

Short Letters of the New Testament

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Philemon

Colossians 4

[7] As to all my affairs, Tychicus, our beloved brother and faithful servant and fellow bond-servant in the Lord, will bring you information.

Colossians 4

[9] and with him Onesimus, our faithful and beloved brother, who is one of your number. They will inform you about the whole situation here.

Colossians 4

[10] Aristarchus, my fellow prisoner, sends you his greetings; and also Barnabas's cousin Mark (about whom you received instructions; if he comes to you, welcome him);

Colossians 4

[17] Say to Archippus, “Take heed to the ministry which you have received in the Lord, that you may fulfill it.”

Philemon 1-7

**[1] Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus,
and Timothy our brother,**

**To Philemon our beloved brother
and fellow worker,**

Philemon 1-7

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

[3] Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Philemon 1-7

[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;

Philemon 1-7

[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.

Philemon 1-7

[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.

Philemon 8-20

[8] Therefore, though I have enough confidence in Christ to order you to do what is proper,

Philemon 8-20

[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—

Philemon 8-20

[10] I appeal to you for my child Onesimus, whom I have begotten in my imprisonment,

[11] who formerly was useless to you, but now is useful both to you and to me.

Philemon 8-20

[12] I have sent him back to you in person, that is, sending my very heart,

[13] whom I wished to keep with me, so that on your behalf he might minister to me in my imprisonment for the gospel;

Philemon 8-20

[14] but without your consent I did not want to do anything, so that your goodness would not be, in effect, by compulsion but of your own free will.

Philemon 8-20

[15] For perhaps he was for this reason separated from you for a while, that you would have him back forever,

Philemon 8-20

[16] no longer as a slave, but more than a slave, a beloved brother, especially to me, but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

The Story of Philemon

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➤ Onesimus had run away, and then had become a Christian.

The Story of Philemon

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➤ Paul wants Philemon to let Onesimus work with Paul.

Philemon 8-20

[17] If then you regard me a partner, accept him as you would me.

[18] But if he has wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge that to my account;

Philemon 8-20

[19] I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand, I will repay it (not to mention to you that you owe to me even your own self as well).

Philemon 8-20

[20] Yes, brother, let me benefit from you in the Lord; refresh my heart in Christ.

Philemon 21-25

[21] Having confidence in your obedience, I write to you, since I know that you will do even more than what I say.

Philemon 21-25

[22] At the same time also
prepare me a lodging, for I hope
that through your prayers
I will be given to you.

Philemon 21-25

[23] Epaphras, my fellow prisoner
in Christ Jesus, greets you,

[24] as do Mark, Aristarchus,
Demas, Luke, my fellow workers.

Philemon 21-25

[25] The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

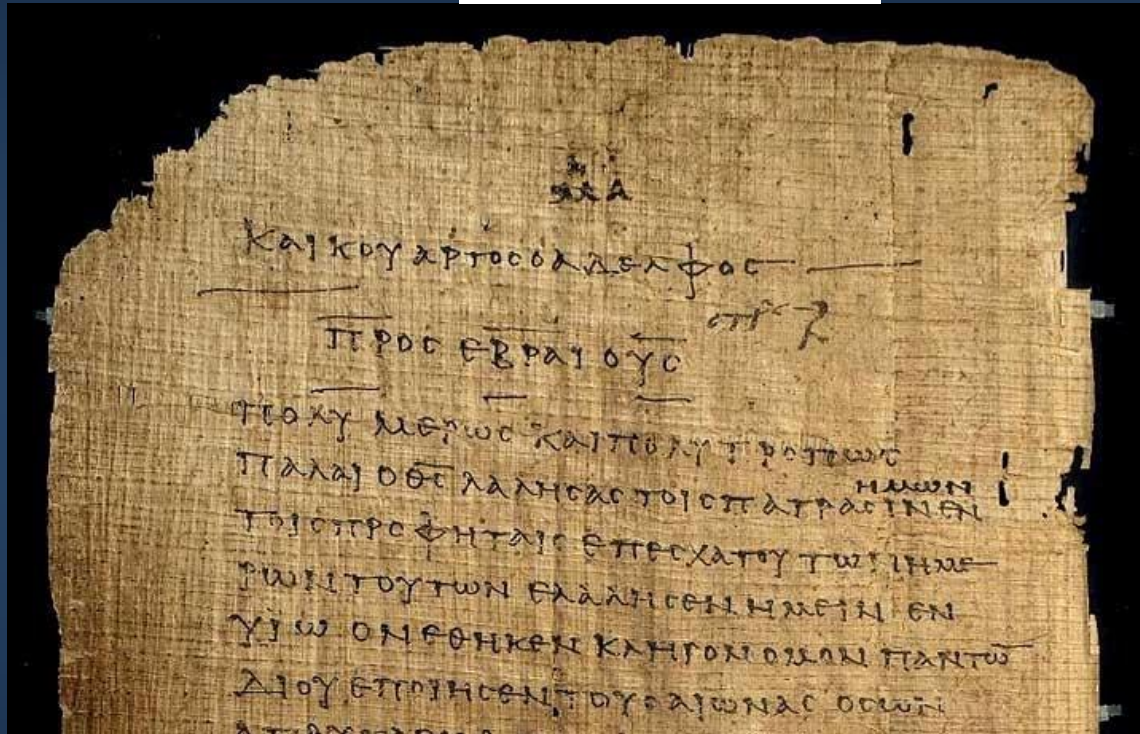
Impressions from Reading Philemon



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1) What about the Bible and slavery?

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➤ Remember: the Roman and American systems were different.

1 Timothy 1:9-11

9 understanding this, that the law is not laid down for the just but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who strike their fathers and mothers, for murderers,

1 Timothy 1:9-11

10 the sexually immoral, men who practice homosexuality, enslavers, liars, perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine,
[11] according to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, with which I have been entrusted.

Job 31:13-14

**[13] “If I have despised the claim of
my male or female slaves**

**When they filed a complaint
against me,**

**[14] What then could I do when God
arises?**

**And when He calls me to account,
what will I answer Him?**

Colossians 4:1

[1] Masters, grant to your slaves justice and fairness, knowing that you too have a Master in heaven.

Ephesians 6:9

[9] And masters, do the same things to them, and give up threatening, knowing that both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him.

2) It is amazing to see God's providence.

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Philemon 15-16

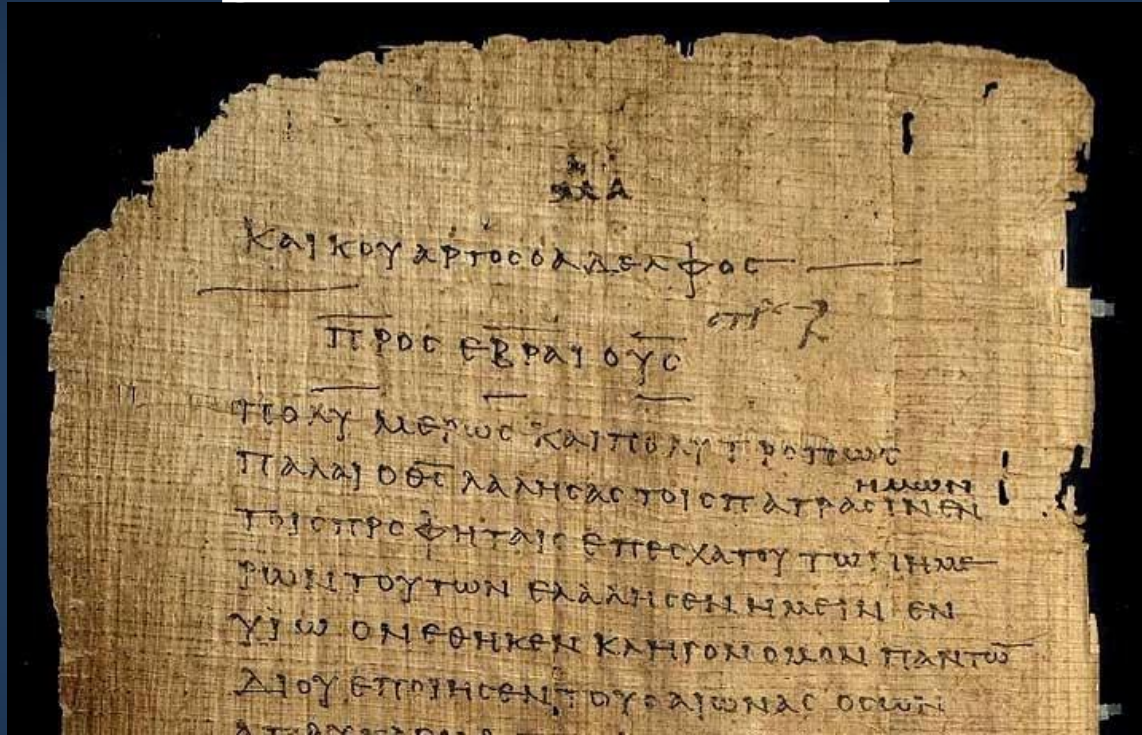
[15] For perhaps he was for this reason separated from you for a while, that you would have him back forever,

Philemon 15-16

[16] no longer as a slave, but more than a slave, a beloved brother, especially to me, but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

2) It is amazing to see God's providence.

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- There is always the “perhaps” side, but a joy to see God work!

3) Christian fellowship is special.

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Philemon 10

[10] I appeal to you for my child
Onesimus, whom I have begotten
in my imprisonment,

Philemon 16

[16] no longer as a slave, but more than a slave, a beloved brother, especially to me, but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

Philemon 23-24

[23] Epaphras, my fellow prisoner
in Christ Jesus, greets you,

[24] as do Mark, Aristarchus,
Demas, Luke, my fellow workers.

A Final Encouragement

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Philemon 4-7

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A Final Encouragement

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➤ Let's make each other better!