

Philemon
An Appeal for Restoration and Forgiveness
Philemon 1-25

I. Introduction. vv. 1-3

A. Author: the apostle _____. v. 1a

B. Recipients vv. 1b-2

1. Main recipient: _____.

2. Secondary: Apphia, Archippus, the local _____. cf. Col 4:17

C. Greeting. v. 3

II. Paul's Prayer. vv. 4-7

A. Gratitude for Philemon's _____ and _____. vv. 4-5; cf. Col 1:4

B. Exhortation toward full _____. v. 6; cf. 1Thes 4:1, 10

C. Encouragement for genuine _____. v. 7; cf. 1Thes 3:6-10

III. Paul's Appeal. vv. 8-20

A. Explanation of his appeal. vv. 8-9

1. Paul could issue a _____ to Philemon. v. 8; cf. 2Thes 3:6, 10

2. Paul chooses to _____ to Philemon. v. 9; cf. 2Cor 8:8

B. Background to his appeal. vv. 10-16

1. His appeal is regarding Onesimus. vv. 10-16; cf. Col 4:9; 1Cor 7:20-23

a. Onesimus was formerly useless, but has become useful. v. 11

b. Paul is sending him back, though he wanted him to stay. vv. 12-13

2. His appeal avoids compulsion—for _____ benefit. v. 14

C. Statement of his appeal. vv. 17-20

1. Appeal: receive Onesimus back as you would receive _____. v. 17

2. Pledge: charge his debt to my account; I will repay it. vv. 18-19

3. Affirmation: Philemon's consent would truly bless _____. v. 20

IV. Conclusion. vv. 21-25

A. Confidence in Philemon: he will _____ Paul's appeal. v. 21

B. Hope for reunion: Paul plans to visit Philemon. v. 22; cf. Php 1:22-26

C. Greetings from friends: Epaphras (Col 1:7-8; 4:12-13), Mark (Acts 12:12-14, 25; 13:13; 15:37-39; Col 4:10; 2Tim 4:11), Aristarchus (Acts 19:29; 20:4; 27:2; Col 4:10), Demas (Col 4:14; 2Tim 4:10), Luke (Col 4:14; 2Tim 4:11).

Philemon 1-25

¹ Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,

To Philemon our beloved fellow worker ²and Apphia our sister and Archippus our fellow soldier, and the church in your house:

³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴ I thank my God always when I remember you in my prayers, ⁵ because I hear of your love and of the faith that you have toward the Lord Jesus and for all the saints, ⁶ and I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective for the full knowledge of every good thing that is in us for the sake of Christ. ⁷ For I have derived much joy and comfort from your love, my brother, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you.

⁸ Accordingly, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do what is required, ⁹ yet for love's sake I prefer to appeal to you—I, Paul, an old man and now a prisoner also for Christ Jesus—¹⁰ I appeal to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I became in my imprisonment. ¹¹ (Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me.) ¹² I am sending him back to you, sending my very heart. ¹³ I would have been glad to keep him with me, in order that he might serve me on your behalf during my imprisonment for the gospel, ¹⁴ but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your goodness might not be by compulsion but of your own accord. ¹⁵ For this perhaps is why he was parted from you for a while, that you might have him back forever, ¹⁶ no longer as a bondservant but more than a bondservant, as a beloved brother—especially to me, but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

¹⁷ So if you consider me your partner, receive him as you would receive me. ¹⁸ If he has wronged you at all, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. ¹⁹ I, Paul, write this with my own hand: I will repay it—to say nothing of your owing me even your own self. ²⁰ Yes, brother, I want 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 say. ²² At the same time, prepare a guest room for me, for I am hoping that through your prayers I will be graciously given to you.

²³ Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, sends greetings to you, ²⁴ and so do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke, my fellow workers.

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