

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

* **1:1** Christ Jesus [45.2%] | Jesus Christ Ἰησοῦς Χριστός 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% • MSS 11.1% | We have received much joy and comfort SCR 4.8% | I have received much joy and comfort CT 4.1%

of the saints have been refreshed through you, brother.

Paul's Appeal for Onesimus

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.

† 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%

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.

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.†

* **1:20** *the Lord* 74.4% | Christ CT 20.3% † **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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