PHILEMON

1. **Paul, a bound-one of Christ Jesus** (or: a prisoner pertaining to, because of and belonging to Christ Jesus), **and Timothy, the brother, to Philemon, the loved one, and our fellow worker,**
2. **and to Apphia, the sister, and to Archippus, our fellow soldier, and to the called-out community which corresponds to** (or: down in; at) **your house:**

3. **Grace** (the influence and boon of undeserved favor, kindness, joy and goodwill) **and peace** (or: harmony; [= shalom]) **from God, our Father and Lord: Jesus Christ** (or: from our Father God, and [the] Owner, Jesus [the] Anointed One [= Messiah]).

4. **I always and progressively give thanks to** (or: for) **my God** (or: experience gratitude in my God; express the ease of grace in my God; experience the happy fortune of abundant grace in my God; observe my God's competent and prosperous grace), **repeatedly forming a recollection** (or: habitually making mention) **of you upon my prayers,**
5. **constantly hearing of your love and faith** (or: of the love and the trust which is associated with you [and]) **which you are continuously holding** (or: having) **toward** [other MSS: {projected} into] **the Lord Jesus and unto all the set-apart folks,**
6. **so that the common sharing, partnership, fellowship and participation of your faith can come to be** (or: may birth itself) **inwardly operative** (active, energized and effective) **within a full and accurate intimate and experiential knowledge and insight of every good thing** (or: of all virtue) **– of that within us** [other MSS: you] **[directed and leading] into Christ** (or: into the midst of [the] Anointing)**!**
7. **For I have much joy and comfort** (relief; consolation; encouragement – the provision from a paraclete), **based upon your love, because the compassions** (tender affections; inward parts; intestines) **of the set-apart people** (the saints; the holy ones) **have been soothed and refreshed** (caused to rest again), **through you, brother** (= my fellow believer)

8. **– through which, continuing in having much boldness and freedom of speech inherent in citizenship within Christ to be repeatedly setting-on and fully arranging the thing** (or: the situation) **for you to be habitually coming back up to** (= laying out what is proper and fitting behavior for you),
9. **because of the love, I am rather continually calling [you] alongside to comfort, aid and encourage [you], being such a one as Paul, an old man, yet now also a bound-one** (or: prisoner) **of Christ Jesus –**

10. **I am calling you aside to encourage you about my child** (born-one), **whom I, myself, gave birth to within my bonds: Onesimus** (means: Useful),

11. **the one once useless** (unprofitable) **to** (and: for) **you, yet now abundantly and easily useful and profitable to and for you as well as to and for me,**
12. **him whom I sent back again to you – this person exists being my inward parts** (tender affections and compassions; intestines; = he is a part of my very heart) **– you, yourself, reach toward, take in your arms, and receive hospitably;**
13. **[he] whom I, myself, had been intending** (or: would have liked) **to continue holding down** (to continue retaining) **to myself, so that over you** (or: on your behalf) **he could continue giving service to me, within the bonds of the message of goodness** (the ideal message of ease; the happy, beautiful and prospering tidings).
14. **Yet, apart from your opinion** (consent; the effect of your intimate, experiential knowledge), **I purposed to do nothing, to the end that your goodness** (virtue) **may and would not be as accords with necessity** (or: as along the lines of compulsion or the force of compression; thus: obligation), **but to the contrary, corresponding to what is from out of your being** (on the level of being spontaneous and voluntary).
15. **For perhaps** (possibly) **on account of this he was separated** (parted; dissociated; euphemism: = ran away) **for an hour** (= for a brief time), **to the end that you could** (may; would) **for a lifetime** (age-lastingly; in the character of the Age) **fully have him** (or: continue receiving full benefits from holding him) **–**
16. **no longer as a slave, but in contrast, above** (over; = more than) **a slave: a dearly loved brother** (= fellow believer; = member of [His] family), **most of all** (especially) **by and to me, yet how much rather by and to you, both in [the] flesh** (= in person; = in the natural realm) **as well as within [the] Lord** [= in Christ or Yahweh]**!**

17. **Since** (or: If), **then, you continue holding** (having) **me a partner** (a fellow participant; a sharer; one equally belonging and in communion), **reach toward and receive him in your arms** (= take him as a partner), **as [you would]** (or: like) **me.**
18. **Now if he did you any wrong** (anything contrary to the Way pointed out; anything unfair or inequitable) **or continues indebted, charge this account to me.**
19. **I, Paul, write this** (= spell this out) **myself – with my own hand. I, myself, will pay it off.**

This is not to say that I am presently saying to you that you continue owing toward me even yourself!
20. **Yes, brother** (= fellow believer), **I, myself, might derive advantage** (receive benefit or profit; enjoy help, support and delight) **of you** (from you as a source) **– in [the] Lord! Soothe and refresh** (cause to rest again) **my tender affections** (inward parts; compassions; intestines) **within Christ** (in union with the Anointed One).

21. **Having confidence** (Having come to a settled persuasion) **in your submissive hearing, paying attention and obedience, I write to you – having seen and thus knowing that you will do even above** (over; = more than) **the things which I now am saying.**
22. **Now, at the same time, also proceed to prepare and set in readiness a guest quarter** (or: lodging) **for me, for I am increasingly expecting that through the projected thoughts and words with a view to things going well** (or: prayers) **from you folks I will in favor be graciously given to you people.**

23. **Epaphras, my fellow captive within Christ Jesus, continues embracing and greeting you,**
24. **[also] Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, [and] Luke, my fellow workers.**
25. **The grace** (the influence and boon of ill-deserved favor, kindness, joy and goodwill) **of our Lord** (Owner), **Jesus Christ** (or: Jesus [the] Anointed One [= Messiah]) **[is] with the spirit** (or: breath) **of you folks. It is so** (Count on it; Amen)**!**

[written circa A.D. 58 – Based on the critical analysis of John A.T. Robinson]