

Philemon

1Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, to Philemon our dear friend and fellow worker, **2**to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow soldier and to the church that meets in your home: **3**Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

4I always thank my God as I remember you in my prayers, **5**because I hear about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints. **6**I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ. **7**Your love has given me great joy and encouragement, because you, brother, have refreshed the hearts of the saints.

8Therefore, although in Christ I could be bold and order you to do what you ought to do, **9**yet I appeal to you on the basis of love. I then, as Paul—an old man and now also a prisoner of Christ Jesus— **10**I appeal to you for my son Onesimus, who became my son while I was in chains. **11**Formerly he was useless to you, but now he has become useful both to you and to me.

12I am sending him—who is my very heart—back to you. **13**I would have liked to keep him with me so that he could take your place in helping me while I am in

chains for the gospel. **14**But I did not want to do anything without your consent, so that any favor you do will be spontaneous and not forced. **15**Perhaps the reason he was separated from you for a little while was that you might have him back for good— **16**no longer as a slave, but better than a slave, as a dear brother. He is very dear to me but even dearer to you, both as a man and as a brother in the Lord.

17So if you consider me a partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. **18**If he has done you any wrong or owes you anything, charge it to me. **19**I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand. I will pay it back—not to mention that you owe me your very self. **20**I do wish, brother, that I may have some benefit from you in the Lord; refresh my heart in Christ. **21**Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.

22And one thing more: Prepare a guest room for me, because I hope to be restored to you in answer to your prayers.

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