



# *Little Letters*

OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

The Letter of Philemon

# Background

<sup>1</sup> *Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,*

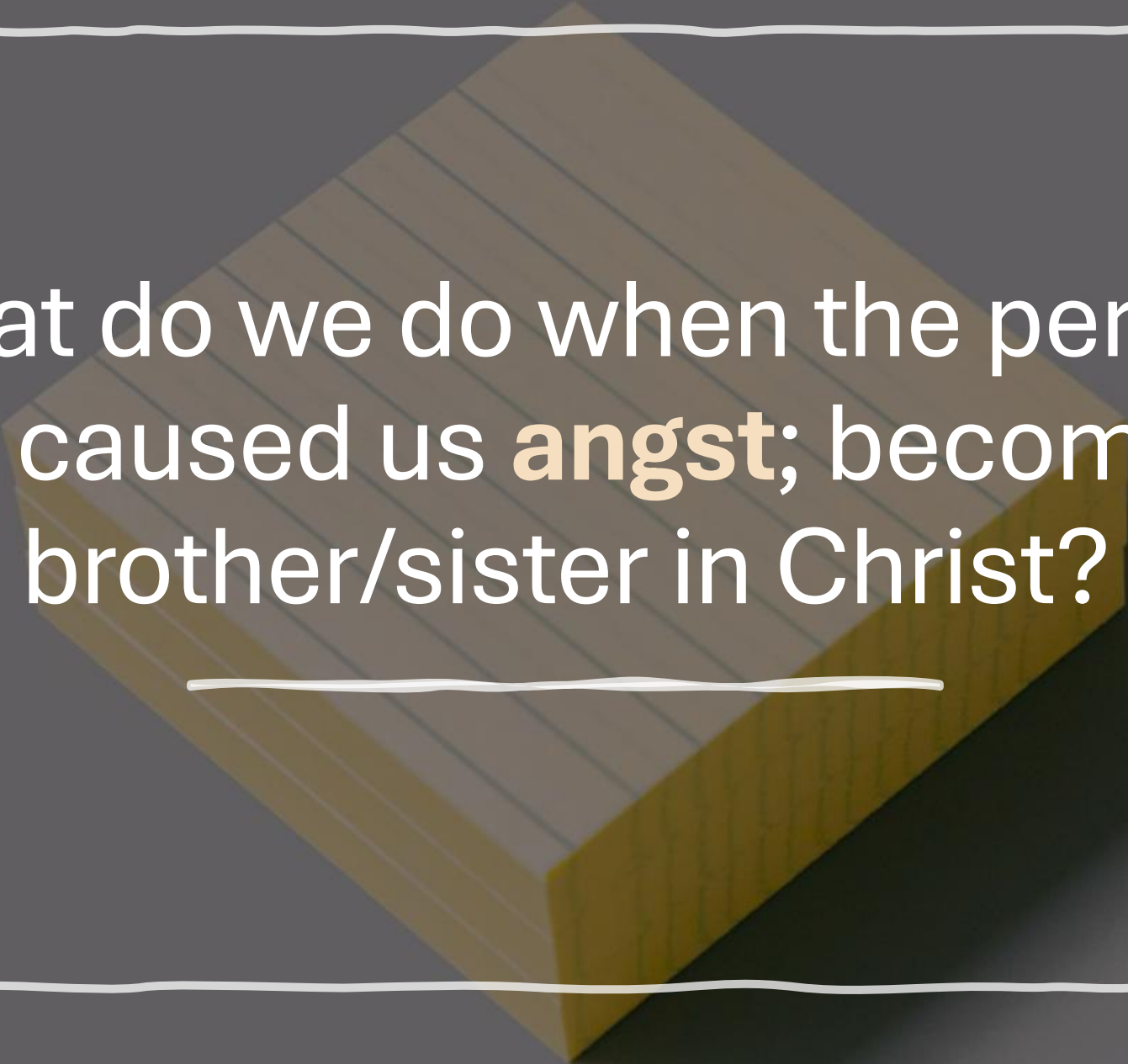
*To Philemon our dear friend and fellow worker—<sup>2</sup> also to Apphia our sister and Archippus our fellow soldier—and to the church that meets in your home:*

<sup>3</sup> *Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

Author:  
The Apostle Paul

Date:  
~60 AD

Recipient:  
Philemon



What do we do when the person  
who caused us **angst**; becomes a  
brother/sister in Christ?

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## Philemon 4-7

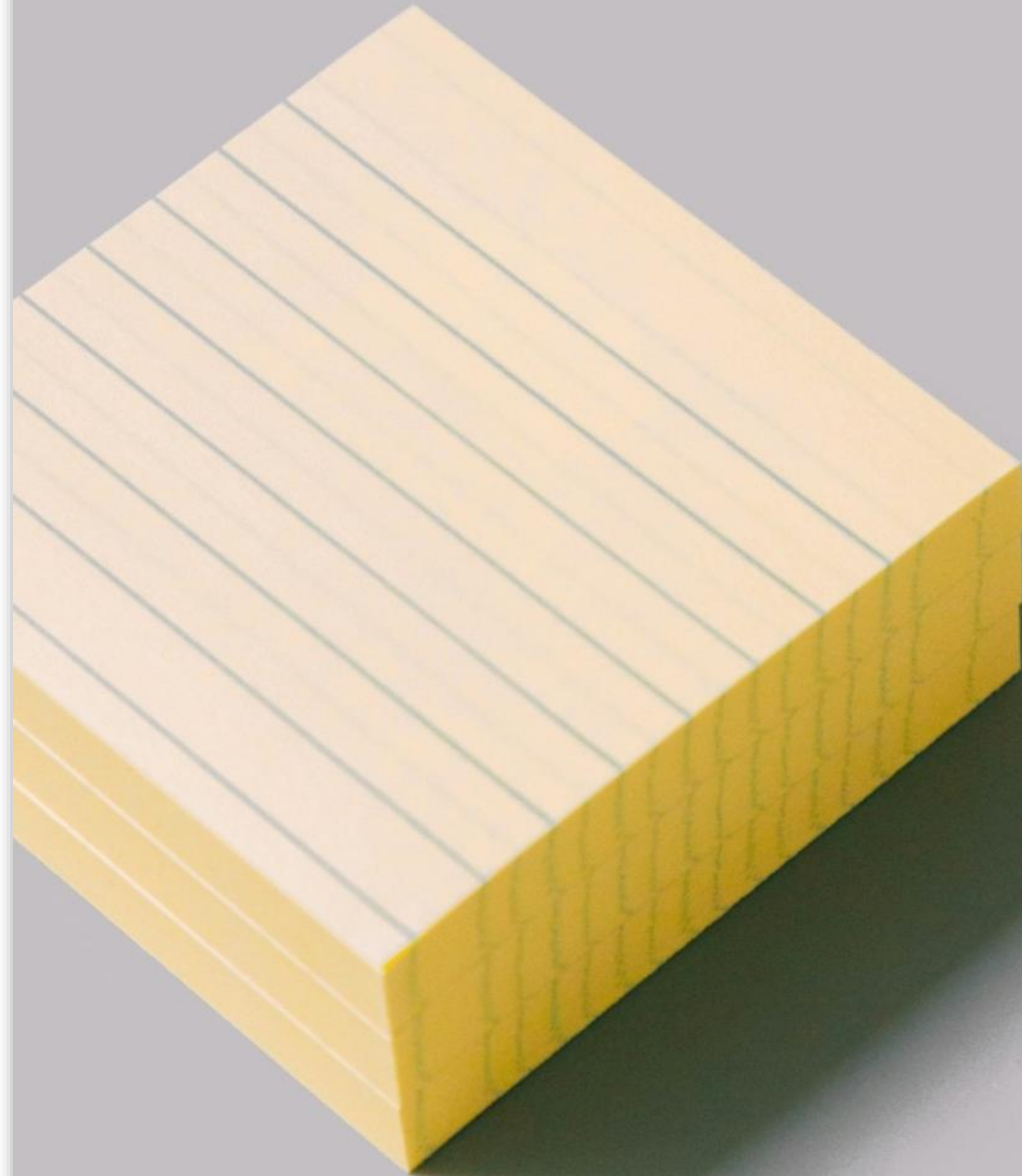
<sup>4</sup> I always thank my God as I remember you in my prayers, <sup>5</sup> because I hear about your love for all his holy people and your faith in the Lord Jesus. <sup>6</sup> I pray that **your partnership with us in the faith may be effective in deepening your understanding of every good thing we share for the sake of Christ.** <sup>7</sup> Your love has given me great joy and encouragement, because you, brother, have refreshed the hearts of the Lord's people.

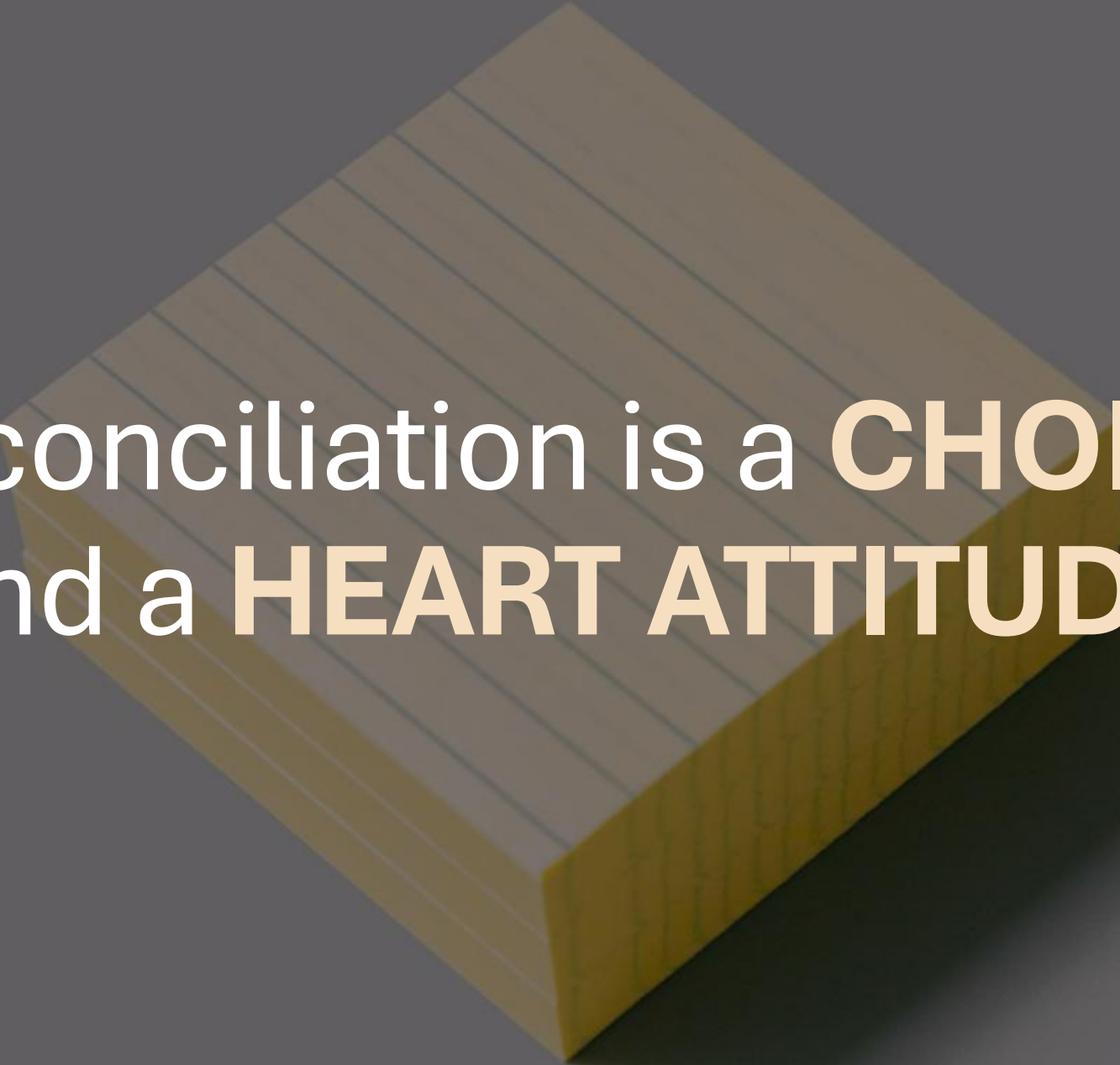


# Philemon 8-14

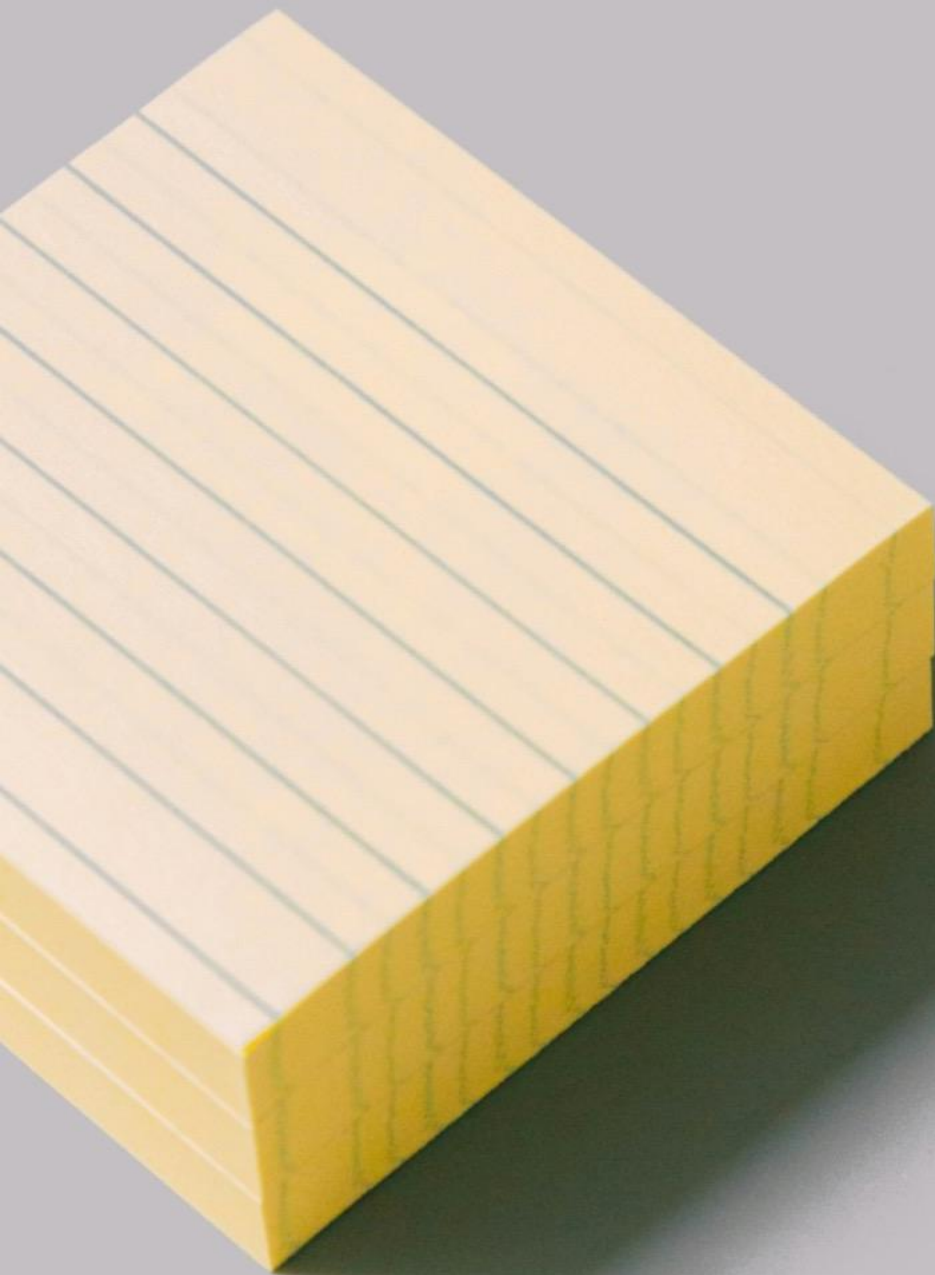
<sup>8</sup> Therefore, although in Christ **I could be bold and order you to do what you ought to do,** <sup>9</sup> **yet I prefer to appeal to you on the basis of love.** It is as none other than Paul—an old man and now also a prisoner of Christ Jesus—<sup>10</sup> that I appeal to you for my son Onesimus, who became my son while I was in chains. <sup>11</sup> Formerly he was **useless** to you, but now he has become **useful** both to you and to me.

<sup>12</sup> I am sending him—who is my very heart—back to you. <sup>13</sup> I would have liked to keep him with me so that he could take your place in helping me while I am in chains for the gospel. <sup>14</sup> **But I did not want to do anything without your consent, so that any favor you do would not seem forced but would be voluntary.**





Reconciliation is a **CHOICE**  
and a **HEART ATTITUDE**



## Philemon 15-16

<sup>15</sup> Perhaps the reason he was separated from you for a little while was that **you might have him back forever**—<sup>16</sup> no longer as a slave, but better than a slave, as **a dear brother**. He is very dear to me but even dearer to you, both as a fellow man and **as a brother in the Lord**.

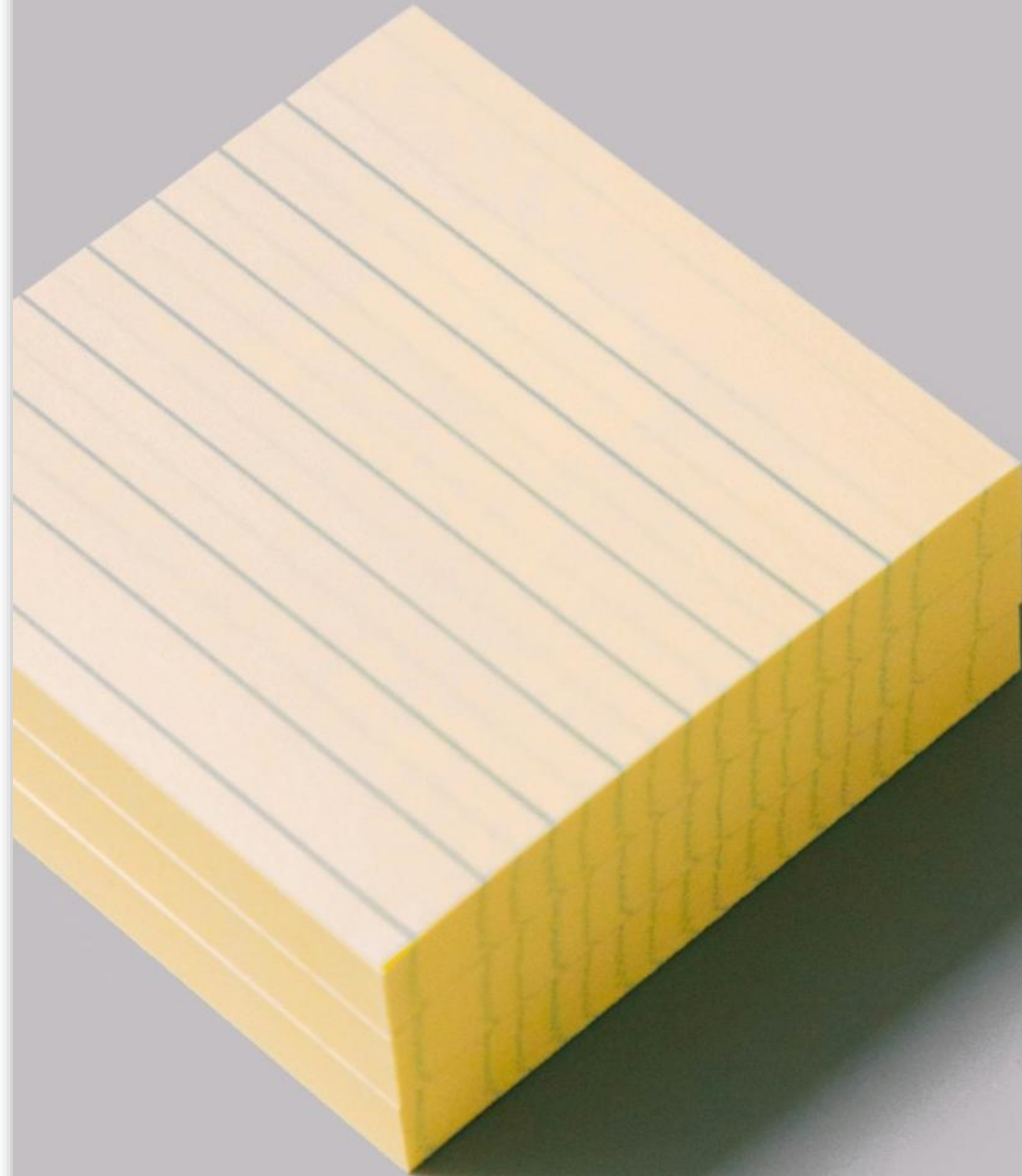



Shift your perspective from  
worldly to **ETERNAL**

# Philemon 17-21

<sup>17</sup> So if you consider me a partner, **welcome him as you would welcome me.** <sup>18</sup> **If he has done you any wrong or owes you anything, charge it to me.**

<sup>19</sup> I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand. I will pay it back—not to mention that you owe me your very self. <sup>20</sup> I do wish, brother, that I may have some benefit from you in the Lord; refresh my heart in Christ. <sup>21</sup> Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.





Paul offers **proof** that  
Onesimus is made new



## Philemon 22-25

<sup>22</sup> And one thing more: Prepare a guest room for me, because I hope to be restored to you in answer to your prayers.

<sup>23</sup> Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, sends you greetings. <sup>24</sup> And so do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas and Luke, my fellow workers.

<sup>25</sup> The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.



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