



Paul Pleas for Onesimus: “Therefore, although in Christ I could be bold and order you to do what you ought to do, yet I prefer to appeal to you on the basis of love. It is as none other than Paul—an old man and now also a prisoner of Christ Jesus—that I appeal to you for my son Onesimus, who became my son while I was in chains. Formerly he was useless to you, but now he has become useful both to you and to me.

I am sending him—who is my very heart—back to you. I would have liked to keep him with me so that he could take your place in helping me while I’m in chains for the gospel. But I didn’t want to do anything without your consent, so that any favor you do would not seem forced but would be voluntary. Perhaps the reason he was separated from you for a little while was that you might have him back forever—no longer as a slave, but better than a slave, as a dear brother. He is very dear to me but even dearer to you, both as a fellow man and as a brother in the Lord.

So if you consider me a partner, welcome him would welcome me. If he has done you any wrong or owes you anything, charge it to me. I, Paul, am writin this with my own hand. I will pay it back—not to mention that you owe me your very self.”
(Philemon 1:8-19)

Final Blessing and Closing: “I do wish, brother, that I may have some benefit from you in the Lord; refresh my heart in Christ. Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.

And one thing more:
me, because I hope to be restored to you in answer to your prayers.” (Philemon 1:20-22)

Paul finishes the letter with a note about an upcoming visit. He blesses Philemon and expects Philemon to bless Onesimus.