

The Epistle of Paul the Apostle to Philemon

¹ Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy the brother,
To Philemon the beloved and our co-worker, ² and to Apphia the beloved, and
Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the assembly at your house:

³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴ I am thanking my God always, making mention of you upon my prayers,
⁵ hearing of your devotion and belief which you are having toward the Lord Jesus and for
all the holy ones, ⁶ that the fellowship of your belief might become operative in a
recognition of every good which is in us for Christ Jesus. ⁷ For we have much
thanksgiving and encouragement over your devotion, because the bowels of the holy ones
have been refreshed through you, brother.

⁸ Therefore, having much boldness in Christ to command you that which is proper,
⁹ through the devotion I am rather encouraging, being such a one as Paul, an elderly man,
but now also a prisoner of Jesus Christ. ¹⁰ I am encouraging you concerning my child
whom I begot in my bonds – Onesimus – ¹¹ the one once unprofitable to you, but now
useful to you and to me, ¹² whom I sent back. But you, receive him (that is, my own
bowels) ¹³ whom I wished to hold with me, that in your behalf he might be serving me in
the bonds of the good message. ¹⁴ But without your consent I wished to do nothing, so
that your good might not be according to necessity, but voluntary. ¹⁵ For perhaps on
account of this he was taken away for an hour, so that you might have him everlastingly –
¹⁶ no longer as a slave, but beyond a slave, a beloved brother, especially to me, but how
much more to you, both in flesh and in the Lord.

¹⁷ If then, you are having me as a partner, receive him as me. ¹⁸ But if he wronged
you in anything or is owing you, this be charging to me. ¹⁹ I, Paul, wrote with my hand:
“I will repay,” lest I say to you that you owe to me even yourself. ²⁰ Yes, brother, I may
profit from you in the Lord. Refresh my bowels in the Lord.

²¹ Having been persuaded of your obedience I wrote to you, having known that
you will do even beyond what I am saying. ²² But meanwhile, also be preparing me a
guestroom, for I am expecting that through your prayers I will be granted to you.

²³ Epaphras, my fellow-captive in Christ Jesus, ²⁴ Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, Luke,
my co-workers greet you.

²⁵ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ is with your spirit. Amen.