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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.

Contributors

unfoldingWord® Literal Text Contributors

Nicholas Alsop
Scott Bayer
Larry T Brooks, M.Div., Assemblies of God Theological Seminary
Matt Carlton
George "Drew" Curley, M.Div., PhD, Professor of Biblical Languages
Dan Dennison
Jamie Duguid
Paul M Fahnestock, M.Div. Reformed Theological Seminary, D.Min. Pittsburgh Theological Seminary
Michael Francis
Laura Glassel, MA in Bible Translation
Jesse Griffin, BA Biblical Studies, MA Biblical Languages
Jesse Harris
C. Harry Harriss, M.Div.
Alrick G. Headley, M.Div., Th.M.
Bram van den Heuvel, M.A.
John Huffman
D. Allen Hutchison, MA in Old Testament, MA in New Testament
Jack Messarra
Gene Mullen
Adam W. Nagelvoort, M.Div. Academic Ministries, Columbia International University
Timothy Neu, Ph.D. Biblical Studies
Kristy Nickell
Tom Nickell
Elizabeth Oakes, BA in Religious Studies, Linguistics
Perry Oakes, PhD in Old Testament, MA in Linguistics
James N. Pohlig, M.Div., MA in Linguistics, D. Litt. in Biblical Languages
Ward Pyles, M.Div., Western Baptist Theological Seminary
Susan Quigley, MA in Linguistics
Dean Ropp
Joel D. Ruark, M.A.Th., Th.M., Ph.D. in Old Testament, University of Stellenbosch
Larry Sallee, Th.M Dallas Theological Seminary, D.Min. Columbia Biblical Seminary
Peter Smircich, BA Philosophy
Doug Smith, M.T.S., M.Div., Th.M., Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary
Leonard Smith
Suzanna Smith
Tim Span
Dave Statezni, BA Orig langs., M.Div. Fuller Theological Seminary
Maria Tijerina
David Trombold, M. Div.
Aaron Valdizan, M.Div., Th.M. in Old Testament, The Masters Seminary
James Vigen
Hendrik "Henry" de Vries
Thomas Warren, M.Div., Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, D.Min, Reformed Theological Seminary
Angela Westmoreland, M.A. in Theological Studies (Biblical Language track)
Henry Whitney, BA Linguistics
Benjamin Wright, MA Applied Linguistics, Dallas International University
Grant Ailie, BA Biblical Studies, M.Div.

