

# Philemon 01 - Slavery; Onesimus; Paul the Intercessor

## I. Greeting (Philemon 1:1-3)

- (1) Senders (1:1a-b)
  - (A) Paul (1:1a)
  - (B) Timothy (1:1b)
- (2) Audience (1:1c-2)
  - (A) Philemon (1:1c)
  - (B) Apphia (1:2a)
  - (C) Archippus (1:2b)
  - (D) The church (1:2c)
- (3) Salutation (1:3)

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### **Philemon 1**

#### I. Greeting (Philemon 1:1-3)

- (1) Senders (1:1a-b)
  - (A) Paul (1:1a)
  - (B) Timothy (1:1b)
- (2) Audience (1:1c-2)
  - (A) Philemon (1:1c)

**1** Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, To Philemon our beloved *brother* and fellow worker,

**1** Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, To Philemon our beloved *brother* and fellow worker,

**1** From: Paul, a prisoner of the Messiah Jesus, and Timothy our brother. To: Philemon our dear friend and fellow worker,

1 Paul, a prisoner of Jesus Christ, and Timothy our brother, unto Philemon our dearly beloved, and fellow labourer,

- (B) Apphia (1:2a)
- (C) Archippus (1:2b)
- (D) The church (1:2c)

2 and to Apphia our sister, and to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house:

2 and to Apphia our sister, and to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house:

2 to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house.

2 And to our beloved Apphia, and Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in thy house:

- (3) Salutation (1:3)

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

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

3 May grace and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus, the Messiah, be yours!

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

II. Praise of Philemon (Philemon 1:4-7)

- (1) Thanksgiving (1:4-5)

- (A) General thanks (1:4)

4 I thank my God always, making mention of you in my prayers,

4 I thank my God always, making mention of you in my prayers,

4 I always thank my God when I mention you in my prayers,

4 I thank my God, making mention of thee always in my prayers.

- (B) Reason for thanks: Philemon's benevolence (1:5)

5 because I hear of your love and of the faith which you have toward the Lord Jesus and toward all the saints;

5 because I hear of your love and of the faith which you have toward the Lord Jesus and toward all the saints;

5 because I keep hearing about your love for all the saints and the faith that you have in the Lord Jesus.

5 Hearing of thy love and faith, which thou hast toward the Lord Jesus, and toward all saints;

- (2) Prayer (1:6-7)

- (A) Prayer for Philemon's understanding (1:6)

6 *and I pray* that the fellowship of your faith may become effective through the knowledge of every good thing which is in you for the sake of Christ.

6 *and I pray* that the fellowship of your faith may become effective through the knowledge of every good thing which is in you for Christ's sake.

6 I pray that your partnership in the faith may become effective as you fully acknowledge every blessing that is ours in the Messiah.

6 That the communication of thy faith may become effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus.

(B) Reminder of Philemon's past benevolence (1:7)

7 For I have had great joy and comfort in your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, brother.

7 For I have come to have much joy and comfort in your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, brother.

7 For I have received considerable joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed, brother, through you.

7 For we have great joy and consolation in thy love, because the bowels of the saints are refreshed by thee, brother.

III. Paul's request of Philemon (Philemon 1:8-21)

(1) Paul's appeal (1:8-17)

(A) Basis of Paul's appeal (1:8-9)

(a) Reminder of Paul's apostolic authority (1:8)

8 Therefore, though I have enough confidence in Christ to order you *to do* what is proper,

8 Therefore, though I have enough confidence in Christ to order you *to do* what is proper,

8 For this reason, although in the Messiah I have complete freedom to order you to do what is proper,

8 Wherefore, though I might be much bold in Christ to enjoin thee that which is convenient,

(b) Basis of appeal (1:9)

(i) Love (1:9a)

(ii) Age (1:9b)

(iii) Imprisonment (1:9c)

9 yet for love's sake I rather appeal *to you*—since I am such a person as Paul, an old man, and now also a prisoner of Christ Jesus—

9 yet for love's sake I rather appeal *to you*—since I am such a person as Paul, the aged, and now also a prisoner of Christ Jesus—

9 I prefer to make my appeal on the basis of love. I, Paul, as an old man and now a prisoner of the Messiah Jesus,

9 Yet for love's sake I rather beseech thee, being such a one as Paul the aged, and now also a prisoner of Jesus Christ.

(B) Onesimus as the object of the request (1:10-11)

- (a) Paul's child (1:10a)
- (b) Begotten in prison (1:10b)
- (c) Name: Onesimus (1:10c)

10 I appeal to you for my son Onesimus, whom I fathered in my imprisonment,

10 I appeal to you for my child Onesimus, whom I have begotten in my imprisonment,

10 appeal to you on behalf of my child Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment.

10 I beseech thee for my son Onesimus, whom I have begotten in my bonds:

(d) Transition from worthless to profitable (1:11)

11 who previously was useless to you, but now is useful both to you and to me.

11 who formerly was useless to you, but now is useful both to you and to me.

11 Once he was useless to you, but now he is very useful both to you and to me.

11 Which in time past was to thee unprofitable, but now profitable to thee and to me:

(C) Paul sending Onesimus back (1:12-14)

- (a) Paul's action: sending Onesimus back (1:12)

12 I have sent him back to you in person, that is, *sending* my very heart,

12 I have sent him back to you in person, that is, *sending* my very heart,

12 As I send him back, it's like I'm coming along with him.

12 Whom I have sent again: thou therefore receive him, that is, mine own bowels:

(b) Paul's preference: to keep Onesimus (1:13)

13 whom I wanted to keep with me, so that in your behalf he might be at my service in my imprisonment for the gospel;

13 whom I wished to keep with me, so that on your behalf he might minister to me in my imprisonment for the gospel;

13 I wanted to keep him with me so that he could serve me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel.

13 Whom I would have retained with me, that in thy stead he might have ministered unto me in the bonds of the gospel:

(c) Paul's motive: to honor Philemon (1:14)

14 but I did not want to do anything without your consent, so that your goodness would not be, in effect, by compulsion, but of your own free will.

14 but without your consent I did not want to do anything, so that your goodness would not be, in effect, by compulsion but of your own free will.

14 Yet I did not want to do anything without your consent, so that your good deed might not be something forced, but voluntary.

14 But without thy mind would I do nothing; that thy benefit should not be as it were of necessity, but willingly.

(D) God's providence (1:15-16)

(a) Onesimus' departure (1:15)

15 For perhaps *it was* for this reason *that* he was separated *from you* for a while, that you would have him back forever,

15 For perhaps he was for this reason separated *from you* for a while, that you would have him back forever,

15 Perhaps this is why he was separated from you for a while, so that you could have him back forever,

15 For perhaps he therefore departed for a season, that thou shouldest receive him for ever;

(b) Onesimus' salvation (1:16)

(i) No longer a slave (1:16a)

(ii) A beloved brother (1:16b-c)

(a) To Paul (1:16b)

(b) To Onesimus (1:16c)

16 no longer as a slave, but more than a slave, a beloved brother, especially to me, but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

16 no longer as a slave, but more than a slave, a beloved brother, especially to me, but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

16 no longer as a slave but better than a slave—as a dear brother, especially to me, but even more so to you, both as a person and as a believer.

16 Not now as a servant, but above a servant, a brother beloved, specially to me, but how much more unto thee, both in the flesh, and in the Lord?

(E) Paul's request: accept him as you would me (1:17)

17 If then you regard me as a partner, accept him as *you would* me.

17 If then you regard me a partner, accept him as *you would* me.

17 So if you consider me a partner, welcome him as you would welcome me.

17 If thou count me therefore a partner, receive him as myself.

(2) Paul's pledge (1:18-21)

(A) Promise: to pay Onesimus' debts (1:18)

18 But if he has wronged you in any way or owes you *anything*, charge that to my account;  
18 But if he has wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge that to my account;  
18 If he has wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge it to my account.

18 If he hath wronged thee, or oweth thee ought, put that on mine account;

(B) Collateral: Paul's ministry to Philemon (1:19)

19 I, Paul, have written *this* with my own hand, I will repay *it* (not to mention to you that you owe to me even your own self as well).

19 I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand, I will repay it (not to mention to you that you owe to me even your own self as well).

19 I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. (I will not mention to you that you owe me your very life.)

19 I Paul have written it with mine own hand, I will repay *it*: albeit I do not say to thee how thou owest unto me even thine own self besides.

(C) Wish: to be refreshed by Philemon (1:20)

20 Yes, brother, let me benefit from you in the Lord; refresh my heart in Christ.

20 Yes, brother, let me benefit from you in the Lord; refresh my heart in Christ.

20 Yes, brother, I desire this favor from you in the Lord. Refresh my heart in the Messiah!

20 Yea, brother, let me have joy of thee in the Lord: refresh my bowels [heart] in the Lord.

(D) Confidence: Paul's confidence that Philemon will respond (1:21)

21 Having confidence in your obedience, I write to you, since I know that you will do even more than what I say.

21 Having confidence in your obedience, I write to you, since I know that you will do even more than what I say.

21 Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you because I know that you will do even more than I ask.

21 Having confidence in thy obedience I wrote unto thee, knowing that thou wilt also do more than I say.

IV. Closing (Philemon 1:22-25)

(1) Paul's imminent release (1:22)

22 At the same time also prepare me a guest room, for I hope that through your prayers I will be given to you.

22 At the same time also prepare me a lodging, for I hope that through your prayers I will be given to you.

22 Meanwhile, prepare a guest room for me, too, for I am hoping through your prayers to be returned to you.

22 But withal prepare me also a lodging: for I trust that through your prayers I shall be given unto you.

(2) Paul extends greetings (1:23-24)

(A) Epaphras (1:23)

23 Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, greets you,

23 Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, greets you,

23 Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in the Messiah Jesus, sends you greetings,

23 There salute thee Epaphras, my fellowprisoner in Christ Jesus;

(B) Mark (1:24a)

(C) Aristarcus (1:24b)

(D) Demas (1:24c)

(E) Luke (1:24d)

24 as do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke, my fellow workers.

24 as do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, Luke, my fellow workers.

24 as do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke, my fellow workers.

24 Marcus, Aristarchus, Demas, Lucas, my fellowlabourers.

(3) Paul's benediction (1:25)

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

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

25 May the grace of our Lord Jesus, the Messiah, be with your spirit! Amen."

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