

Verse									
1	Παῦλος δέσμιος Χριστοῦ Ἰησοῦ καὶ Τιμόθεος ὁ ἀδελφὸς Φιλήμονι τῷ ἀγαπητῷ καὶ συνεργῷ ἡμῶν								
	Verb	T	V	M	G/P	N	C	Lexical Form	Function
	Translation: Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus and the brother Timothy; to Philemon our beloved and fellow worker								
	Notes In the Letter to Philemon, Paul writes to Philemon, a local leader of the church, whose slave Onesimus has run away. Paul persuades Philemon to consider the eternal relationship of being brothers in Christ above the earthly relationship of master and slave.								
2	καὶ Ἀπφία τῇ ἀδελφῇ καὶ Ἀρχίππῳ τῷ συστρατιώτῃ ἡμῶν καὶ τῇ κατ' οἶκόν σου ἐκκλησίᾳ,								
	Verb	T	V	M	G/P	N	C	Lexical Form	Function
	Translation: and Apphia our sister and Archippus our fellow soldier and the church in your house:								
	Notes Philemon was a wealthy man with slaves and a house big enough for a church to meet in.								
3	χάρις ὑμῖν καὶ εἰρήνη ἀπὸ θεοῦ πατρὸς ἡμῶν καὶ κυρίου Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ.								
	Verb	T	V	M	G/P	N	C	Lexical Form	Function
	Translation: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.								

	Notes								
4	Εὐχαριστῶ τῷ θεῷ μου πάντοτε μνήαν σου ποιούμενος ἐπὶ τῶν προσευχῶν μου,								
	Verb	T	V	M	G/P	N	C	Lexical Form	Function
	Εὐχαριστῶ	Pres	Act	Ind	1	S		εὐχαριστέω	MV
	ποιούμενος	Pres	Mid	Ptcp	Masc	S	Nom	ποιέω	Adv Ptc
	Translation: I give thanks to my God always in making remembrance of you in my prayers								
	Notes								
5	ἀκούων σου τὴν ἀγάπην καὶ τὴν πίστιν, ἣν ἔχεις πρὸς τὸν κύριον Ἰησοῦν καὶ εἰς πάντα τοὺς ἁγίους,								
	Verb	T	V	M	G/P	N	C	Lexical Form	Function
	ἀκούων	Pres	Act	Ptcp	Masc	S	Nom	ἀκούω	Adv Ptc
	ἔχεις	Pres	Act	Ind	2	S		ἔχω	MV
	Translation: as I hear of your love and the faith that you have toward the Lord Jesus and for all the saints,								
	Notes								

6	ὅπως ἡ κοινωνία τῆς πίστεώς σου ἐνεργῆς γένηται ἐν ἐπιγνώσει παντὸς ἀγαθοῦ τοῦ ἐν ἡμῖν εἰς Χριστόν.								
	Verb	T	V	M	G/P	N	C	Lexical Form	Function
	γένηται	Aor	Mid	Subj	3	S		γίνομαι	Purpose
	Translation: so that the fellowship of your faith may become effective for the knowledge of every good that [is] in us for the sake of Christ.								
	Notes								
7	χαρὰν γὰρ πολλὴν ἔσχον καὶ παράκλησιν ἐπὶ τῇ ἀγάπῃ σου, ὅτι τὰ σπλάγχνα τῶν ἁγίων ἀναπέπνυται διὰ σοῦ, ἀδελφέ.								
	Verb	T	V	M	G/P	N	C	Lexical Form	Function
	ἔσχον	Aor	Act	Ind	1	S		ἔχω	MV
	ἀναπέπνυται	Perf	Dep	Ind	3	S		ἀναπαύω	MV
	Translation: For I have much joy and encouragement from your love because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, brother.								
8	Διὸ πολλὴν ἐν Χριστῷ παρρησίαν ἔχων ἐπιτάσσειν σοὶ τὸ ἀνήκον								
	Verb	T	V	M	G/P	N	C	Lexical Form	Function
	ἔχων	Pres	Act	Ptcp	Masc	S	Nom	ἔχω	Adv Ptc
	ἐπιτάσσειν	Pres	Act	Inf				ἐπιτάσσω	Compl
	ἀνήκον	Pres	Act	Ptcp	Neut	S	Acc	ἀνήκω	Adj Ptc
	Translation:								

	Therefore, I have great boldness in Christ to command you [to do] what is proper,							
	Notes							
9	διὰ τὴν ἀγάπην μᾶλλον παρακαλῶ, τοιοῦτος ὢν ὡς Παῦλος πρεσβύτης νυνὶ δὲ καὶ δέσμιος Χριστοῦ Ἰησοῦ·							
	Verb	T	V	M	G/P	N	C	Lexical Form
	παρακαλῶ	Pres	Act	Ind	1	S		παρακαλέω
	ὢν	Pres		Ptcp	Masc	S	Nom	εἰμί
	Translation: [yet] because of love I rather exhort [to you] – as I am such a person as Paul, an old man now and also a prisoner for Christ Jesus –							
10	παρακαλῶ σε περὶ τοῦ ἐμοῦ τέκνου, ὃν ἐγέννησα ἐν τοῖς δεσμοῖς, Ὀνήσιμον,							
	Verb	T	V	M	G/P	N	C	Lexical Form
	παρακαλῶ	Pres	Act	Ind	1	S		παρακαλέω
	ἐγέννησα	Aor	Act	Ind	1	S		γεννάω
	Translation: I exhort you concerning my child whom I fathered in my imprisonment, Onesimus,							
	Notes							
	As an apostle, Paul can choose to command Philemon as a leader of the church. Yet, he decides to exhort Philemon in love instead.							
	παρακαλῶ σε περὶ τοῦ ἐμοῦ τέκνου, ὃν ἐγέννησα ἐν τοῖς δεσμοῖς, Ὀνήσιμον,							
	Verb	T	V	M	G/P	N	C	Lexical Form
	παρακαλῶ	Pres	Act	Ind	1	S		παρακαλέω
	ἐγέννησα	Aor	Act	Ind	1	S		γεννάω
	Translation: I exhort you concerning my child whom I fathered in my imprisonment, Onesimus,							
	Notes							
	Paul describes his relationship with Onesimus as that of father and son. This shows why he is concerned about this case between Philemon and Onesimus. It is a case between a local leader of the church and someone Paul considers a son, who are master and slave in societal terms.							

11	τόν ποτέ σοι ἄχρηστον νυνὶ δὲ [καὶ] σοὶ καὶ ἐμοὶ εὐχρηστον,								
	Verb	T	V	M	G/P	N	C	Lexical Form	Function
	Translation: who previously [was] useless to you but now [is] useful both to you and me,								
	Notes								
12	ὃν ἀνέπεμψά σοι, αὐτόν, τοῦτ' ἔστιν τὰ ἐμὰ σπλάγχνα·								
	Verb	T	V	M	G/P	N	C	Lexical Form	Function
	ἀνέπεμψά	Aor	Act	Ind	1	S		ἀναπέμπω	MV
	ἔστιν	Pres		Ind	3	S		εἰμί	Equative
	Translation: I have sent him back to you, that is, my [very] heart;								
	Notes Paul has now referred Onesimus as his son and his heart. The care he has for Onesimus is astounding.								

13	ὃν ἐγὼ ἐβουλόμην πρὸς ἐμαυτὸν κατέχειν, ἵνα ὑπὲρ σοῦ μοι διακονῇ ἐν τοῖς δεσμοῖς τοῦ εὐαγγελίου,								
	Verb	T	V	M	G/P	N	C	Lexical Form	Function
	ἐβουλόμην	Impf	Mid	Ind	1	S		βούλομαι	MV
	κατέχειν	Pres	Act	Inf				κατέχω	Purpose
	διακονῇ	Pres	Act	Subj	3	S		διακονέω	Purpose
<p>Translation:</p> <p>whom I wanted to keep with me, so that on your behalf he may serve me in my imprisonment for the gospel,</p>									
<p>Notes</p> <p>While Onesimus originally ran away, the situation is different now that Paul says he wants Onesimus to help him in the gospel ministry.</p>									
14	χωρὶς δὲ τῆς σῆς γνώμης οὐδὲν ἠθέλησα ποιῆσαι, ἵνα μὴ ὡς κατὰ ἀνάγκην τὸ ἀγαθόν σου ᾗ ἢ ἀλλὰ κατὰ ἐκούσιον.								
	Verb	T	V	M	G/P	N	C	Lexical Form	Function
	ἠθέλησα	Aor	Act	Ind	1	S		θέλω	MV
	ποιῆσαι	Aor	Act	Inf				ποιέω	Compl
	ἢ	Pres		Subj	3	S		εἰμί	Equative
<p>Translation:</p> <p>but I wanted to do nothing without your consent in order that your goodness would be not by necessity but willingly.</p>									
<p>Notes</p> <p>Paul is inviting Philemon to consent to allow Paul to use Onesimus for the gospel ministry, instead of just commanding him to do so as an apostle. He is wisely navigating the societal relationship between Philemon and Onesimus (master and slave), between Paul and Philemon and Paul and Onesimus (leader of the church and member of the church), and between all three of them (brothers in Christ).</p>									

15	Τάχα γὰρ διὰ τοῦτο ἐχωρίσθη πρὸς ὥραν, ἵνα αἰώνιον αὐτὸν ἀπέχῃς,								
	Verb	T	V	M	G/P	N	C	Lexical Form	Function
	ἐχωρίσθη	Aor	Psv	Ind	3	S		χωρίζω	MV
	ἀπέχῃς	Pres	Act	Subj	2	S		ἀπέχω	Purpose
	Translation: For this perhaps he departed [from you] for a time, so that you may receive him forever,								
	Notes								
16	οὐκέτι ὡς δοῦλον ἀλλ' ὑπὲρ δοῦλον, ἀδελφὸν ἀγαπητόν, μάλιστα ἐμοί, πόσω δὲ μᾶλλον σοὶ καὶ ἐν σαρκὶ καὶ ἐν κυρίῳ.								
	Verb	T	V	M	G/P	N	C	Lexical Form	Function
	Translation: no longer as a slave, but more than a slave, a beloved brother, especially to me, but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.								
	Notes Paul is reminding Philemon that the relationship as brothers in Christ is the one that is for eternity.								
17	εἰ οὖν με ἔχεις κοινωνόν, προσλαβοῦ αὐτὸν ὡς ἐμέ.								
	Verb	T	V	M	G/P	N	C	Lexical Form	Function
	ἔχεις	Pres	Act	Ind	2	S		ἔχω	MV
	προσλαβοῦ	Aor	Mid	Ipv	2	S		προσλαμβάνω	Command
	Translation: Therefore, if you have me as your partner, accept him as [you would] me.								

	Notes								
18	εἰ δέ τι ἠδίκησέν σε ἢ ὀφείλει, τοῦτο ἐμοὶ ἐλλόγα.								
	Verb	T	V	M	G/P	N	C	Lexical Form	Function
	ἠδίκησέν	Aor	Act	Ind	3	S		ἀδικέω	MV
	ὀφείλει	Pres	Act	Ind	3	S		ὀφείλω	MV
	ἐλλόγα	Pres	Act	Ipv	2	S		ἐλλογέω	Command
	Translation: But if he has harmed you at all or is obligated [to you], reckon it to me.								
	Notes Paul is personally vouching for Onesimus, telling Philemon to reckon everything to him and not Onesimus. He is further acting as a father to Onesimus.								
19	ἐγὼ Παῦλος ἔγραψα τῇ ἐμῇ χειρί, ἐγὼ ἀποτίσω· ἵνα μὴ λέγω σοι ὅτι καὶ σεαυτὸν μοι προσοφείλεις.								
	Verb	T	V	M	G/P	N	C	Lexical Form	Function
	ἔγραψα	Aor	Act	Ind	1	S		γράφω	MV
	ἀποτίσω	Fut	Act	Ind	1	S		ἀποτίνω	MV
	λέγω	Pres	Act	Subj	1	S		λέγω	Emph Neg
	προσοφείλεις	Pres	Act	Ind	2	S		προσοφείλω	MV
	Translation: I, Paul, write [this] with my own hand, I will repay; not to say to you that you owe yourself to me as well.								
	Notes Paul promises to account for any difficulties Philemon may have due to Onesimus leaving his household.								

20	ναὶ ἀδελφέ, ἐγὼ σου ὀναίμην ἐν κυρίῳ· ἀνάπαυσόν μου τὰ σπλάγχνα ἐν Χριστῷ.								
	Verb	T	V	M	G/P	N	C	Lexical Form	Function
	ὀναίμην	Aor	Mid	Opt	1	S		ὀνίνημι	Optative
	ἀνάπαυσόν	Aor	Act	Ipv	2	S		ἀναπαύω	Command
	Translation: Yes, brother, let me benefit from you in the Lord; refresh my heart in Christ.								
	Notes It is astonishing how personal Paul gets in his request in this letter.								
21	Πεποιθὼς τῇ ὑπακοῇ σου ἔγραψά σοι, εἰδὼς ὅτι καὶ ὑπὲρ ᾧ λέγω ποιήσεις.								
	Verb	T	V	M	G/P	N	C	Lexical Form	Function
	Πεποιθὼς	Perf	Act	Ptcp	Masc	S	Nom	πείθω	Adj Ptc
	ἔγραψά	Aor	Act	Ind	1	S		γράφω	MV
	εἰδὼς	Perf	Act	Ptcp	Masc	S	Nom	οἶδα	Adv Ptc
	λέγω	Pres	Act	Ind	1	S		λέγω	MV
	ποιήσεις	Fut	Act	Ind	2	S		ποιέω	
	Translation: Having confidence in your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than what I say.								
	Notes While an exhortation and not a command, Paul is confident that Philemon understands him and will act accordingly.								

22

ἄμα δὲ καὶ ἐτοίμαζέ μοι ξενίαν· ἐλπίζω γὰρ ὅτι διὰ τῶν προσευχῶν ὑμῶν χαρισθήσομαι ὑμῖν.

Verb	T	V	M	G/P	N	C	Lexical Form	Function
ἐτοίμαζέ	Pres	Act	Ipv	2	S		ἐτοιμάζω	Command
ἐλπίζω	Pres	Act	Ind	1	S		ἐλπίζω	MV
χαρισθήσομαι	Fut	Psv	Ind	1	S		χαρίζομαι	MV

Translation:

At the same time also prepare for me a guest room, for I hope that through your prayers I will be given to you.

Notes

Paul even hopes to stay at Philemon’s house as soon as he is able.

23

Ἀσπάζεται σε Ἐπαφρᾶς ὁ συναιχμάλωτός μου ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ,

Verb	T	V	M	G/P	N	C	Lexical Form	Function
Ἀσπάζεται	Pres	Mid	Ind	3	S		ἀσπάζομαι	MV

Translation:

Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, greets you,

Notes

24

Μᾶρκος, Ἀρίσταρχος, Δημᾶς, Λουκᾶς, οἱ συνεργοί μου.

Verb	T	V	M	G/P	N	C	Lexical Form	Function
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Translation:

[as do] Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, [and] Luke, my fellow-workers.

	Notes								
25	Ἡ χάρις τοῦ κυρίου Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ μετὰ τοῦ πνεύματος ὑμῶν								
	Verb	T	V	M	G/P	N	C	Lexical Form	Function
	Translation: The grace of the lord Jesus Christ [be] with your spirit.								
	Notes Throughout this short letter we see the pastoral heart of Paul towards both Philemon and Onesimus. The relationship of master and slave, especially when both are brothers in Christ, would have been a tricky one to deal with, but Paul shows wisdom and care throughout. Paul recognizes the societal reality of slavery at the time. Instead of giving a particular view on slavery, Paul simply reminds Philemon that he and Onesimus are brothers in Christ and this relationship is the one that will last into eternity. He then personally asks Philemon to consent to him using Onesimus for the gospel ministry, even offering to personally rectify or repay any difficulties or losses that may occur from losing Onesimus. The level of personal care given and how personal Paul becomes in his request is astonishing and shows the pastoral care all ministers of the gospel should strive for when dealing with conflict between brothers in the church.								