

## Philemon

Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, To Philemon our dear friend and co-worker, to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. When I remember you in my prayers,

5 I always thank my God because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother. For

10 this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do your duty, yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love--and I, Paul, do this as an old man, and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed

15 useful both to you and to me. I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. I wanted to keep him with me, so that he might be of service to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel; but I preferred to do nothing without your consent, in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. Perhaps this is the reason he was

20 separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back forever, no

longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother--especially to me  
but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord. So if you  
consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. If he  
has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my  
5 account. I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say  
nothing about your owing me even your own self. Yes, brother, let me have  
this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. Confident of  
your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more  
than I say. One thing more--prepare a guest room for me, for I am hoping  
10 through your prayers to be restored to you. Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in  
Christ Jesus, sends greetings to you, and so do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas,  
and Luke, my fellow workers. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with  
your spirit.\*

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