

THE LETTER OF PAUL TO PHILEMON

Greeting

¹ Paul, a prisoner for *Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, to Philemon, our beloved friend and fellow worker, ² and also to †the beloved Apphia, to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church that meets in your house: ³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Philemon's Love and Faith

⁴ I give thanks to my God, always making mention of you in my prayers, ⁵ because I hear of your love for all the saints and the faith that you have toward the Lord Jesus. ⁶ I pray that your fellowship with us in the faith may be effective in deepening your understanding of every blessing that ‡we have in Christ §Jesus. ⁷ *We are very thankful for the comfort we have received from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, brother.

Paul's Appeal for Onesimus

* **1:1** Christ Jesus 45.2% | Jesus Christ BYZ PCK 54.5% † **1:2** the beloved 93.4% | our sister CT 5.4% ‡ **1:6** we 64.4% | you PCK TR 34.7% § **1:6** Jesus 96.6% | — CT 2.1% * **1:7** We are very thankful for the comfort we have received 65.1% | We have received much joy and comfort SCR 4.8% | I have received much joy and comfort CT 4.1%

⁸ Therefore, although I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do what is right, ⁹ I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love. I, Paul, an old man and now a prisoner for †Jesus Christ, ¹⁰ appeal to you on behalf of my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. ¹¹ Once he was useless to you, but now he is useful both to you and to me. I am sending him ‡back, ¹² §and I ask you to receive him, that is, my very own heart. ¹³ I wanted to keep him with me so that he could serve me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel. ¹⁴ But I did not want to do anything without your consent, so that your good deed would not be done out of compulsion, but of your own free will. ¹⁵ Perhaps the reason he was separated from you for an hour was so that you might have him back forever, ¹⁶ no longer as a slave, but more than a slave, as a beloved brother, especially to me, but even more so to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

¹⁷ So if you consider me to be a partner, receive him as you would receive me. ¹⁸ If he has wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge it to me. ¹⁹ I, Paul, write this with my own hand: I will repay it (not to mention that you owe me your very own life). ²⁰ Yes, brother, let me have some benefit from you in the Lord. Refresh my heart in *the Lord.

† **1:9** Jesus Christ 91.9% | Christ Jesus CT 6.1% ‡ **1:11** back 93.1% | back to you CT 0.7% § **1:12** and I ask you to receive him, 91.6% | — CT 0.9% * **1:20** the Lord 74.4% | Christ CT 20.3%

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

²² At the same time, I want you to prepare a guest room for me, for I hope that through your prayers I will be restored to you soon.

Final Greetings

²³ Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ †Jesus, ²⁴ and Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke, my fellow workers, greet you.

²⁵ The grace of ‡our Lord Jesus §Christ be with your spirit. *Amen.†

† **1:23** Jesus, and Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke, my fellow workers, greet you. 72.8% | Jesus greets you, and so do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke, my fellow workers. ANT CT 25.5%

‡ **1:25** our 89.4% | the NA SBL WH 6.7% § **1:25** Christ 80% | — PCK 15.9% * **1:25** Amen. 91.2% | — NA SBL WH 2.3%

† **1:25** The following scribal note is included in the colophons of many Greek manuscripts: *Written from Rome to Philemon and delivered by Onesimus, a servant.*

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Note that in addition to the rules above, revising and adapting God's Word involves a great responsibility to be true to God's Word. See Revelation 22:18-19.

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