

ENHANCED PARTICIPATION IN THE FAITH: Part 1

Philemon 1:1-7 Dr. John Niemelä

Water of Life

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Introduction

1. Paul Greet Philemon: Our Introduction to the Book (Philemon 1:1–2)

Author: Paul (P 1:1; C 1:1) [P = Philemon; C = Colossians]

Date of writing: Fall of 61 (Paul has been imprisoned one and a half years in Rome)

Place of writing: Rome [During Paul's first Roman imprisonment (Feb. 60–Mar. 62)]

Paul's companions: Timothy (P 1:1; C 1:1)
Epaphras, a native of Colossae imprisoned w/ Paul (P 1:24; C 4:12)
Mark, who in Pamphylia left Paul [per Acts 13:13] (P 1:24; C 4:10)
Aristarchus, Paul's cellmate (P 1:24; C 4:12)
Demas who later forsook Paul [2 Tim 4:10] (P 1:24; C 4:14)
Luke, a fellow worker of Paul (P 1:24; C 4:14)

Those sent by Paul: Tychicus, Paul's mailman [Ephesians 6:21; C 4:7]
Onesimus, a slave who accompanied Tychicus (P 1:10–12; C 4:7–9)

Main recipient: Philemon, in whose home the Colossian church meets (P 1:1)

Other recipients: Apphia who probably was Philemon's wife (P 1:1)
Archippus, fellow worker [likely = Philemon's son] (P 1:1; C 4:17)

Destination City: Colossae (Archippus & Onesimus linked in Philemon & Colossians)
Note: Paul had not been in the Colossian church: Col 2:1

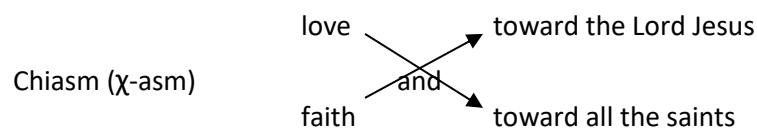
Message of 1:1-2: Paul wishes grace + peace from the Father & Christ to household of a beloved fellow-worker, Philemon, + his [Colossian] house church.

2. Prayer for Greater Recognition of Christ's Work in Phil. to Increase His Faithfulness (1:4–7)

A. Paul thanks God [for Philemon] by continuing to mention him in prayer (1:4)

The last time Paul was within 100 miles of Colossae was in May of 56

B. [Paul continues praying thankfully for his friend Philemon] because he has heard about Philemon's love for all saints and his faith in Christ (1:5)



Paul has heard about his continued faith, not his initial faith (he already knows that).

C. [The object of Paul's thankful prayers for his loving and faithful friend is] that greater recognition of Christ's work in Philemon would greatly activate Philemon (1:6)

What does sharing of your faith mean?

The word sharing is *koinōnia*. It refers to a participation of some type:

Rom 15:26 For it pleased those from Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain contribution for the poor among the saints who are in Jerusalem.

1 Cor 1:9 God is faithful, by whom you were called into the *fellowship* of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

1 Cor 10:16 The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the *communion* of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the *communion* of the body of Christ?

2 Cor 6:14 Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what *fellowship* has righteousness with lawlessness? And what *communion* has light with darkness?

2 Cor 8:4 imploring us with much urgency that we would receive the gift and the *fellowship* of the ministering to the saints.

2 Cor 9:13 while, through the proof of this ministry, they glorify God for the obedience of your confession to the gospel of Christ, and for your liberal *sharing* with them and all men

2 Cor 13:14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the *communion* of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.

Gal 2:9 and when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that had been given to me, they gave me and Barnabas the right hand of *fellowship*, that we should go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised.

Philippians 1:5 for your *fellowship* in the gospel from the first day until now,

Philippians 2:1 Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any *fellowship* of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy

Philippians 3:10 that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the *fellowship* of His sufferings, being conformed to His death

Meaning of: Every good thing which is in us in Christ Jesus

D. [Paul thankfully prays for his loving and faithful friend to gain a greater recognition of Christ's work in himself to greatly activate him] because **he is thankful that Philemon already refreshes believers (1:7)**

Paul's desire for Philemon to be activated by acknowledging what God has done in him is not a rebuke. It is a call to greater Christlikeness.

Conclusion