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Philemon

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Philemon

Chapter 1

¹Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and {our} brother Timothy to Philemon, the beloved and our fellow worker, ²and to Apphia {our} sister, and to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house. ³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴I always thank my God, making mention of you in my prayers, ⁵hearing of your love and the faith that you have in the Lord Jesus and for all the saints, ⁶that the fellowship of your faith may become effective through the knowledge of everything good that {is} among us for Christ. ⁷For I had much joy and comfort because of your love, because the inner parts of the saints are being refreshed by you, brother.

⁸Therefore, having much boldness in Christ to command you the thing that is proper to do, ⁹because of love I appeal to you instead—being such a one as Paul, an elder, and now also a prisoner of Christ Jesus. ¹⁰I am appealing to you on behalf of my child Onesimus, whom I have fathered in {my} chains. ¹¹He formerly was useless to you, but now he is useful both to you and to me, ¹²whom I have sent back to you—him—this one is my inner parts. ¹³I desired to keep him with me, so that he might serve me on behalf of you in the chains of the gospel. ¹⁴But 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. ¹⁵For perhaps for this reason he was separated from you for an hour, so that you might have him back forever, ¹⁶no longer as a slave, but better than a slave—a beloved brother, especially to me, but much more so to you, in both the flesh and in the Lord. ¹⁷Therefore, if you have me as a partner, receive him as me. ¹⁸But if he has wronged you or owes you anything, charge that to me. ¹⁹I, 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! ²⁰Yes, brother, may I benefit from you in the Lord; refresh my inner parts in Christ.

²¹Having confidence in your obedience, I wrote to you, having known that you will do even beyond what I am saying. ²²But 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.

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

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

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