

Philemon

¹ Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and the brother Timothy to Philemon, our dear friend and fellow worker, ² and to Apphia our sister, and to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church that meets in your home. ³ May grace be to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴ I always thank my God. I mention you in my prayers. ⁵ I have heard of the love and the faith that you have in the Lord Jesus and for all the believers. ⁶ I pray that the fellowship of your faith may be effective for the knowledge of everything good that is among us in Christ. ⁷ For I have had much joy and comfort because of your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed by you, brother.

⁸ Therefore, although I have all the boldness in Christ to command you to do what you should do, ⁹ yet because of love, I appeal to you instead—I, Paul, an old man, and now a prisoner for Christ Jesus. ¹⁰ I am asking you concerning my child Onesimus, whom I have fathered in my chains. ¹¹ For he once was useless to you, but now he is useful both to you and to me. ¹² I have sent him back to you, he who is my very heart. ¹³ I wish I could have kept him with me, so he could serve me for you, while I am in chains for the sake of the gospel. ¹⁴ But I did not want to do anything without your consent. I did not want

your good deed to be from necessity but from good will. ¹⁵ Perhaps for this he was separated from you for a time, so that you might have him back forever. ¹⁶ No longer would he be a slave, but better than a slave, a beloved brother. He is beloved especially to me, and much more so to you, in both the flesh and in the Lord. ¹⁷ So if you have me as a partner, receive him as me. ¹⁸ If he has wronged you or owes you anything, charge that to me. ¹⁹ I, Paul, write this with my own hand. I myself will pay it back—not to mention that you owe me your own self! ²⁰ Yes, brother, do me a favor in the Lord; refresh my heart in Christ.

²¹ Confident about your obedience, I am writing to you. I know that you will do even more than I ask. ²² At the same time, prepare a guest room for me, for I hope that through your prayers I will be given back to you.

²³ Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, greets you. ²⁴ So do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke, my fellow workers.

²⁵ May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.

Unlocked Literal Bible

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