

THE EPISTLE OF PAUL THE APOSTLE TO PHILEMON

¹ Paul a prisoner of Iesus Christ, and our brother Timotheus, vnto Philemon our deare friende, and fellowe helper, ² And to our deare sister Apphia, and to Archippus our fellowe souldier, and to the Church that is in thine house: ³ Grace be with you, and peace from God our Father, and from the Lord Iesus Christ. ⁴ I giue thanks to my God, making mention alwaies of thee in my praiers, ⁵ (When I heare of thy loue and faith, which thou hast toward the Lord Iesus, and towarde all Saintes) ⁶ That the fellowship of thy faith may bee made effectuell, and that whatsoever good thing is in you through Christ Iesus, may be knowen. ⁷ For we haue great ioy and consolation in thy loue, because by thee, brother, the Saintes bowels are comforted. ⁸ Wherefore, though I bee very bolde in Christ to commaund thee that which is conuenient, ⁹ Yet for loues sake I rather beseeche thee, though I be as I am, euen Paul aged, and euen nowe a prisoner for Iesus Christ. ¹⁰ I beseeche thee for my sonne Onesimus, whome I haue begotten in my bondes, ¹¹ Which in times past was to thee vnprofitable, but nowe profitable both to thee and to me, ¹² Whome I haue sent againe: thou therefore receiue him, that is mine owne bowels, ¹³ Whom I woulde haue reteined with mee, that in thy steade he might haue ministred vnto me

in the bondes of the Gospel. ¹⁴ But without thy minde woulde I doe nothing, that thy benefite should not be as it were of necessitie, but willingly. ¹⁵ It may be that he therefore departed for a season, that thou shouldest receiue him for euer; ¹⁶ Not now as a seruant, but aboue a seruant, euen as a brother beloued, specially to me: howe much more then vnto thee, both in the flesh and in the Lord? ¹⁷ If therefore thou count our thinges common, receiue him as my selfe. ¹⁸ If he hath hurt thee, or oweth thee ought, that put on mine accounts. ¹⁹ I Paul haue written this with mine owne hande: I will recompense it, albeit I doe not say to thee, that thou owest moreouer vnto me euen thine owne selfe. ²⁰ Yea, brother, let mee obtaine this pleasure of thee in the Lord: comfort my bowels in the Lord. ²¹ Trusting in thine obedience, I wrote vnto thee, knowing that thou wilt do eue more then I say. ²² Moreouer also prepare mee lodging: for I trust through your prayers I shall be freely giuen vnto you. ²³ There salute thee Epaphras my felowe prisoner in Christ Iesus, ²⁴ Marcus, Aristarchus, Demas and Luke, my felowe helpers. ²⁵ The grace of our Lord Iesus Christ be with your spirit, Amen. 'Written from Rome to Philemon, and send by Onesimus a seruant.'

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The Geneva Bible in Old English of 1599

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