

"Colossians & Philemon"

~ Philemon 1:1-6 ~

"Fellowship of Faith!"



Philemon

¹ Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, To Philemon our dear friend and fellow worker— ² also to Apphia our sister and Archippus our fellow soldier—and to the church that meets in your home:

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

⁴ I always thank my God as I remember you in my prayers, ⁵ because I hear about your love for all his holy people and your faith in the Lord Jesus.



Read by: Trent Stehr

Philemon

⁶ I pray that your partnership with us in the faith may be effective in deepening your understanding of every good thing we share for the sake of Christ. ⁷ Your love has given me great joy and encouragement, because you, brother, have refreshed the hearts of the Lord's people.

⁸ Therefore, although in Christ I could be bold and order you to do what you ought to do, ⁹ yet I prefer to appeal to you on the basis of love. It is as none other than Paul—an old man and now also a prisoner of Christ Jesus—



Read by: Trent Stehr

Philemon

¹⁰ that I appeal to you for my son Onesimus, who became my son while I was in chains.

¹¹ Formerly he was useless to you, but now he has become useful both to you and to me.

¹² I am sending him—who is my very heart—back to you.

¹³ I would have liked to keep him with me so that he could take your place in helping me while I am in chains for the gospel.

¹⁴ But I did not want to do anything without your consent, so that any favor you do would not seem forced but would be voluntary.



Read by: Trent Stehr

Philemon

¹⁵ Perhaps the reason he was separated from you for a little while was that you might have him back forever— ¹⁶ no longer as a slave, but better than a slave, as a dear brother. He is very dear to me but even dearer to you, both as a fellow man and as a brother in the Lord.

¹⁷ So if you consider me a partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. ¹⁸ If he has done you any wrong or owes you anything, charge it to me. ¹⁹ I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand. I will pay it back—not to mention that you owe me your very self.



Read by: Trent Stehr

Philemon

²⁰ I do wish, brother, that I may have some benefit from you in the Lord; refresh my heart in Christ. ²¹ Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.

²² And one thing more: Prepare a guest room for me, because I hope to be restored to you in answer to your prayers.

²³ Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, sends you greetings. ²⁴ And so do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas and Luke, my fellow workers.

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



Read by: Trent Stehr

Philemon - Philemon

- **Focus:** a “runaway slave.”
- One of the “**Prison Epistles**,” written while a prisoner in Rome. (Others: Ephesians, Philippians, and Colossians).
- Written with Timothy.
- It’s Paul’s shortest letter (only 335 words in the original Greek).
- This letter is his most personal one.
- Application to church life today.

Philemon -

- Addressed to a wealthy Roman citizen (Philemon) living in Colossae.
- Philemon was a believer and a leading elder of the church in Colossae.
- One of his slaves (Onesimus) had “wronged” him, run away, and subsequently crossed paths with Paul.
- Through his encounter with Paul, Onesimus had become a believer and then, become a helper to Paul in his ministry.

Philemon -

- Slavery was prevalent in Roman society.
- It played a foundational role in Roman society and the economy.
- There were many “paths” into slavery including war, crime, birth, and even voluntary servitude.
- In general, slaves were considered valuable property and it made sense to treat them well. But their treatment was depended upon the owner.

Paul intended to send Onesimus back to Philemon as required by Roman law

But...

Slaveowners had the right to punish or even execute runaway slaves!

Thus, Paul’s letter to Philemon with a delicate request:
Welcome Onesimus back as he would welcome Paul, not as a runaway slave but as a brother (v. 17).

Darryl Dash - <https://www.preachingtoday.com/exegesis/philemon/preaching-on-philemon.html>

1 Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,

A “prisoner...”
NOT OF ROME!

Word: desmioj	Word: douloj
Pronounce: des'-mee-oz	Pronounce: doo'-loj
Strong's Number: G1129	Strong's Number: G1401
Orig: from 1199, a captive (a prisoner) G1129	(Orig: from 1199, a slave (literal or figurative, involuntary or voluntary); frequently, therefore in a qualified sense of subjection or subordination); bond (man), servant G1120
Use: 1197-2-4,140 Adjective	Use: 1197-2-4,140 Noun
Heb Strong: H631	Heb Strong: H1211 H1212 H1213
1) bound, in bonds, a captive	1) a slave, bondsman, man of servile condition 2) a slave 3) strength, one who gives himself up to another's will those whose service is used by Christ in extending and advancing his cause among men 4) devoted to another to the disregard of one's own interests 5) a servant, attendant
For Synonyms see entry G1624	

Romans 1:1 -

“Paul, a bondservant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, and set apart for the gospel of God...”

1 Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,

A “prisoner...”

Yet, fully engaged and effective in accomplishing his ministry!

¹ Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,

With Timothy...

In 1 Timothy 1:2, Paul refers to Timothy as...
"my true son in the faith"

For this reason I have sent to you
 Timothy, who is my beloved and faithful
 child in the Lord, and he will remind you
 of my ways which are in Christ just as I
 teach everywhere in every church.

1 Corinthians 4:17

¹ Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy **our brother,**

**A faithful servant and "partner" in
 ministry...**

known to the church...

**and a wonderful example of the path
 Onesimus is now walking!**

¹ Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,

To Philemon **our dear friend and fellow worker—**

Paul opens his letter by calling **Philemon**, "**OUR**":

"dear friend"

"coworker"

"Brother" in the Lord (v7)

¹ Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,

To Philemon **our dear friend and fellow worker—**

² also to **Apphia** our sister and **Archippus*** our fellow
 soldier—

**Their positions are uncertain but it's
 suggested they may be of the same
 household due to the focus of the letter.**

(* Refer to Colossian 4:17)

¹ Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,

To Philemon our dear friend and fellow worker—

² also to Apphia our sister and Archippus our fellow
 soldier—

and to the church that meets in your home:

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

⁶ I pray that your **partnership** with us in the faith may be
 effective in deepening your understanding of every good
 thing we share for the sake of Christ.

Koinonia

Fellowship, sharing, community, participation,
 partnership, contribution, generosity, or communion.

Sharing jointly and equally in the same gift

Koinonia

There is a “fellowship of faith” within
the family of God!

There is a “partnership in ministry”
within the family of God!

“Koinonia” is a gift we are called to
live in fully!



*That they all may be one; even as You,
Father, are in Me and I in You, that they
also may be in Us; that the world may
believe that You have sent Me.
John 17:21*