

## *Philemon*

<sup>1</sup> Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus, and Timothy the brother, to Philemon, our beloved fellow worker, <sup>2</sup>and to Apphia the sister, and to our fellow soldier Archippus, and to the congregation in your house: <sup>3</sup>grace to you all and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>4</sup>I always thank God for you, mentioning you in my prayers, <sup>5</sup>hearing of your love and your faithfulness to the Lord Jesus, and to all the saints, <sup>6</sup>that the sharing of your faith may be active in the recognition of every good thing that is ours in Christ. <sup>7</sup>I have profound joy and encouragement in your love, brother, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you.

<sup>8</sup>Though I have much boldness in Christ to command you what is proper, <sup>9</sup>yet because of love I rather request, being such a one as Paul, an old man, and now a prisoner of Christ Jesus. <sup>10</sup>I request you, concerning my child Onesimus, whom I have begotten in my bonds, <sup>11</sup>who was once useless to you, but now is useful both to you and to me, <sup>12</sup>whom I am returning to you, that is, my own heart. <sup>13</sup>I was wanting to keep him for myself, that on your behalf he might serve me in the bonds of the gospel. <sup>14</sup>But I did not want to do anything without your permission, so that your goodness might not be compulsory, but voluntary.

<sup>15</sup>Perhaps he has been away from you for a short time that you might have him back always, <sup>16</sup>no longer as a slave, but more than a slave, a beloved brother, especially to me, and how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

<sup>17</sup>If, therefore, you count me as a partner, receive him as you would me. <sup>18</sup>If he has wronged you or owes anything, put this to my account. <sup>19</sup>I, Paul, write it with my hand: I will repay it. (I do not want to say to you, that you owe to me your own self.) <sup>20</sup>Yes, brother, may I have your help in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ.

<sup>21</sup>In my confidence of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do more than I say. <sup>22</sup>At the same time, also prepare a room for me, for I hope that through your prayers I will be granted to you. <sup>23</sup>Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, sends you a greeting, <sup>24</sup>along with Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke, my fellow workers. <sup>25</sup>May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.