

Paul's Letter to Philemon

¹ Paul, a prisoner of Christ[†] Jesus, and Timothy our brother, to Philemon, our beloved fellow worker,

² to the beloved Apphia, to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the assembly in your house:

³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴ I thank my God always, making mention of you in my prayers,

⁵ hearing of your love and of the faith which you have towards the Lord Jesus and towards all the saints,

⁶ that the fellowship of your faith may become effective in the knowledge of every good thing which is in us in Christ Jesus.

⁷ For we have much joy and comfort in your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, brother.

⁸ Therefore though I have all boldness in Christ to command you that which is appropriate,

⁹ yet for love's sake I rather appeal to you, being such a one as Paul, the aged, but also a prisoner of Jesus Christ.

¹⁰ I appeal to you for my child Onesimus, whom I have become the father of in my chains,[‡]

¹¹ who once was useless to you, but now is useful to you and to me.

[†] **1:1**: "Christ" means "Anointed One". [‡] **1:10**: Onesimus means "useful".

¹² I am sending him back. Therefore receive him, that is, my own heart,

¹³ whom I desired to keep with me, that on your behalf he might serve me in my chains for the Good News.

¹⁴ But I was willing to do nothing without your consent, that your goodness would not be as of necessity, but of free will.

¹⁵ For perhaps he was therefore separated from you for a while that you would have him forever,

¹⁶ no longer as a slave, but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me, but how much rather to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

¹⁷ If then you count me a partner, receive him as you would receive me.

¹⁸ But if he has wronged you at all or owes you anything, put that to my account.

¹⁹ I, Paul, write this with my own hand: I will repay it (not to mention to you that you owe to me even your own self besides).

²⁰ Yes, brother, let me have joy from you in the Lord. Refresh my heart in the Lord.

²¹ Having confidence in your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even beyond what I say.

²² Also, prepare a guest room for me, for I hope that through your prayers I will be restored to you.

²³ Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, greets you,

²⁴ as do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke, my fellow workers.

²⁵ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.

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