

# The Holy New Covenant

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## A Letter to Philemon

<sup>01</sup> From Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and from Timothy, our brother. To: Philemon, our co-worker (you to whom we give ourselves, for your good, expecting nothing in return); <sup>02</sup> also the group that meets in your home; Apphia, our sister; and Archippus, our co-soldier. <sup>03</sup> May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you help in time of need and peace.

<sup>04</sup> I always thank my God for you. I always remember you in my prayers. <sup>05</sup> I hear about your faith in the Lord Jesus and for your giving of yourself to all of the saints, for their good, expecting nothing in return. <sup>06</sup> I pray that you will actively share your faith with a real understanding of every good thing, which we have in Christ.

<sup>07</sup> I feel very happy and encouraged because of your giving to others, for their good, expecting nothing in return. Brother, you have lifted up the hearts of the saints. <sup>08</sup> And so, in Christ, I have plenty of freedom to order you to do what you should do. <sup>09</sup> But because of giving myself to you, expecting nothing in return, I would rather encourage. I, Paul, am an old man and also now a prisoner of Christ Jesus.

<sup>10</sup> I appeal to you for my child, Onesimus. He became my child while I was in prison. <sup>11</sup> Before this, he was not useful to you but now he is useful to you and me. <sup>12</sup> I send him — my very heart — back to you. <sup>13</sup> I was wanting to keep him for myself. While in prison for the Good News, he could have helped me as your servant. <sup>14</sup> But I did not want to do anything unless you knew about it. Then your goodness would not be forced. It would be because you really wanted to do it.

<sup>15</sup> Perhaps this is why Onesimus was separated from you for a while. Now you can have him back forever. <sup>16</sup> Onesimus is not really a slave anymore. No, he is more than a slave; he is a brother — to whom we give ourselves — especially a brother to me. But this is even truer for you, both as a man and as a brother in the Lord.

<sup>17</sup> If you think of me as your partner in the Faith, accept Onesimus as you would accept me. <sup>18</sup> If he did anything wrong toward you or if he owes you money, put that on my bill. <sup>19</sup> I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: "I will pay you back." (I won't mention that you owe me your very life.)

<sup>20</sup> Yes, brother, I hope in the Lord that you will lift up my heart in Christ.

<sup>21</sup> As I write this letter, I'm sure you will obey. I know that you will do even more than I am asking for.

<sup>22</sup> Oh yes, prepare a guest room for me. I hope to be given back to you because you are praying for this.

<sup>23</sup> Epaphras, my cellmate in Christ Jesus, sends greetings to you. <sup>24</sup> My co-workers — Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke — send you their greetings too.

<sup>25</sup> May the help in time of need of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

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