

The Epistle of the Apostle Paul  
to Philemon Chapter 1:13-25  
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In verses 13 through 25 the apostle Paul is making an appeal to Philemon to receive Onesimus back as a brother in Christ, and a helper for the Kingdom of God here on earth. Paul provides in these verses the basis for receiving Onesimus back as a brother, and a personal commitment that Paul is requesting from Philemon.

**Verse 13** – Paul informs Philemon that although he is sending Onesimus back to him, however he is not the same individual that wronged him and departed from him some time before. Paul states that he would have liked to have retained Onesimus with him, to help him in his ministry, since Philemon is not there to help him and especially since he is incarcerated in a Roman jail cell.

**Verse 14** – Paul tells Philemon that he would not keep Onesimus with him without his consent, because if he were to receive benefits from the services of Onesimus it should be with Philemon's agreement.

**Verse 15** – Paul tells Philemon that maybe God allowed Onesimus to depart for a season, so that he could return for a longer more profitable season as his brother in Christ.

**Verse 16** – Paul restates to Philemon again that Onesimus return back to him is not as a servant but rather higher than a servant, a beloved brother in the faith of Jesus Christ, as he is also to Paul.

**Verse 17** – Paul states to Philemon that if he considered him as a co-laborer for the work of the Lord, then also receive Onesimus as if he were receiving him.

**Verse 18** – Paul tells Philemon that if Onesimus had committed a crime toward him, or owed him anything, then charge it to him.

**Verse 19** - As a follow on to the prior verse Paul states to Philemon that he has written this letter to him in his own handwriting, and that he will honor his promise to repay Onesimus' debt. Paul states to Philemon that although he did not say what the debt was, however, he himself owed a debt to Paul of his own self.

**Verse 20** – Paul states to Philemon, my brother I am looking for spiritual fruit from you in the Lord! Rejuvenate my heart, and let me feel the joy of the Lord.

**Verse 21** – Paul tells Philemon that he is writing this letter with the confidence that he will go beyond what he has requested in this letter.

**Verse 22** - Paul encourages Philemon to still prepare a place for him to lodge, for he has faith that through his prayers, he will be able to visit him and the other believers.

**Verse 23** – Paul writes that his fellow laborer in the work of the Lord, and a co-prisoner in the Roman jail, Epaphras sends his greetings as well.

**Verse 24** – Marcus, Aristarchus, Demas, and Lucas my fellow laborers send their greeting, to you and the other believers in Colossae as well.

**Verse 25** – May the undeserved favor of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen