

English: Unlocked Literal Bible for Philemon
Formatted for Translators

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Philemon

Chapter 1

¹Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and the brother Timothy, to Philemon, our dear friend and fellow worker,²and to Apphia our sister, and to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church that meets in your home:

³May grace be to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴I always thank my God when I mention you in my prayers,⁵because I hear about the faith that you have toward the Lord Jesus and the love you have for all his holy people.⁶I pray that the sharing of your faith may be effective, so you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ.⁷For I have had much joy and comfort because of your love, because the hearts of God's holy people have been refreshed by you, brother.

⁸Therefore, although I have all the boldness in Christ to command you to do what you should do,⁹yet because of love, I appeal to you instead—I, Paul, an old man, and now a prisoner for Christ Jesus.

¹⁰I am appealing to you concerning my child Onesimus, whom I have fathered in my chains.¹¹For he once was useless to you, but now he is useful both to you and to me.¹²I have sent him back to you, he who is my very heart.¹³I wish I could have kept him with me so he could serve me for you while I am in chains for the sake of the gospel.

¹⁴But I did not want to do anything without your consent. I did not want your good deed to be from necessity but from good will.¹⁵Perhaps for this he was separated from you for a time, so that you might have him back forever.¹⁶No longer would he be a slave, but better than a slave, a beloved brother. He is beloved especially to me, and much more so to you, in both the flesh and in the Lord.

¹⁷So if you have me as a partner, receive him as me.¹⁸If he has wronged you or owes you anything, charge that to me.¹⁹I, Paul, write this with my own hand. I myself will pay it back—not to mention that you owe me your own self!²⁰Yes, brother, let me benefit from you in the Lord; refresh my heart in Christ.

²¹Confident about your obedience, I am writing to you. I know that you will do even more than I ask.²²At the same time, prepare a guest room for me, for I hope that through your prayers I will be returned to you.

²³Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, greets you.²⁴So do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke, my fellow workers.

²⁵The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.