

THE EPISTLE OF S. PAVL TO PHILEMON

Hearing of Philemons vertue, who was a Colosian, he writeth a familiar letter from Rome (being prisoner there) about his fugitive servant Onesimus: not doubting but that he might command him, yea rather requesting that he will forgive him, yea and receive him as he would Paul himself, who also hopeth to come unto him.

Paul the prisoner of Christ IESVS, and brother Timothee: to Philemon the beloved and our Coadjutor, ² and to Appia our dearest sister, and to Archippus our fellow-labourer and to the Church which is in thy house. ³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and our Lord IESVS Christ.

⁴ I give thanks to my God, always making a memorial of thee in my prayers, ⁵ hearing thy ^acharitie & faith which thou hast in our Lord IESVS, and ^btoward all the Saints: ⁶ that the communication of thy faith may be made evident in the agnition of all 'good' that is in you in Christ IESVS: ⁷ For I have had great joy and consolation in thy charitie, because the bowels of the Saints ^bhave refted by thee brother.

⁸ For the which thing having great confidence in Christ IESVS to command thee that which pertaineth to the purpose: ⁹ for charitie rather I beseech, whereas thou art such an one, as Paul being old and now prisoner also of IESVS Christ. ¹⁰ I beseech thee for my sonne whom I have begotten in bonds, Onesimus, ¹¹ who hath been sometime unprofitable to thee, but now profitable

Col. 4, 9.

^a Faith and charitie commended always together, both necessarie to make a complete Christian man & to iustification & salvation.

^b The duties of charitie and mercie done to Christs prisoners, are exceeding acceptable to God and all good men.

both to me and thee, ¹² whom I haue fent backe to thee. And ^a)doe thou receiue him as mine owne bowels. ¹³ Whom I would haue reteined with me, that for thee he might minifter to me in the bands of the Ghospel: ¹⁴ but without thy counfel I would doe nothing: that thy good might be not as it were of neceffitie, but voluntarie. ¹⁵ For perhaps therfore he departed for a feafon from thee, that thou mightest take him againe for euer. ¹⁶ Now not as a feruant, but for a feruant, a moft deare brother, efpecially to me, but how much more to thee both in the flefh and in our Lord? ¹⁷ If therfore thou take me for thy fellow; receiue him as my felf. ¹⁸ And if he hath hurt thee any thing or is in thy debt, that impute to me. ¹⁹ I Paul haue written with mine owne hand: I wil repay it: not to fay to thee, ^b)that thou owest me thine owne felf alfo. ²⁰ Yea brother. God grant I may enioy thee in our Lord. Refrefh my bowels in our Lord. ²¹ Trufting in thy obedience I haue written to thee, knowing that thou wilt doe aboue that alfo which I doe fay. ²² And withal prouide me alfo a lodging. For I hope by your praiers that I fhall be giuē to you. ²³ There falut thee Epaphras my fellow-prifoner in Chrift IESVS, ²⁴ Marke, Ariftarchus, Demas, and Luke my Coadiutours. ²⁵ The grace of our Lord IESVS Chrift be with your fpirit. Amen. ὁναίμην

ANNOTATIONS

Faith and beleefe in
Saints.

5 Toward al the Saints.) The Apoftle fticketh not to fay, Charitie and faith in Chrift and al his Saints, which our captious Aduerfaries count in Catholike mens fpeeches and writings, very abfurd, feining that in al fuch we make no difference betwixt the loue we beare to Chrift, and the loue we owe to our neighbours: betwixt the truft or beleefe we haue in God, and that which we haue in his holy Saints. Malice and contention doth fo blind al Heretikes.

^a Al Spiritual men ought to be exceeding propenfe & ready to procure mens pardon and reconciliation to al penitents.

^b The great debt and duetie that we owe to fuch as be our fpiritual parents in Chrift.