

PHILEMON

Conversational Version

Salutation

¹Paul, prisoner of Christ^{Messiah} Jesus, and brother Timothy, to our dear fellow worker Philemon, ²to sister Apphia, to fellow soldier Archippus, and to your^{sg} house church. ³Grace and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Phil 1-3

Paul's Prayer for Philemon

⁴I always thank God *for you*, mentioning you^{sg} in my prayers, ⁵because I hear about your love and faith toward the Lord Jesus and all the saints. ⁶I pray that fellowshiping with your^{sg} faith will lead to our experiencing everything good for Christ's sake. ⁷Brother, I'm so happy and encouraged by your love, because you refresh the hearts of the saints. Phil 4-7

Requesting Freedom for Onesimus

⁸In light of that, I feel bold enough to tell *you* something that's appropriate. ⁹But because I love you, I'd rather ask you to do it—being Paul the aged prisoner of Christ, and all.

¹⁰I'm appealing to you about my child Onesimus that I begot while I was in bonds. ¹¹At one time he was useless to you, but now he's useful to you and to me. ¹²As my own heart, I've sent him back to you in person. ¹³I wanted to keep him here to help me on your behalf while I'm in prison because of the good news. ¹⁴But I didn't want to do anything without your consent. I wanted your goodness to be because you wanted to, not because you had to. ¹⁵⁻¹⁶Maybe he left you for a while so you could have him forever physically and in the Lord, not as a servant, but as a dear brother—to me too. Phil 8-16

Additional Urgings About Onesimus

¹⁷So if you consider me a partner, accept him as me. ¹⁸If he has wronged you or owes you anything, charge it to me. ¹⁹I, Paul, write it with my own hand: I'll repay it. (I won't tell you that you also owe me your very self.) ²⁰Yes, brother, I want to have joy in the Lord; refresh my heart in Christ. ²¹I'm writing, confident that you'll do more than I'm saying. ²²While you're at it, prepare^{sg} a place for me to stay, because I'm hoping by your^{pl} prayers to be released to you^{pl}. Phil 17-22

Greetings

²³Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, sends you^{sg} greetings. ²⁴Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, Luke—my fellow workers—*greet you as well*.

²⁵The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ *be* with your^{pl} spirit. Phil 23-25