

The Epistle of Paul to Philemon

1 Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, to Philemon our beloved and fellow-worker, ²and to Apphia our sister, and to Archippus our fellow-soldier, and to the congregation in your house: ³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴I thank my God always, making mention of you in my prayers, ⁵hearing of your love, and of the faith that you have toward the Lord Jesus and toward all the holy ones, ⁶and I pray that the fellowship of your faith may be energized by the acknowledging of every good thing which is in us pertaining to Christ. ⁷For I had much joy and encouragement in your love, because the hearts of the holy ones have been refreshed through you, brother.

⁸Therefore, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you *to do* that which is proper, ⁹yet I rather appeal *you* for love's sake, being such a one as Paul the aged, and now a prisoner also of Christ Jesus, ¹⁰I appeal you for my child, whom I have begotten in my bonds, Onesimus, ¹¹who once was useless to you, but now is useful to you and to me, ¹²whom I have sent back to you in his own person (that is, my very heart), ¹³whom I would have

liked to keep with me in order that on your behalf he might minister to me in my imprisonment for the Good News. ¹⁴But without your consent I would do nothing, in order that your goodness should not be as of necessity, but of free will. ¹⁵For perhaps he was for this reason parted *from you* for a season, that you should have him forever, ¹⁶no longer as a servant, but more than a servant, a brother beloved, especially to me, but how much rather to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

¹⁷If, then, you count me a partner, receive him as myself. ¹⁸But if he has wronged you at all, or owes *you* anything, charge that to me. ¹⁹I Paul write this with my own hand, I will repay *it* (that I do not say to you that you owe to me even your own self as well). ²⁰Yes, brother, let me benefit from you in the Lord. Refresh my bowels in Christ.

²¹Having confidence in your obedience I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say. ²²And at the same time also prepare me a lodging, for I hope that through your prayers I will be granted to you.

²³Epaphras, my fellow-prisoner in Christ Jesus, greets you, ²⁴and so do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, Luke—my fellow-workers. ²⁵The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.

