

Philemon 1

Chapter 1 of 1 · 25 Verses · Authorized King James Version

Greeting

¹ Paul, a prisoner of Jesus Christ, and Timothy our brother, unto Philemon our dearly beloved, and fellowlabourer,

² And to our beloved Apphia, and Archippus our fellowsoldier, and to the church in thy house:

³ Grace to you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Thanksgiving and Prayer

⁴ I thank my God, making mention of thee always in my prayers,

⁵ Hearing of thy love and faith, which thou hast toward the Lord Jesus, and toward all saints;

⁶ That the communication of thy faith may become effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus.

⁷ For we have great joy and consolation in thy love, because the bowels of the saints are refreshed by thee, brother.

Paul's Plea for Onesimus

⁸ Wherefore, though I might be much bold in Christ to enjoin thee that which is convenient,

⁹ Yet for love's sake I rather beseech thee, being such an one as Paul the aged, and now also a prisoner of Jesus Christ.

- 10 I beseech thee for my son Onesimus, whom I have begotten in my bonds:
- 11 Which in time past was to thee unprofitable, but now profitable to thee and to me:
- 12 Whom I have sent again: thou therefore receive him, that is, mine own bowels:
- 13 Whom I would have retained with me, that in thy stead he might have ministered unto me in the bonds of the gospel:
- 14 But without thy mind would I do nothing; that thy benefit should not be as it were of necessity, but willingly.
- 15 For perhaps he therefore departed for a season, that thou shouldest receive him for ever;
- 16 Not now as a servant, but above a servant, a brother beloved, specially to me, but how much more unto thee, both in the flesh, and in the Lord?
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Paul's Appeal and Promise

- 17 If thou count me therefore a partner, receive him as myself.
- 18 If he hath wronged thee, or oweth thee ought, put that on mine account;
- 19 I Paul have written it with mine own hand, I will repay it: albeit I do not say to thee how thou owest unto me even thine own self besides.
- 20 Yea, brother, let me have joy of thee in the Lord: refresh my bowels in the Lord.
- 21 Having confidence in thy obedience I wrote unto thee, knowing that thou wilt also do more than I say.
- 22 But withal prepare me also a lodging: for I trust that through your prayers I shall be given unto you.
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Final Greetings and Benediction

- 23 There salute thee Epaphras, my fellowprisoner in Christ Jesus;
- 24 Marcus, Aristarchus, Demas, Lucas, my fellowlabourers.

²⁵ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.

HEBREW & GREEK WORD STUDIES

Faith — πίστις (Pistis)

Faith, belief, trust

The Greek **pistis** (πίστις) denotes faith, belief, or trust—confidence in God's character and promises. It's both intellectual assent and relational trust, central to justification (Romans 5:1).

God — Θεός (Theos)

God

The Greek **Theos** (Θεός) refers to deity, used both for the one true God and false gods. Context determines whether it denotes the Father specifically or the Godhead generally.

Gospel — εὐαγγέλιον (Euangelion)

Good news, gospel

The Greek **euangelion** (εὐαγγέλιον) means good news or gospel—the message of salvation through Christ's death and resurrection. It's 'the power of God unto salvation' (Romans 1:16).

Grace — χάρις (Charis)

Grace, favor

The Greek **charis** (χάρις) denotes unmerited divine favor—God's kindness toward the undeserving. Salvation is 'by grace through faith' (Ephesians 2:8), not human merit.

Lord — Κύριος (Kurios)

Lord, Master

The Greek **Kurios** (Κύριος) means 'lord' or 'master,' used both for human masters and divinely for God the Father and Jesus Christ. Its application to Jesus affirms His deity, as it translates YHWH in the Septuagint.

Love — ἀγάπη (Agape)

Divine love

The Greek **agape** (ἀγάπη) denotes self-sacrificial, unconditional love—the highest form of love, characterizing God's nature (1 John 4:8) and the love Christians are called to demonstrate.

Messiah — Χριστός (Christos)

Christ, Anointed One

The Greek **Christos** (Χριστός) translates 'Messiah'—the Anointed One. Peter confessed 'Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God' (Matthew 16:16), recognizing Jesus as the long-awaited Messiah.

Spirit — πνεῦμα (Pneuma)

Spirit, wind, breath

The Greek **pneuma** (πνεῦμα) means spirit, wind, or breath—the immaterial aspect of persons. The Holy Spirit (Pneuma Hagion) is the third person of the Trinity, dwelling in believers.

CROSS REFERENCES

Philemon 1:1 **References Jesus:** 2 Corinthians 1:1; Ephesians 3:1; Colossians 1:1; 4:11.

Parallel theme: 1 Corinthians 3:9; Ephesians 4:1; Philippians 2:25; 2 Timothy 1:8. **Love:**

Philemon 1:9. **References Christ:** 1 Thessalonians 3:2

Philemon 1:2 **Parallel theme:** 1 Corinthians 16:19; Philippians 2:25; Colossians 4:15; 4:17.

Love: Romans 16:5

Philemon 1:3 **Grace:** Romans 1:7; Ephesians 1:2

Philemon 1:4 **References God:** Romans 1:8; Philippians 1:3; 2 Thessalonians 1:3. **Prayer:**

Colossians 1:3; 2 Timothy 1:3. **Kingdom:** Ephesians 1:16; 1 Thessalonians 1:2

Philemon 1:5 **Faith:** Ephesians 1:15; Colossians 1:4. **Holy:** Psalms 16:3; 1 Corinthians 16:1

Philemon 1:6 **References Jesus:** 2 Peter 1:8. **Parallel theme:** Colossians 1:9. **Good:**

Matthew 5:16

Philemon 1:7

Parallel theme: Philemon 1:20; 2 Corinthians 7:4; 7:13; 1 Thessalonians 2:19; 3:9; 2 Timothy 1:16; 2 John 1:4

Philemon 1:8 **References Christ:** 1 Thessalonians 2:6. **Parallel theme:** 2 Corinthians 3:12;

10:8; Ephesians 5:4

Philemon 1:9 **Parallel theme:** Romans 12:1; Ephesians 4:1. **References Christ:** 2

Corinthians 5:20. **References Jesus:** Ephesians 3:1

Philemon 1:10

Parallel theme: 1 Corinthians 4:15; Galatians 4:19; Colossians 4:9; 1 Timothy 1:2; Titus 1:4

Philemon 1:11 **Parallel theme:** Matthew 25:30; Luke 15:24; 15:32; 17:10; Romans 3:12; 2

Timothy 4:11; 1 Peter 2:10

Philemon 1:12 **Parallel theme:** Jeremiah 31:20; Mark 11:25; Luke 15:20; Ephesians 4:32

Philemon 1:13 **Parallel theme:** 1 Corinthians 16:17; Ephesians 3:1; Philippians 1:7

Philemon 1:14 **Parallel theme:** 1 Chronicles 29:17; 2 Corinthians 9:7

Philemon 1:15 **Parallel theme:** Genesis 50:20

Philemon 1:16 **Parallel theme:** Matthew 23:8; Colossians 3:22. **References Lord:** 1 Corinthians 7:22. **Love:** 1 Timothy 6:2

Philemon 1:17 **Parallel theme:** Philemon 1:12; Matthew 10:40; 2 Corinthians 8:23

Philemon 1:19 **Parallel theme:** Galatians 6:11. **References Paul:** Galatians 5:2

Philemon 1:20 **Parallel theme:** Philemon 1:7; 1:12; 3 John 1:4

Philemon 1:21 **Parallel theme:** 2 Corinthians 2:3; 7:16; 2 Thessalonians 3:4

Philemon 1:22 **Prayer:** 2 Corinthians 1:11; Philippians 1:19; James 5:16. **Faith:** Philippians 2:24; 2 John 1:12. **Parallel theme:** Acts 28:23

Philemon 1:23 **References Christ:** Romans 16:7; Colossians 1:7; 4:12

Philemon 1:24 **Parallel theme:** Acts 12:12; 12:25; 19:29; 27:2; Colossians 4:10; 4:14

Philemon 1:25 **Grace:** Romans 16:20; Galatians 6:18; 2 Timothy 4:22. **Parallel theme:** Romans 16:23

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