

The Epistle of Paul to Philemon

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

4 I thank my God always, making mention of thee in my prayers, 5 hearing of ³thy love, and of the faith which thou hast toward the Lord Jesus, and toward all the saints; 6 that the ⁴fellowship of thy faith may become effectual, in *the* knowledge of every good thing which is ⁵in us, unto Christ. 7 For I had much joy and comfort in thy love, because the ⁶hearts of the saints have been refreshed through thee, brother.

8 Wherefore, though I have all boldness in Christ to enjoin thee that which is befitting, 9 yet for love's sake I rather beseech, being such a one as Paul ⁷the aged, and now a prisoner also of Christ Jesus: 10 I beseech thee for my child, whom I have begotten in *my* bonds, ⁸Onesimus, 11 who once was unprofitable to thee, but now is profitable to thee and to me: 12 whom ⁹I have sent back to thee in his own person, that is, my very ¹⁰heart: 13 whom I would fain have kept with me, that in thy behalf he might minister unto me in the bonds of the ¹¹gospel: 14 but without thy mind I would do nothing; that thy goodness should not be as of necessity, but of free will. 15 For perhaps he was therefore parted *from thee* for ¹²a season, that thou

shouldest have him ¹³for ever; 16 no longer as a ¹⁴servant, but more than a servant, a brother beloved, specially to me, but how much rather to thee, both in *the* flesh and in *the* Lord. 17 If then thou countest me a partner, receive him as myself. 18 But if he hath wronged thee at all, or oweth *anything*, put that to mine account; 19 I Paul write *it* with mine *own* hand, I will repay *it*: that I say not unto thee that thou owest to me even thine own self besides. 20 Yes, brother, let me have ¹⁵joy of thee in *the* Lord: refresh my heart in Christ.

21 Having confidence in thine obedience I write unto thee, knowing that thou wilt do even beyond what I say. 22 But withal prepare me also a lodging: for I hope that through your prayers I shall be granted unto you.

23 Epaphras, my fellow-prisoner in Christ Jesus, saluteth thee; 24 *and so do* Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, Luke, my fellow-workers.

25 The grace of ¹⁶the Lord Jesus Christ *be* with your spirit.¹⁷

End of the Epistle of Paul to Philemon

¹ *Gk.* the brother,

² *Gk.* the sister, *So* ∑A I 048 1739 33 81 cop^{bo} arm vg. 256 *and a majority of lesser Gk. mss. read the beloved*

³ *Or,* thy love and faith

⁴ *Or,* communion *or,* joint participation

⁵ *So* CA 048^{vid} 81 *and a majority of lesser Gk. mss. But* ρ⁶¹ ∑ 1739 33 cop^{sa,bo} arm *read* in you,

⁶ *Gk.* bowels *Similarly in vss. 12, 20. Reckoned by the Hebrew as the seat of compassion and mercy [cf. Ge 43:30 (A.V.)], as in English the heart is of love, and secondarily of these related passions.*

⁷ *Or,* an ambassador, and now *etc.*

⁸ *The Greek word means* Helpful. *Cf. vs. 20 margin.*

⁹ *So* ∑*A 33. *C** at end of verse adds Receive him, 1739 81 *and the majority of lesser Gk. mss., vg read* I sent back, but receive thou him, who is my *etc.* *D** cop^{sa,bo} arm *read* I sent, but receive thou him, who is my *etc.*

¹⁰ *Or,* compassion: *Gk.* bowels:

¹¹ *Gk.* good tidings *See marginal note on Mt 4:23.*

¹² *Gk.* an hour,

¹³ *Or,* lasting for an age. [*So* Liddell & Scott.] *Gk.* αἰώνιος αἰῶνιος, *like Hb.* עולם olam, *means lifetime, time without fixed limit – to unseen time. Whether an age ending with death or destruction (here, Jonah 2:6*), or forever (Mt 19:29, Da 2:20*), is to be determined by context. And so elsewhere. *Theodotian and Sept. render olam by aiōn(s).*

¹⁴ *Gk.* bondservant (*both times*)

¹⁵ *Or,* help (onaimēn) *Compare vs. 10 margin.*

¹⁶ *So* ∑ 1739 33 81. *But* CA *and a majority of lesser Gk. mss., cop*^{sa,bo} arm *vg read* our Lord

¹⁷ *So* ρ⁸⁷ A 048^{vid} 1739* 33 81 cop^{sa}. ∑C *and the majority of lesser Gk. mss., cop*^{bo} *vg add* Amen.