Philemon

1 Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy
our brother, to Philemon, our beloved fellow
worker,
2 and to Apphia our sister, and Archippus our
fellow soldier, and the church in your house:
3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ.

4 I always thank my God, mentioning you in
my prayers,
5 hearing of the love and faith you have
toward the Lord Jesus and toward all the saints,
6 so that your participation in the faith may
become effective through the knowledge of
every good thing that is in us for Christ.
7 For I have received much joy and comfort
from your love, because the hearts of the saints
have been refreshed through you, brother.

8 Therefore, though I have great boldness in
Christ to command you to do what is fitting,
9 I appeal instead for love's sake, being as I
am, Paul, an old man and now also a prisoner of
Christ Jesus.
10 I appeal to you for my child Onesimus,
whom I fathered in my chains,
11 who once was useless to you, but now is
useful both to you and to me.
12 I have sent him back to you, him who is my
own heart.

13 I wanted to keep him with me, so that on
your behalf he might serve me in my chains for
the gospel,
14 but without your consent I wanted to do
nothing, so that your good deed might be
voluntary and not under compulsion.
15 For perhaps he was separated from you for
a time for this reason, so that you might have
him back forever,
16 no longer as a slave, but more than a slave, a
beloved brother, especially to me, but how much
more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.
17 Therefore, if you consider me a partner,
welcome him as you would me.
18 And if he has wronged you in anything or
owes you anything, charge that to my account.
19 I, Paul, write this in my own hand: I will
repay it—not to mention that you owe me even
your own self.
20 Yes, brother, let me benefit from you in the
Lord; refresh my heart in Christ.
21 Confident of your obedience, I have written
to you, knowing that you will do even more than
I say.
22 At the same time, prepare lodging for me as
well, for I hope that through your prayers I will
be granted 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 the Lord Jesus Christ be with
your spirit.

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