

Philemon

*Greetings from Paul and Timothy
(Philippians 1:1-2; Colossians 1:1-2)*

¹ Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,

To Philemon our beloved fellow worker, ² to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church that meets at your * house:

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

Philemon's Faith and Love

⁴ I always thank my God, remembering you in my prayers, ⁵ because I hear about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints. ⁶ I pray that your partnership in the faith may become effective as you fully acknowledge every good thing that is ours in Christ. ⁷ I take great joy and encouragement in your love, because you, brother, have refreshed the hearts of the saints.

Paul's Appeal for Onesimus

⁸ So although in Christ I am bold enough to order you to do what is proper, ⁹ I prefer to appeal on

* **1:2** You and Your are singular throughout this letter, except in verses 3, 22, and 25.

the basis of love. For I, Paul, am now aged, and a prisoner of Christ Jesus as well.

¹⁰ I appeal to you for my child Onesimus,[†] whose father I became while I was in chains. ¹¹ Formerly he was useless to you, but now he has become useful both to you and to me. ¹² I am sending back to you him who is my very heart.

¹³ I would have liked to keep him with me, so that on your behalf he could minister to me in my chains for the gospel. ¹⁴ But I did not want to do anything without your consent, so that your goodness will not be out of compulsion, but by your own free will. ¹⁵ For perhaps this is why he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back for good— ¹⁶ no longer as a slave, but better than a slave, as a beloved brother. He is especially beloved to me, but even more so to you, both in person and in the Lord.

¹⁷ So if you consider me a partner, receive him as you would receive me. ¹⁸ But if he has wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge it to my account. ¹⁹ I, Paul, write this with my own hand. I will repay it—not to 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.

[†] **1:10** Onesimus means useful (see verse 11) or beneficial (see verse 20). [‡] **1:20** Greek onaimēn, a play on the name Onesimus

²¹ Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.

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

Additional Greetings

²³ Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, sends you greetings, ²⁴ as do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke, my fellow workers.

²⁵ The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. §

§ 1:25 BYZ and TR include Amen.

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