

Free Bible Version

Philemon

¹This letter is sent from Paul, prisoner of Jesus Christ, and from our brother Timothy, to Philemon, our good friend and co-worker; ²to our sister Apphia, to Archippus who fights alongside us, and to your house church. ³May you have grace and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴I always thank my God for you, remembering you in my prayers, ⁵because I hear of your trust in the Lord Jesus and your love for all believers. ⁶I pray that you will put the generous nature of your trust in God into action as you recognize all the good things we share in Christ. ⁷Your love, my dear brother, has brought me much happiness and encouragement. You have revived the hearts of those of us who believe!

⁸That's why even though I'm brave enough in Christ to order you to do your duty, ⁹I would rather ask you this favor out of love. Old Paul, now also a prisoner of Christ Jesus, ¹⁰is appealing to you on behalf of Onesimus who became my adopted son during my imprisonment. ¹¹In the past he was of no use to you, but now he's useful to both you and me! ¹²I send him to you with my fondest wishes. ^a ¹³I'd have preferred to keep him here with me so that he could have helped me as you would have done while I am in chains for telling the good news. ¹⁴But I decided not do anything without your permission. I didn't want you to be forced to do good, but to do so willingly. ¹⁵Maybe you lost him for a while so that you could have him back forever! ¹⁶He's not a servant anymore, because he's more than a servant. He's a specially-loved brother, particularly to me, and even more to you, both as a man and as a fellow-believer in the Lord. ^b

¹⁷So if you consider me as a colleague working together with you for the Lord, ^c welcome him as if you were welcoming me. ¹⁸If he has done you any wrong, or owes you anything, charge it to my account. ¹⁹I Paul am signing this with my own

^a 12. Literally "heartfelt affections."

^b 16. Literally, "in the flesh and in the Lord."

^c 17. "A colleague working together with you for the Lord." The word in Greek is "partner," but this needs explaining because of modern usage.

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hand: I will repay you. Of course I won't mention what you owe me, including your very self! ²⁰Yes, brother, I'm expecting this favor from you in the Lord; please make me happy in Christ.

²¹I'm writing about this to you because I'm convinced you'll do as I ask—in fact I know you'll do even more than I've asked! ²²In the meantime please have a room ready for me, for I hope to be able to return to see you soon in answer to your prayers. ²³Epaphras who is here in prison with me sends his greetings, ²⁴as do my co-workers Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke. ²⁵May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with all of you.

