

Paul's Letter to Philemon

¹ Paul, a prisoner of Jesus Christ, and Timothy our brother, to Philemon, our dear helper in the faith, ² And to Apphia, our sister, and to Archippus, our brother in God's army, and to the church in your house: ³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ I give praise to God at all times and make prayer for you, ⁵ Hearing of the love and the faith which you have to the Lord Jesus and to all the saints; ⁶ That the faith which you have in common with them may be working with power, in the knowledge of every good thing in you, for Christ. ⁷ For I had great joy and comfort in your love, because the hearts of the saints have been made strong again through you, brother. ⁸ And so, though I might, in the name of Christ, give you orders to do what is right, ⁹ Still, because of love, in place of an order, I make a request to you, I, Paul, an old man and now a prisoner of Christ Jesus: ¹⁰ My request is for my child Onesimus, the child of my chains, ¹¹ Who in the past was of no profit to you, but now is of profit to you and to me: ¹² Whom I have sent back to you, him who is my very heart: ¹³ Though my desire was to keep him with me, to be my servant in the chains of the good news, in your place: ¹⁴ But without your approval I would do nothing; so that your good works might not be forced, but done freely from your heart. ¹⁵ For it is possible that for this reason he was parted from you for a time,

so that you might have him for ever; ¹⁶ No longer as a servant, but more than a servant, a brother, very dear to me specially, but much more to you, in the flesh as well as in the Lord. ¹⁷ If then you take me to be your friend and brother, take him in as myself. ¹⁸ If he has done you any wrong or is in debt to you for anything, put it to my account. ¹⁹ I, Paul, writing this myself, say, I will make payment to you: and I do not say to you that you are in debt to me even for your life. ²⁰ So brother, let me have joy of you in the Lord: give new life to my heart in Christ. ²¹ Being certain that you will do my desire, I am writing to you, in the knowledge that you will do even more than I say. ²² And make a room ready for me; for I am hoping that through your prayers I will be given to you. ²³ Epaphras, my brother-prisoner in Christ Jesus, sends you his love; ²⁴ And so do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke, my brother-workers. ²⁵ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. So be it.

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