

## Philemon

### *Salutation*

<sup>1</sup> From Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, to Philemon, our dear friend and colaborer, <sup>2</sup> to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church that meets in your house. <sup>3</sup> Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!

### *Thanks for Philemon's Love and Faith*

<sup>4</sup> I always thank my God as I remember you in my prayers, <sup>5</sup> because I hear of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints. <sup>6</sup> I pray that the faith you share with us may deepen your understanding of every blessing that belongs to you in Christ. <sup>7</sup> I have had great joy and encouragement because of your love, for the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, brother.

### *Paul's Request for Onesimus*

<sup>8</sup> So, although I have quite a lot of confidence in Christ and could command you to do what is proper, <sup>9</sup> I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love – I, Paul, an old man and even now a prisoner for the sake of Christ Jesus – <sup>10</sup> I am appealing to you concerning my child, whose spiritual father I have become during my imprisonment, that is, Onesimus, <sup>11</sup> who was formerly useless to you, but is now useful to you and me. <sup>12</sup> I have sent him (who is my very heart) back to you. <sup>13</sup> I wanted to keep him so that he could serve me in your place during my imprisonment for the sake of the gospel. <sup>14</sup> However, without your consent I did not want to do anything, so that your good deed would not be out of compulsion, but from your own willingness.

<sup>15</sup> For perhaps it was for this reason that he was separated from you for a little while, so that you would have him back eternally, <sup>16</sup> no longer as a slave, but more than a slave, as a dear brother. He is especially so to me, and even more so to you now, both humanly speaking and in the Lord. <sup>17</sup> Therefore if you regard me as a partner, accept him as you would me. <sup>18</sup> Now if he has defrauded you of anything or owes you anything, charge what he owes to me. <sup>19</sup> I, Paul, have written this letter with my own hand: I will repay it. I could also mention that you owe me your very self. <sup>20</sup> Yes, brother, let me have some benefit from you in the Lord. Refresh my heart in Christ. <sup>21</sup> Since I was confident that you would obey, I wrote to you, because I knew that you would do even more than what I am asking you to do. <sup>22</sup> At the same time also, prepare a place for me to stay, for I hope that through your prayers I will be given back to you.

### *Concluding Greetings*

<sup>23</sup> Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, greets you. <sup>24</sup> Mark, Aristarchus, Demas and Luke, my laborers, greet you too. <sup>25</sup> May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

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