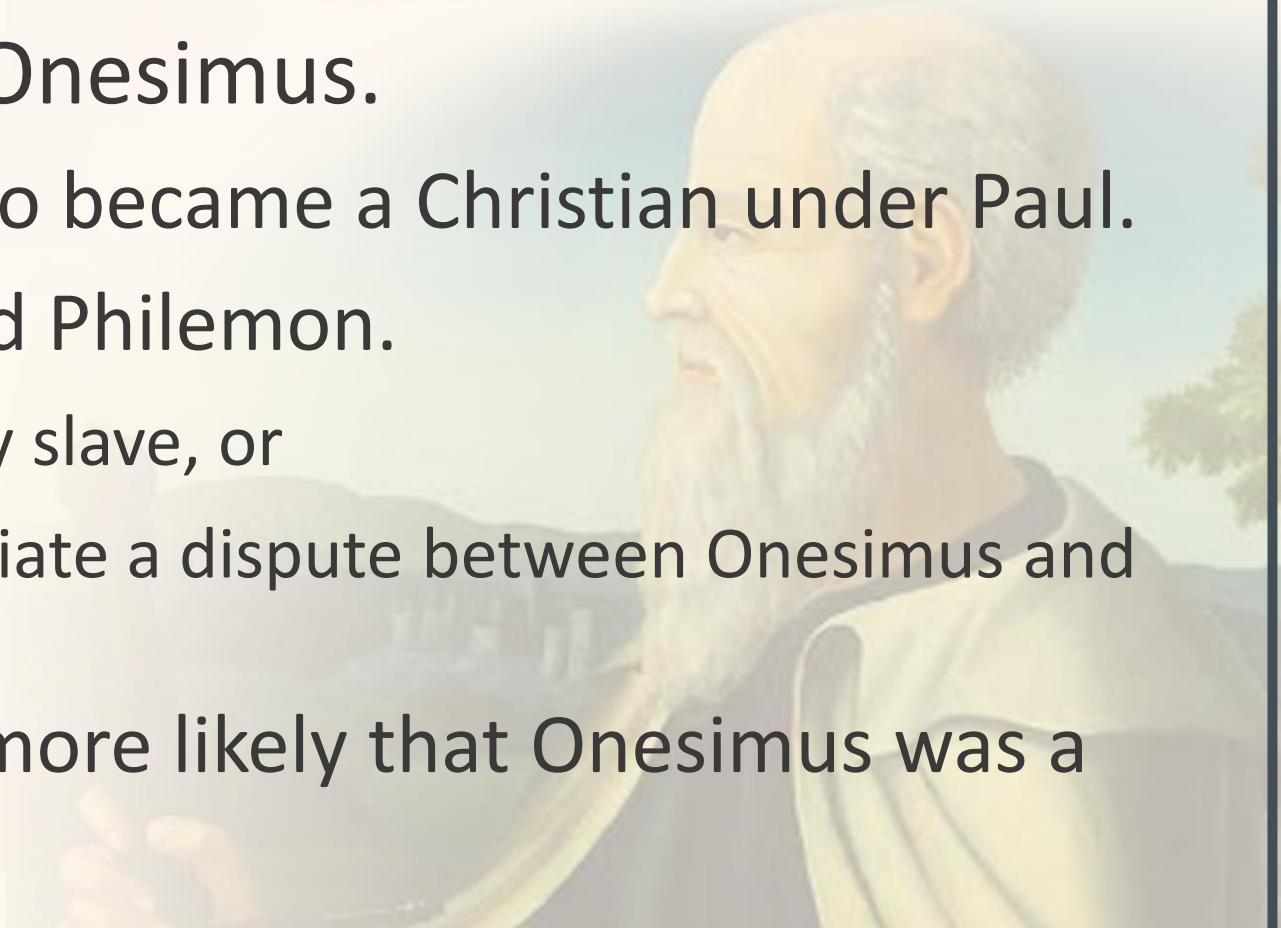
Locating the Letter

- The letter is tied to the letter to the Colossians because Onesimus (the focus of the letter) lived in Colossae.
- It was written at the same time and from the same place as Paul's letter to the Colossians.



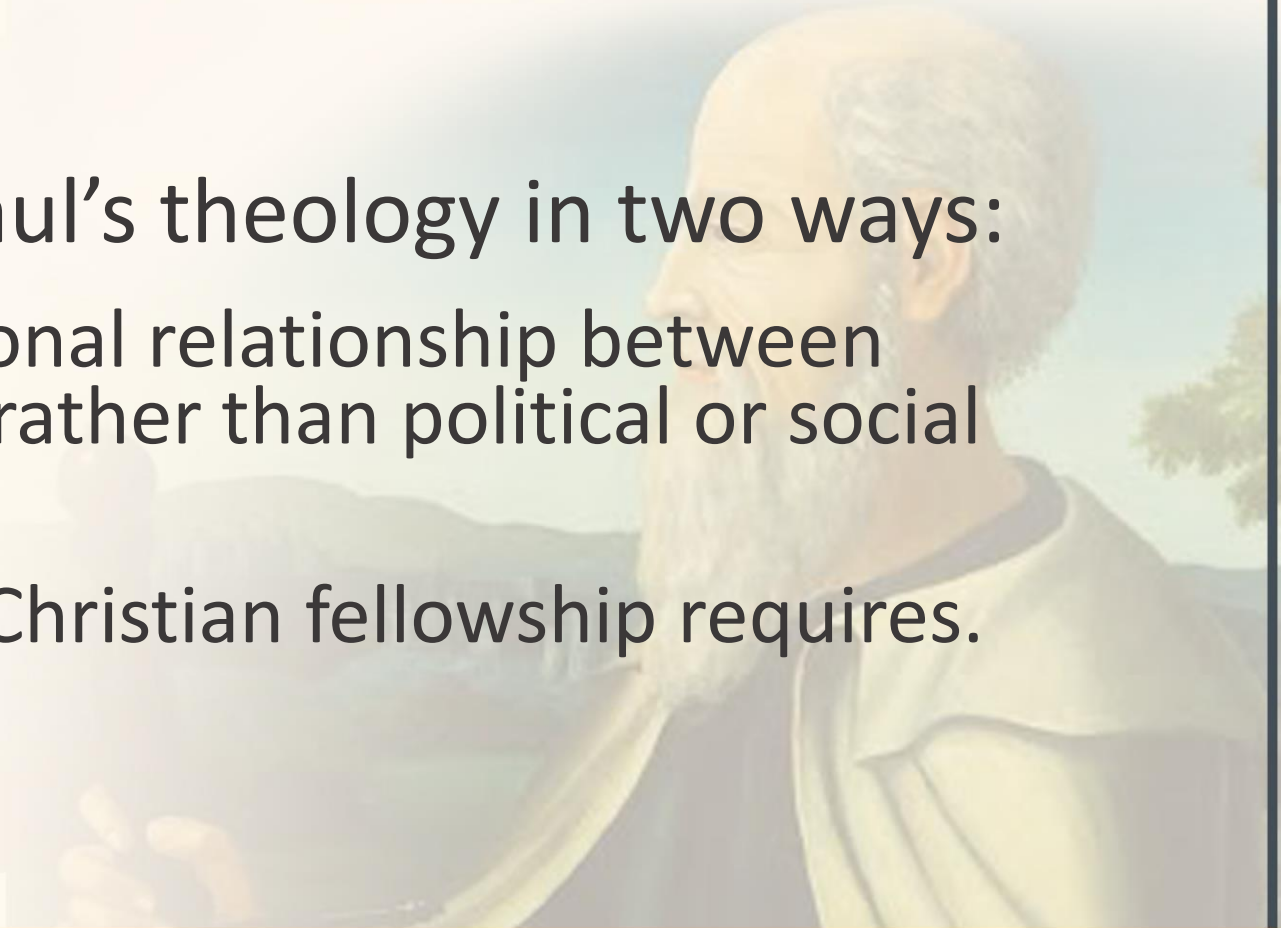
Isolating the Issues

- The subject of the letter is Onesimus.
 - He was Philemon's slave who became a Christian under Paul.
 - Onesimus probably wronged Philemon.
 - He may have been a runaway slave, or
 - Onesimus asked Paul to mediate a dispute between Onesimus and Philemon.
- The author believed it was more likely that Onesimus was a runaway slave.



Analyzing the Argument

- This letter contributes to Paul's theology in two ways:
 1. Paul focused on the personal relationship between Philemon and Onesimus rather than political or social institutions.
 2. It offers a vision of what Christian fellowship requires.



- The letter includes

- An introduction that contains identification, a wish for peace, and thanksgiving
- The body of the letter that focuses on the fellowship of Christians
- The conclusion that includes an appeal to Philemon, travel plans, greetings, and a benediction.

