

(1-2) who is identified as an officer in the Colossian church, (Col. 4:17). This would place Philemon and Archippus in Colosse.

This is certified further by the identification of Onesimus. He is manifestly the servant of Philemon and is described in Colossians 4:9 and a Colossian, "one who is from among you". Thus the scene of the receipt of the Epistle is the house of Philemon in Colosse.

Philemon may be understood to have been a person of some means. He had in the first place at least one slave and if one most assuredly more. The possession of slaves did not denote great wealth but at least more than average means and generally a position of note. Since he was very likely converted at Ephesus there is an indication that he was one who travelled in the interests of commerce and perhaps before his being given over completely to Christ he maintained commercial interests. He was obviously a man of high character and one whose good judgment was such that there was no question in the mind of the Apostle as to his being able to discern in the matter at hand. Most certainly he was a Gentile as was Onesimus and Archippus. Tradition tells us that he later was made bishop of Gaza and died a martyr's death.

(3. Onesimus)

Onesimus has already been identified as a Colossian. A native of Phrygia he endured the same fate as countless Phrygians being given into slavery. In these times the name Phrygian was