Philemon. A translation.



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Philemon.

I am Paul.

¹ I am Paul, a prisoner for the messiah, Jesus, and also Timothy, the brother. To our beloved coworker Philemon, ² to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the group meeting in your house. ³ We wish favor and peace for you from God, our father, and the lord Jesus, the messiah.

I give thanks.

⁴ I give thanks to my God. I always mention you in my prayers. ⁵ I hear about your love and your faith. You have it toward the lord Jesus, and for all the holy people.

⁶ Then the fellowship of your faith can become effective. You can know about everything that is good to us in the messiah. ⁷ Your love gives me a lot of happiness and comfort, because you refresh the affections of the holy people, brother.

I am just making a request.

⁸ I possess more than enough confidence in the messiah to order you to do the right thing. ⁹ Instead, out of love, I am just making a request, since I am Paul, the old man, and I am currently in jail for the messiah, Jesus.

¹⁰ My request regards my child. I gave birth to him while I was in jail. His name is Onesimus. ¹¹ He was useless to you. Now he is useful both to me and to you. ¹² I returned him back to you by himself. He is special to me.

¹³ I wanted to keep him for myself. Then he could serve me for your sake, since I am in prison for the good news. ¹⁴ But without your consent, I did not want to do anything. I did not want to force you to do what is right. I wanted you to do it willingly.

¹⁵ He was only separated from you for a little while. Now you get him back forever. ¹⁶ He is no longer just a slave. He is more than a slave. He is a dear brother, and especially to me. He is even more special to you both physically and in the lord.

¹⁷ If you have anything in common with me, accept him like it was me. ¹⁸ If he has wronged you, or if he owes anything to you, then charge it to me. I am Paul.¹⁹ I write this with my own hand: *I will pay*. I do not need to remind you that you owe me your own life.²⁰ Yes, brother. Give me some benefit in the lord. Refresh my affections in the messiah.

 $^{\rm 21}$ I am confident that you will obey what I wrote. I am sure that you will do beyond what I ask.

I hope to visit.

²² Prepare a bed for me. Through your prayers, I hope that I can visit you. ²³ Epaphras, my fellow warrior in the messiah, Jesus, greets you. ²⁴ Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke, my coworkers, greet you. ²⁵ May the favor of the lord Jesus, the messiah, be with your spirit.