

Philemon

Salutation

¹ From Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, to Philemon, our dear friend and colaborer, ² to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church that meets in your house. ³ Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!

Thanks for Philemon's Love and Faith

⁴ I always thank my God as I remember you in my prayers, ⁵ because I hear of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints. ⁶ I pray that the faith you share with us may deepen your understanding of every blessing that belongs to you in Christ. ⁷ I have had great joy and encouragement because of your love, for the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, brother.

Paul's Request for Onesimus

⁸ So, although I have quite a lot of confidence in Christ and could command you to do what is proper, ⁹ I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love – I, Paul, an old man and even now a prisoner for the sake of Christ Jesus – ¹⁰ I am appealing to you concerning my child, whose spiritual father I have become during my imprisonment, that is, Onesimus, ¹¹ who was formerly useless to you, but is now useful to you and me. ¹² I have sent him (who is my very heart) back to you. ¹³ I wanted

to keep him so that he could serve me in your place during my imprisonment for the sake of the gospel. ¹⁴ However, without your consent I did not want to do anything, so that your good deed would not be out of compulsion, but from your own willingness. ¹⁵ For perhaps it was for this reason that he was separated from you for a little while, so that you would have him back eternally, ¹⁶ no longer as a slave, but more than a slave, as a dear brother. He is especially so to me, and even more so to you now, both humanly speaking and in the Lord. ¹⁷ Therefore if you regard me as a partner, accept him as you would me. ¹⁸ Now if he has defrauded you of anything or owes you anything, charge what he owes to me. ¹⁹ I, Paul, have written this letter with my own hand: I will repay it. I could also mention that you owe me your very self. ²⁰ Yes, brother, let me have some benefit from you in the Lord. Refresh my heart in Christ. ²¹ Since I was confident that you would obey, I wrote to you, because I knew that you would do even more than what I am asking you to do. ²² At the same time also, prepare a place for me to stay, for I hope that through your prayers I will be given back to you.

Concluding Greetings

²³ Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, greets you. ²⁴ Mark, Aristarchus, Demas and Luke, my collaborators, greet you too. ²⁵ May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

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