**The Epistle of Paul to Philemon**

**Philemon**

1Paul, a prisoner *for the sake* of Christ[[1]](#footnote-23013) Jesus, and Timothy our brother, to Philemon our beloved *friend* and fellow worker, 2and to Apphia our sister, and to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house: 3Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 4I thank my God always, remembering you in my prayers, 5because I hear of your love and trust that you have for the Lord Jesus and for all the holy ones, 6*and I pray* that your participation in the faith[[2]](#footnote-16659) is energized through the knowledge of every good thing that is in us in *connection with* Christ. 7For I have received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts[[3]](#footnote-13082) of the holy ones have been refreshed through you, brother.

8Therefore, although I am bold enough in Christ to command you *to do* what is proper, 9instead, I appeal *to you* on the basis of love, being in the state that I, Paul, am in—an old man and now also a prisoner *for the sake* of Christ Jesus. 10I appeal to you on behalf of my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. 11Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is useful to you and to me. 12I am sending him back to you (he is my very heart[[4]](#footnote-22970)). 13I would have liked to keep him with me so that he could be of service to me in your place during my imprisonment for the good news, 14but without your consent I did not want to do anything so that your goodness *toward him* would not be because of compulsion but because *you were* willing. 15For perhaps this is why he was separated *from you* for a short time, so that you would have him back forever, 16no longer as a servant, but more than a servant, a beloved brother, *which he is* especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

17So if you consider me a partner, receive him as *you would* me. 18But if he has wronged you in any way or owes *you* anything, charge that to my account. 19I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand, I will repay *it* (not to mention to you that you owe me even your own self). 20Yes, brother, I hope to receive this favor from you in the Lord. Refresh my heart[[5]](#footnote-30847) in Christ.

21I am writing to you, having confidence in your obedience, knowing that you will do even more than I say. 22And also one more thing—prepare a place for me to stay because I hope that through your prayers I will be granted by *God’s* grace *to come* to you.

23Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, greets you, 24*and so do* Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, *and* Luke, my fellow workers. 25The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.

1. Lit. “the Anointed One” [↑](#footnote-ref-23013)
2. Lit. “the fellowship of your faith” [↑](#footnote-ref-16659)
3. Lit. “bowels” [↑](#footnote-ref-13082)
4. Lit. “bowels” [↑](#footnote-ref-22970)
5. Lit. “bowels” [↑](#footnote-ref-30847)