Open English Translation of the Bible

Paulos's letter to
Filemon

Introduction

Filemon was known to be a follower of Yeshua and he was a member of a group of believers in the city of Kolossai. He was the owner of a slave named Onesimos. Onesimos had fled from his master and eventually met Paulos the missionary in prison in Romai. It was there that Onesimos became a believer in Yeshua because of Paulos's sharing of the good message. Here in *Paulos's letter to Filemon*, Paulos requests that the good relationship be restored between Filemon and his slave, Onesimos. Because Paulos sent Onesimos back to Filemon, he wanted Filemon to take his slave back in, not just because he'd forgiven his slave, but also because his slave was now a fellow believer and hence his brother.

Main components of Paulos's letter

Introduction *1-3*
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Lighter type marks additions. Underscores join parts of a single source word.
Struck words are untranslated. The ◘ sign marks a verse with no text.
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Readers' Version

1:1 This letter is from Paulos, a prisoner **of messiah Yeshua** (Jesus; Grk. Yesus), and our brother Timotheos. I'm writing to our dear co-worker Filemon (Philemon), **2** as well as our sister Apfia and our fellow-soldier Arkippos,[1] and to the assembly that meets in your home. **3** May you all experience grace and peace from our father **God** and from **the master Yeshua** the **messiah**.

Paulos's prayer and gratefulness

4 Filemon (Philemon) , I'm always thanking my **God** and mentioning you in my prayers **5** after hearing your faith and about your love for the **master Yeshua** (Jesus; Grk. Yesus) and for all the believers. **6** I pray that the fellowship of your faith may become active in the knowledge of every good thing in us toward the **messiah**, [WHAT DOES THAT MEAN???] **7** because I was very happy and encouraged by your love, because the hearts of the believers have been refreshed by you, brother.

Paulos's request to Filemon concerning Onesimos

8 Therefore, with the help of **the messiah**, I would be brave enough to tell you what you need to do, **9** but because of love as Paulos, an older man and now also a prisoner for **Yeshua (Jesus; Grk. Yesus) the messiah**, I'm just going to encourage you to do it. **10** So I'm going to encourage you concerning Onesimos[2] who became my spiritual 'son' since I've been imprisoned. **11** Before, he was useless to you, but now he's useful to both of us.

12 I sent him to you (even though in my heart **13** I wanted to keep him here) so that he might be serving me here due to the bonds of the good message, **14** but I didn't want to do anything without hearing your opinion, so that you're not doing good because you have to, but rather because you want to.

15 It was possibly because of that that he was separated from you for a while, so that on the eternal scale you could fully accept him, **16** no longer as a slave, but better than a slave—a dear brother to me most of all, but preferably also to you—a brother in the body and in **Yahweh**.

Literal Version

1:1 Paulos, a_prisoner of_**chosen_one/messiah Ya^{y}sous/(Yəhōshūʻa)**, and Timotheos, our brother, to_Fila^{y}moni, the beloved and fellow-worker of_us, **2** and to_Apfia, the sister, and to_Arḳippos, the fellow-soldier of_us, and to_ _the in the_house of_you assembly: **3** grace to_ _you_all and peace, from **god** father of_us and the_**master Ya^{y}sous chosen_one/messiah**.

4 I_am_giving_thanks to_the **god** of_me always, mentioning of_you making in the prayers of_me, **5** hearing of_you the love and the faith, that you_ _are_having toward the **master Ya^{y}sous**, and toward all the holy ones, **6** so_that the fellowship of_the faith of_you, active may_become in the_ _knowledge of_every good thing ~~which~~ in us toward **chosen_one/messiah**. **7** For/Because joy great I_had and exhortation, by the love of_you, because the hearts of_the holy ones has_been_ _refreshed by you, brother.

8 Therefore, much in **chosen_one/messiah** boldness having, to_be_commanding to_you what is fitting, **9** because_of ~~the~~ love rather I_am_ _exhorting you such being, as Paulos (an_older_ _man and right_now also a_prisoner of_**chosen_ _one/messiah Ya^{y}sous/(Yəhōshūʻa)**), **10** I_am_ _exhorting you for the of_mine child, whom I_ _bore in my bonds, Ona^{y}simos, **11** ~~which~~ once to_ _you useless, but right_now to_you and to_me useful, **12** whom I_sent_up to_you him, this is ~~the~~ my heart, **13** whom I was_wishing with myself to_ _be_keeping, in_order_that for you unto_me he_ _may_be_serving in the bonds of_the good_ _message, **14** but apart_from ~~the~~ your opinion, nothing I_wanted to_do, in_order_that not as according_to necessity the good of_you may_be, but according_to willing. **15** For/Because possibly because_of this, he_was_separated for an_hour, in_order_that eternal him you_may_receive_fully, **16** no_longer as a_slave, but above a_slave, a_ _brother beloved, most_of_all to_me and how_ _much rather to_you, both in the_flesh and in the_**master**. **17** Therefore if me you_are_having a_partner, receive him as me. **18** But if anything he_did_wrong to_you or is_owing you, this to_me be_imputing. **19** I Paulos wrote it ~~the~~ with_my ‹own›_hand, I will_be_paying_back it, in_order_

1 **RV 2 · Cross-ref.** Col 4:17.

2 **RV 10 · Cross-ref.** Col 4:9.

Literal Version

_that not I_may_be_saying to_you that even yourself to_me are_additionally_owing. **20** Yes, brother, I from_you might_benefit in the_**master**, refresh of_me the heart in **chosen_one/messiah**. **21** Having_persuaded by_the obedience of_you, I_ _wrote to_you, having_known that even above what I_am_saying, you_will_be_doing.

22 And together also be_preparing for_me a_ _lodging, because/for I_am_hoping that through the prayers of_you_all, I_will_be_being_granted to_you_all. **23** Is_greeting you Epafras, ~~the~~ fellow-prisoner of_me in **chosen_one/messiah Yaʸsous/(Yəhōshūʻa)**, **24** Markos, Aristarḳos, Daʸmas, Loukas, the fellow-workers of_me. **25** The grace of_the **master** of_us, **Yaʸsous chosen_ _one/messiah**, with the spirit of_you_all be. Truly.

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Readers' Version

17 Therefore, if you consider me as your partner, accept him like you'd accept me, **18** but if he did anything wrong to you or owes you anything, charge it to me. **19** I, Paulos, wrote this bit in my own handwriting. I will pay back anything he owes you, then I won't need to be reminding you that you pretty much owe yourself to me. **20** Yes, brother, with both of us being in **Yahweh**, I might hopefully benefit from you—refresh my heart in the **messiah**.

21 I wrote to you because I was sure that you'd obey my request, in fact knowing that you'd do even more than what I ask.

Paulos's final greetings

22 Go ahead and prepare somewhere for me to stay, because I'm hoping that I'll be able to visit, thanks to you all praying for me. **23** Epafras (Epaphras),[3] my fellow prisoner in **Yeshua** (Jesus; Grk. Yesus) **the messiah**, sends his greetings, **24** as do my fellow-workers Markos,[4] Aristarkos,[5] Demas,[6] and Lukas (Luke).[7]

25 May the grace of our **master Yeshua the messiah** be with the spirit of you all there. May it be so.

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3 RV 23 · Cross-ref. Col 1:7; 4:12.

4 RV 24 · Cross-ref. Acts 12:12,25; 13:13; 15:37-39; Col 4:10.

5 RV 24 · Cross-ref. Acts 19:29; 27:2; Col 4:10.

6 RV 24 · Cross-ref. Col 4:14; 2Tim 4:10.

7 RV 24 · Cross-ref. Col 4:14; 2Tim 4:11.