

Paul's letters are in *large italics*.

The Catholic redaction is **small**.

LETTER TO PHILEMON

1 Paul, prisoner of Christ Jesus, and brother Timothy to Philemon who is dear to us and who is our co-worker, 2 to sister Apphia, to Archippus our companion and to the church which is in your house, 3 grace and peace be to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

4 I continually thank God by remembering you in my prayers, 5 because I have heard of your love and faith in the Lord Jesus and in all his saints ¹, 6 so that the benefits flowed from your faith are manifest ² as a result of the knowledge of all the good done among you in view of Christ.

1. Following Theodoret, it is often translated: "I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and of your charity towards the saints",—The saints are the Christians; see p. 10.

2. I adopt the lesson of the Vulgate which supposes enarghes instead of 4nerghes from our Greek text.

7 I have had great joy and comfort in your love, because the hearts of the saints have been comforted by you, brother. 8 Therefore, although I have complete freedom to command you in Christ what is right, 9 I prefer in the name of charity to address a prayer to you, I Paul, as I am[^] an old man and now a prisoner of Christ Jesus. 10 My prayer to you is for my child,

Onesimus, whom I have begotten in my bonds. 11 He was once useless to you; now it is useful to you and me. I'll send it back to you. 12 Him, that is to say, my bowels. 13 I would have liked to keep him near me so that he could take your place in my service to me who am in chains for the gospel. 14 But I did not want to do anything without your consent, so that your good deed might be accomplished, not by force but of your own free will. 15 Perhaps, indeed, he has stepped aside for a moment so that you may receive him again forever, 16 no longer as a slave, but as one freed from slavery, as a beloved brother, especially to me, but much more of you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

17 If therefore you consider me a friend, receive him as if he were me. 18 If he has done you any wrong or owes you anything, put it on my account. 19 I Paul, I write it with my own hand, I will pay; so as not to say that your person belongs to me. 20 Yea, brother, grant me this favor in the Lord; comfort my bowels in Christ.

21 I wrote to you because I am convinced that I can count on your obedience. I know you will do more than what I say. 22 At the same time prepare a lodging for me, for I hope that through your prayers I will be restored to you. 23 Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ, salutes you, 24 as do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, Luke, my co-workers.

25 May the grace of the Lord Jesus be with your spirit.