

Philemon 1:1-7**Forgiveness**

Short letter **postcard** to Philemon--church in his home in Colossae regarding his runaway slave embezzler Onesimus—had absolute right to kill, mutilate, be fed wild beast, hot iron brand w/ F or FUG fugitive. Paul in prison sent letter to forgive O who is now saved. Rome 1200 mi Colossae

1 Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, to Philemon our beloved brother and fellow worker,

Paul a prisoner **des'-mee-os-a captive, in bonds-Mamertine** prison, dark, dank, rats, vermin yet Paul only sees himself as Christ prisoner for Christ glory & purposes...we not always know why's of predicaments, situations we're in but know we are Christ prisoner for His purposes.

Tim w/ him, not in prison but for support. Philemon a beloved brother--Paul not afraid to show emotion, what's in his heart. Don't wait until death to express what's in your heart then when it's too late wish you had expressed love, emotion, devotion & now live w/ regrets.

Fellow workers for the K of G--a binding together part of our faith. Telling stories of how God worked. Paul in Rome P in Colosseum 1200 mi away

2 and to Apphia our sister, and to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house:

Apphia **endearment** woman of Colossae, sister in Lord (**wife?**) 7 Archippus **master of the horse** called **fellow soldier** He appears twice in NT placed w/in Paul's circle of trusted coworkers & in Colossae. A common Gk name hinting at cavalry leadership responsibilities in Christian ministry—idea of spiritual vigilance & disciplined service. ***Colossians 4:17 Archippus be diligent to fulfill the ministry you have received in the Lord.***”

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Church in the home was core to Christian witness locally in Philemons home. Archippus son of Philemon & Apphia the wife were leaders shepherding flock in the home.

3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 4 I thank my God always, making mention of you in my prayers,

3 Grace **khar'-ece** favor, kindness, blessing, gift given freely & peace **ay-RAY-nay** rest, quietness, to tie together into a whole, when all essential parts are joined together, Gods gift of wholeness--Grace and peace **twin siblings**...I had an aunt Grace lived to 96. Norwegian Minn. Luthern 62% of population. We never had occasion to use term until salvation. Grace **charis** 157 x's a gift given, God's influence upon the heart, unearned favor, free benefit w/o strings attached. What we do w/ it is up to us. God's peace follows w/o ability to understand--His peace residence in our hearts and minds. Calm in storm, quietness, composure, original word to join (God) ***Ps 131:2 Surely I have composed and quieted my soul; Like a weaned child rests against his mother, My soul is like a weaned child within me.***

4 I thank my God always, making mention of you in my prayers, 5 because I hear of your love, and of the faith which you have toward the Lord Jesus, and toward all the saints;

Thankfulness Eucharistō grateful, a divine quality of Christian

character—grateful for Jesus help not ungrateful. Paul: thankful in good times & bad. Why? God is ***the same yesterday today & forever, I am God I change not.*** Thankful tho situations change-Joyful believers are victorious believers.

Paul's *always prayers, making mention*, boat trips, road trips, jail time. Not long prayers but recollection, *remember*, bringing to mind prayers. Charles

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Spurgeon is quoted as saying, "I rarely pray for more than five minutes at a time, but I never go five minutes without praying"

5 Reputation--*I hear*, give audience, reported **Pr 22:1** *A good name is to be more desired than great riches, Favor is better than silver and gold.* **Eccl 7:1** *A good name is better than fine perfume.* **Proverbs 3:3-4** *Let love and faithfulness never leave you-then you will win favor & a good name in the sight of God & man.*

Love agape divine love-what God prefers & *faith pistis* constant reliance on Christ. Genuine Christ-like *agape* the result of faith rooted in relationship w/ Jesus. *God is first cause of all things in beginning God....all else follows*

Saints hagios, holy, sanctuary (*temple HS*), different, otherness, not like natural but like nature w/ Lord. set apart ones, blameless.

6 and I pray that the fellowship of your faith may become effective through the knowledge of every good thing which is in you for Christ's sake.

Paul prays before he requests...*fellowship of faith be effective*...who you believe & what you believe are real? Christian faith is legitimate.

The good that you know & salvation thru Christ that you have, may be effective for His sake & glory---Philemon & church forgiving Onesimus.

7 For I have come to have much joy and comfort in your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, brother.

Praise before petition, not flattery but factual, it is what they are & reputation they have. Paul's joy & comfort in their love. Giving not getting, benevolence not benefit, seeing not receiving...it is evidence of God's life working thru the lives of others which has the greatest joy & comfort in body of Christ. **3Jn 1:4** *I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.*

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Hearts refreshed—always heart-first issue—emotions are all over the place—heart corrects emotions—heart is default... **Mk 12:30 NIV** *Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.'*

Philemon refreshes the hearts of the saints—gives rest not stress, intermission from labor or worry, at ease not anxious

8 Therefore, though I have enough confidence in Christ to order you to do that which is proper, 9 yet for love's sake I rather appeal to you—since I am such a person as Paul, the aged, and now also a prisoner of Christ Jesus—

Because of all this, faith, love, commitment to Christ & church I could tell you what to do and I'm sure you'd do it but that's not me to order my brothers around.

So I appeal out of love, true motivation in Christians life, being who I am and you know me, a follower of Christ & not selfishly giving orders on power trip, but aged, experienced, wi, prisoner under the charge of my captor, Jesus Christ----forgive O, receive him back.