

## The letter of Paul to Philemon

<sup>1:1</sup>Paul, a prisoner of the Anointed One, Jesus and Timothy our brother to: Philemon who is beloved and *is* our co-worker, <sup>1:2</sup>to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow-soldier, and to the gathering of the called-out ones in your house. <sup>1:3</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus the Anointed One.

<sup>1:4</sup>I thank my God always, mentioning you in my prayers, after <sup>1:5</sup>hearing about your love and of the faith which you have toward the Lord Jesus and toward all those set apart for God. <sup>1:6</sup>I pray that the fellowship you have with God through your faith will become *increasingly* productive through the full understanding of every good thing which Jesus the Anointed One is doing in you.

<sup>1:7</sup>I had much joy and comfort because of your love since the hearts of those set apart for God have been refreshed through you, brother. <sup>1:8</sup>Therefore, even though I have all boldness in the Anointed One to insist that you do that which is right, <sup>1:9</sup>yet for love's sake I plead with you instead, being such a one as Paul the aged and now also a prisoner of the Anointed One, Jesus.

<sup>1:10</sup>I plead with you on behalf of my child whom I have begotten *while* in my bonds, Onesimus, <sup>1:11</sup>who at one time was unprofitable to you but now is profitable to you and to me. <sup>1:12</sup>I have sent him back to you, asking you to receive him with my own feelings of compassion.

<sup>1:13</sup>I would have preferred to keep him with me so that on your behalf he might minister to me while I am in the chains of the gospel.

<sup>1:14</sup>But I wouldn't do anything without your consent so that your good deed would not be from compulsion, but from your own free will. <sup>1:15</sup>For perhaps it was for this very

reason he left you for a time so that you could receive him forever, <sup>1:16</sup>no longer as a slave but more than a slave – *as* a beloved brother, especially to me but how much more to you, both humanly speaking and in the Lord.

<sup>1:17</sup>If then you consider me to be a partner, receive him as myself. <sup>1:18</sup>But if he has wronged you at all or owes you anything, put that on my account. <sup>1:19</sup>I, Paul, write it with my own hand; I will repay it. (Although, even though I shouldn't mention it, you even owe me yourself) [since you were converted because of me].

<sup>1:20</sup>Yes, brother, let me have joy in the Lord because of you. Refresh my heart in the Anointed One. <sup>1:21</sup>I write to you having confidence in your obedience *to God*, knowing that you will do even beyond what I say.

<sup>1:22</sup>But at the same time prepare me a place to stay also, for I hope that through your prayers I will be allowed to come to you.

<sup>1:23</sup>Epaphras, my fellow-prisoner in the Anointed One, Jesus, greets you, <sup>1:24</sup>as do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke who are my co-workers.

<sup>1:25</sup>The grace of our Lord Jesus the Anointed One be with your spirit. Amen.