

unfoldingWord® Translation Questions

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Philemon

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Philemon

Philemon 1

Philemon 1:1

ULT	UST
Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and our brother Timothy to Philemon, the beloved and our fellow worker,	*I, Paul, am currently in prison for serving the Messiah, Jesus. I am here with Timothy, our fellow believer. I am writing this letter to you, Philemon. You also serve the Messiah, and we love you.*

Where is Paul as he writes this letter?

Paul is in prison as he writes this letter.

To whom is this letter written?

This letter is written to Philemon, Paul’s dear friend and fellow-worker.

Philemon 1:2

ULT	UST
and to Apphia our sister, and to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house.	*I also write to Apphia, our fellow believer, and to Archippus, who is like a soldier in the way he serves the Messiah with us. I also write to the group of believers that meets in your house.*

In what kind of place is the church meeting?

The church is meeting in a house.

Philemon 1:5

ULT	UST
hearing of your love and the faith that you have in the Lord Jesus and for all the saints,	*because people tell me how much you trust in the Lord Jesus and how much you love him and all of God's people.*

Of what good characteristics has Paul heard about Philemon?

Paul has heard about Philemon's love, faith in the Lord, and faithfulness toward all the saints.

Philemon 1:7

ULT	UST
For I had much joy and comfort because of your love, because the inner parts of the saints are being refreshed by you, brother.	*My dear friend, you have greatly encouraged me and have caused me to rejoice a lot. For you have been encouraging God's people by how much you love them.*

According to Paul, what has Philemon done for the saints?

Philemon has refreshed the hearts of the saints.

Philemon 1:9

ULT	UST
because of love I appeal to you instead—being such a one as Paul, an elder, and now also a prisoner of Christ Jesus.	*But instead of commanding you, because we love each other, I, Paul, an old man and now also a prisoner because I serve the Messiah, Jesus, only request that you do this.*

Why is Paul asking Philemon for something instead of commanding him?

Paul is asking Philemon because of love.

Philemon 1:10

ULT	UST
I am appealing to you on behalf of my child Onesimus, whom I have fathered in my chains.	*I am asking you do something for Onesimus. He has become like a son to me since I told him about the Messiah here in prison.*

What did Paul call Onesimus?

Paul called Onesimus his child.

Where was Paul when he became Onesimus' father?

Paul was in chains, in prison.

Philemon 1:12

ULT	UST
whom I have sent back to you—him—this one is my inner parts;	*Although he is very dear to me, I am sending him back to you.*

What has Paul done with Onesimus?

Paul has sent Onesimus back to Philemon.

Philemon 1:13

ULT	UST
whom I desired to keep with me, so that he might serve me on behalf of you in the chains of the gospel.	*I wanted to keep him here with me in order that he might serve me in your place, especially while I am still in prison for preaching the good news about the Messiah.*

Where is Paul as he writes this letter?

Paul is in prison as he writes this letter.

What would Paul like Onesimus to be able to do?

Paul would like Onesimus to be able to help him.

Philemon 1:14

ULT	UST
But I did not want to do anything without your consent, so that your good deed might not be as according to compulsion but according to good will.	*However, I am sending him back to you because you did not tell me I could keep him here. I want you to help me because you want to help me, and not because I have forced you to help me.*

Why did Paul not want to act without the consent of Philemon?

Paul wanted Philemon's good deed to be his own choice and not forced upon him by Paul's action.

Philemon 1:15

ULT	UST
For perhaps because of this he was separated from you for an hour, so that you might have him back forever,	*It may be that God allowed Onesimus to be apart from you during this short time so that he could return to you as a believer and be with you eternally.*

Why did Paul say Onesimus may have been separated from Philemon?

Paul said Onesimus may have been separated from Philemon so that Philemon could have him back forever, meaning as an eternal brother in Christ.

Philemon 1:16-17

How does Paul now want Philemon to consider Onesimus?

Paul wants Philemon to consider Onesimus as a beloved brother.

Philemon 1:18

ULT	UST
But if he has wronged you or owes you anything, charge that to me.	*But if he has taken anything from you, or if he is in debt to you for anything, I will repay you.*

What does Paul want Philemon to do about anything that Onesimus owes Philemon?

Paul wants Philemon to charge anything owed by Onesimus to Paul's account.

Philemon 1:19

ULT	UST
I, Paul, wrote this with my own hand. I myself will pay it back—in order not to say to you that you also owe me even your own self!	*I, Paul, am now writing this in my own handwriting: I will repay you whatever he owes you. I am certain that I do not have to remind you that you owe me even more than Onesimus might owe you, because God saved your life when I told you about the Messiah.*

What does Philemon owe Paul?

Philemon owes Paul his very life.

Philemon 1:22

ULT	UST
But at the same time, also prepare a guest room for me, for I hope that through your prayers I will be given back to you.	*As you do what I am asking you to do, I also ask you to prepare to receive me into your home. Because all of you have been praying for me, I confidently expect that God will allow me to leave prison and to come to you all.*

What does Paul want Philemon to do for him?

Paul wants Philemon to prepare a guest room for him.

Why does Paul want Philemon to do this?

Paul hopes that God will send him back to Philemon.