

PHILEMON

61 A.D.

Apphia is thought to be Philemon's wife and Archippus his son. Archippus may have been the pastor of the church of Ephesus, see Col. 4:7.

Verse 9 - Since Paul was called a young man in Acts 7:58 we can assume he was in his thirties. This book was written almost thirty years later so Paul would have been in his sixties.

Verse 10 - Paul introduced Onesimus to Christ when they visited in his prison cell.

Verse 11- note that we serve a God who will give us a second chance. We are never out of the race as long as we keep running. Prov. 24:16

Deut. 23:15-16 says that a slave who has escaped to you is not to be delivered back to his master. Paul was an expert on the Old Testament so we can assume he was aware of this law.

This shows how much Paul trusted Philemon in that he knew Onesimus would be treated as a son and that he wasn't returning him to slavery. Gal. 3:28

Verse 23 - There is no evidence that Epaphras was in prison with Paul. Paul most likely meant that Epaphras (as others) had willingly endured the hardships of prison in order to visit with Paul.

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1. [Paul] From a prisoner [war captive] of **Jesus Christ**, and Timothy [honoring God] our brother, unto Philemon [one who kisses] our dearly beloved, and fellowlabourer, Phil. 1:3-14, Eph. 3:1
2. And to our beloved Apphia [dear one], and Archippus [horse chief] our fellowsoldier, and to the church in thy house:
3. Grace to you, and peace, from **God** our Father and the **Lord Jesus Christ**.
4. I thank my **God**, making mention of thee always in my prayers,
5. Hearing of thy love and faith, which thou hast toward the **Lord Jesus**, and toward all saints;
6. That the communication of thy faith may become effectual [energized] by the acknowledging of every good thing which is in you in **Christ Jesus**.
7. For we have great joy and consolation in thy love, because the bowels [viscera, heart] of the saints are refreshed by thee, brother.
8. Wherefore, though I might be much bold in **Christ** to enjoin thee that which is convenient [befitting],
9. Yet for love's sake I rather beseech thee, being such an one as Paul the aged, and now also a prisoner of **Jesus Christ**.
10. I beseech thee for my son Onesimus, [useful] whom I have begotten in my bonds: Luke 15:17-20
11. Which in time past was to thee unprofitable, [useless] but now profitable [useful] to thee and to me: Matt. 25:30
12. Whom I have sent again: thou therefore receive him, that is, mine own bowels: Mat. 21:28-31
13. Whom I would have retained with me, that in thy stead he might have ministered unto me in the bonds of the gospel: 2 Tim. 1:8
14. But without thy mind would I do nothing; that thy benefit should not be as it were of necessity, but willingly.
15. For perhaps he therefore departed for a season, that thou shouldest receive him for ever;
16. Not now as a servant [slave], but above a servant [slave], a brother beloved, specially to me, but how much more unto thee, both in the flesh, and in the **Lord**?
17. If thou count me therefore a partner, receive him as myself. Gal. 3:28
18. If he hath wronged thee, or oweth thee ought, put [impute] that on mine account;
19. I Paul have written [it] with mine own hand, I will repay it: albeit I do not say to thee how thou owest unto me even thine own self besides. 2 Thess. 3:17
20. Yea, brother, let me have joy of thee in the **Lord**: refresh my bowels in the **Lord**.
21. Having confidence [having come to know you] in thy obedience I wrote unto thee, knowing that thou wilt also do more than I say.
22. But withal prepare me also a lodging: for I trust that through your prayers I shall be given unto you. Col. 4:18
23. There salute thee Epaphras [foam-covered], my fellowprisoner [war captive] in **Christ Jesus**; Col. 1:7, 4:12, Phil. 4:18, 2:25
24. Marcus, [John Mark, defense] Aristarchus [best ruler], Demas [popular], Lucas [light], my fellowlabourers. Acts 20:4, 27:2, Col. 4:9-14, 2 Tim. 4:10-11
25. The grace of our **Lord Jesus Christ** be with your spirit. Amen.

