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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*
Praising Filemon *4-7*
Paulos's request to Filemon concerning Onesimos *8-22*
Ending *23-25*

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**.

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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1 **RV 2 · Cross-ref.** Col 4:17.

2 **RV 10 · Cross-ref.** Col 4:9.

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.