

unfoldingWord® Simplified Text

v92

Philemon

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Chapter 1 1

Philemon

1 *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. 2 *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. 3 *I pray that* God our
Father and our Lord Jesus the Messiah will continue to be
kind to you all and make you peaceful.

4 When I pray, I always thank my God for you, *Philemon,*
5 because *people tell me* how much you trust in the Lord Jesus
and how much you love him and all of God's people. 6 I also
pray that as you trust in the Messiah, just as we trust in
him, you will understand even more all the good things the
Messiah has given to us for serving him. 7 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.

8 So *because you love God's people,* and because *I am an*
apostle of the Messiah, I am completely confident that the
Messiah would allow me to command you to do what you
should do. 9 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. 10 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. 11 He was useless to you in the past, but now
he is useful both to you and to me!

12 Although he is very dear to me, I am sending him back
to you. 13 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.*
14 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. 15 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. 16 This is because
Onesimus is no longer just a slave, but he is much more than
a slave. For now you can love him as a fellow believer! He is
very dear to me, but he is certainly even more dear to you.
This is because now he not only belongs to you *as a slave,*
but he also belongs to the Lord.

17 So if you consider me to be your companion *in doing*
the work God has given us, then welcome Onesimus into your
home in the same way you would welcome me. 18 But if he
has taken anything from you, or if he is in debt to you for
anything, I will repay you. 19 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.* 20 Yes, my
fellow believer, *I am saying what you think I am saying*. I want
you to do this for me because of what the Lord *did for you*.
Give me another reason to be glad that we are both joined
to the Messiah.

21 As I write *this letter* to you, I am sure that you will do
what I am asking you to do. In fact, I know that you will do
even more than what I am asking you to do.

22 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.

23 Epaphras, who is *suffering* with me in prison *for serving*
Messiah Jesus, says hello to you. 24 Mark, Aristarchus, Demas,
and Luke, who are my partners here, *also say hello to you.*
25 *I pray* that our Lord Jesus the Messiah will continue to be
kind to you. Amen.