

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.