

The Epistle Of Paul To Philemon

The Argument

Albeit the excellency of Paul's spirit wonderfully appeareth in his other Epistles, yet this Epistle is a great witness, and a declaration of the same. For far passing the baseness of his matter, he fleeth as it were up to heaven, and speaketh with a divine grace and majesty. Onesimus servant to Philemon both robbed his master, and fled away, whom Paul having won to Christ, sent again to his master, earnestly begging his pardon, with most weighty arguments proving the duty of one Christian to another, and so with salutations endeth.

Philemon 2

Philemon

*1 Paul handling a base and small matter, yet according to his manner mounteth aloft unto God.
8 Sending again to Philemon his vagabond and thievish servant, he entreateth pardon for him,
and very gravely preacheth of Christian equity.*

1 Paul a prisoner of Jesus Christ, and *our* brother Timothy, unto Philemon our dear friend, and fellow helper,

2 And to *our* dear sister Apphia, and to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the Church that is in thy house:

3 Grace *be* with you, and peace from God our Father, and *from* the Lord Jesus Christ.

4 I give thanks to my God, making mention always of thee in my prayers,

5 (When I hear of thy love and faith, which thou hast toward the Lord Jesus, and toward all Saints.)

6 That the fellowship of thy faith may be made effectual, and that whatsoever good thing is in you through Christ Jesus, may be known.

7 For we have great joy and consolation in thy love, because by thee, brother, the Saints' bowels are comforted.

8 Wherefore, though I be very bold in Christ to command thee that which is convenient,

9 *Yet* for love's sake I rather beseech thee, though I be as I am, even Paul aged, and even now a prisoner for Jesus Christ.

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

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

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

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

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

15 It may be that he therefore departed for a season, that thou shouldest receive him forever,

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

17 If therefore thou count our things common, receive him as myself.

18 If he hath hurt thee, or oweth thee ought, that put on my account.

19 I Paul have written *this* with my own hand, I will recompense it, albeit I do not say to thee, that thou owest unto me even thy own self.

20 Yea, brother, let me obtain this pleasure of thee in the Lord; comfort my bowels in the Lord.

21 Trusting in thy obedience, I wrote unto thee, knowing that thou wilt do even more than I say.

22 Moreover also prepare me lodging, for I trust through your prayers I shall be freely given unto you.

23 There salute thee Epaphras my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus,

24 Marcus, Aristarchus, Demas *and* Luke, my fellow helpers.

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

Written from Rome to Philemon, and sent by Onesimus a servant.