

# Philemon 1 [ESV]

1 Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,  
2  
3 To Philemon our beloved fellow worker and Apphia our sister and Archippus  
4 our fellow soldier, and the church in your house:  
5  
6 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.  
7  
8 I thank my God always when I remember you in my prayers, because I hear of  
9 your love and of the faith that you have toward the Lord Jesus and for all the  
10 saints, and I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective for the  
11 full knowledge of every good thing that is in us for the sake of Christ. For I  
12 have derived much joy and comfort from your love, my brother, because the  
13 hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you.  
14  
15 Accordingly, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do what is  
16 required, yet for love's sake I prefer to appeal to you—I, Paul, an old man and  
17 now a prisoner also for Christ Jesus— I appeal to you for my child, Onesimus,  
18 whose father I became in my imprisonment. (Formerly he was useless to you,  
19 but now he is indeed useful to you and to me.) I am sending him back to you,  
20 sending my very heart. I would have been glad to keep him with me, in order  
21 that he might serve me on your behalf during my imprisonment for the gospel,  
22 but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your goodness  
23 might not be by compulsion but of your own accord. For this perhaps is why he  
24 was parted from you for a while, that you might have him back forever, no  
25 longer as a bondservant but more than a bondservant, as a beloved  
26 brother—especially to me, but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in  
27 the Lord.  
28  
29 So if you consider me your partner, receive him as you would receive me. If he  
30 has wronged you at all, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. I,  
31 Paul, write this with my own hand: I will repay it—to say nothing of your owing  
32 me even your own self. Yes, brother, I want some benefit from you in the Lord.  
33 Refresh my heart in Christ.  
34

Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say. At the same time, prepare a guest room for me, for I am hoping that through your prayers I will be graciously given to you.

Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, sends greetings to you, and so do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke, my fellow workers.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.