

Philemon

Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, To Phile'mon our
beloved fellow worker and Ap'phia our sister and Archip'pus our fellow
soldier, and the church in your house: Grace to you and peace from God our
Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank my God always when I remember
5 you in my prayers, because I hear of your love and of the faith which you
have toward the Lord Jesus and all the saints, and I pray that the sharing of
your faith may promote the knowledge of all the good that is ours in Christ.
For I have derived much joy and comfort from your love, my brother,
because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you.
10 Accordingly, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do what
is required, yet for love's sake I prefer to appeal to you--I, Paul, an
ambassador and now a prisoner also for Christ Jesus-- I appeal to you for
my child, Ones'imus, whose father I have become in my imprisonment.
(Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to
15 me.) I am sending him back to you, sending my very heart. I would have
been glad to keep him with me, in order that he might serve me on your
behalf during my imprisonment for the gospel; but I preferred to do nothing
without your consent in order that your goodness might not be by
compulsion but of your own free will. Perhaps this is why he was parted
20 from you for a while, that you might have him back for ever, no longer as

a slave but more than a slave, as 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, receive him as you would receive me. If he has
wronged you at all, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. I,
5 Paul, write this with my own hand, I will repay it--to say nothing of your
owing me even your own self. Yes, brother, I want some benefit from you
in the Lord. Refresh my heart in Christ. Confident of your obedience, I write
to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say. At the same time,
prepare a guest room for me, for I am hoping through your prayers to be
10 granted to you. Ep'aphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, sends greetings
to you, and so do Mark, Aristar'chus, Demas, and Luke, my fellow workers.
The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. *

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