

Scripture Work Sheet

Philemon

¹From Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, to Philemon our dear friend and fellow worker, ²to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house. ³May grace and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be yours!

⁴I always thank my God when I mention you in my prayers, ⁵because I keep hearing about your love and the faith that you have toward the Lord Jesus and for all the saints. ⁶I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective as you fully acknowledge every blessing that is ours in Christ. ⁷For I have received considerable joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed, brother, through you.

⁸For this reason, although in Christ I have complete freedom to order you to do what is proper, ⁹I prefer to make my appeal on the basis of love. I, Paul, as an old man and now a prisoner of Christ Jesus, ¹⁰appeal to you on behalf of my child Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. ¹¹Once he was useless to you, but now he is very useful both to you and to me. ¹²I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. ¹³I wanted to keep him with me so that he could serve me in your place during my imprisonment

for the gospel. ¹⁴Yet I did not want to do anything without your consent, so that your good deed might not be something forced, but voluntary. ¹⁵Perhaps this is why he was separated from you for a while, so that you could have him back forever, ¹⁶no longer as a slave but better than a slave—as a dear brother, especially to me, but even more so to you, both as a person and as a believer.

¹⁷So if you consider me a partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. ¹⁸If he has wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge it to my account. ¹⁹I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. (I will not mention to you that you owe me your very life.) ²⁰Yes, brother, I desire this favor from you in the Lord. Refresh my heart in Christ! ²¹Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you because I know that you will do even more than I ask.

²²Meanwhile, prepare a guest room for me, too, for I am hoping through your prayers to be returned to you.

²³Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, sends you greetings, ²⁴as do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke, my fellow workers. ²⁵May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit! Amen.

