

## Paul's Letter to Philemon

<sup>1</sup> Paul, a prisoner of Christ\* Jesus, and Timothy our brother, to Philemon, our beloved fellow worker, <sup>2</sup> to the beloved Apphia, to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the assembly in your house: <sup>3</sup> Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>4</sup> I thank my God always, making mention of you in my prayers, <sup>5</sup> hearing of your love and of the faith which you have toward the Lord Jesus and toward all the saints, <sup>6</sup> that the fellowship of your faith may become effective in the knowledge of every good thing which is in us in Christ Jesus. <sup>7</sup> For we have much joy and comfort in your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, brother.

<sup>8</sup> Therefore though I have all boldness in Christ to command you that which is appropriate, <sup>9</sup> yet for love's sake I rather appeal to you, being such a one as Paul, the aged, but also a prisoner of Jesus Christ. <sup>10</sup> I appeal to you for my child Onesimus, whom I have become the father of in my chains, <sup>†</sup> <sup>11</sup> who once was useless to you, but now is useful to you and to me. <sup>12</sup> I am sending him back. Therefore receive him, that is, my own heart, <sup>13</sup> whom I desired to keep with me, that on your behalf he might serve me in my chains for the Good News. <sup>14</sup> But I was willing to do nothing

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\* **1:1** "Christ" means "Anointed One". † **1:10** Onesimus means "useful".

without your consent, that your goodness would not be as of necessity, but of free will. <sup>15</sup> For perhaps he was therefore separated from you for a while that you would have him forever, <sup>16</sup> no longer as a slave, but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me, but how much rather to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

<sup>17</sup> If then you count me a partner, receive him as you would receive me. <sup>18</sup> But if he has wronged you at all or owes you anything, put that to my account. <sup>19</sup> I, Paul, write this with my own hand: I will repay it (not to mention to you that you owe to me even your own self besides). <sup>20</sup> Yes, brother, let me have joy from you in the Lord. Refresh my heart in the Lord.

<sup>21</sup> Having confidence in your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even beyond what I say.

<sup>22</sup> Also, prepare a guest room for me, for I hope that through your prayers I will be restored to you.

<sup>23</sup> Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, greets you, <sup>24</sup> as do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke, my fellow workers.

<sup>25</sup> The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.

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