

us that Holy Spirit fully through Jesus Christ our Savior. ⁷We were made right with God by his grace.* God saved us so that we could be his children and look forward to receiving life that never ends. ⁸This is a true statement.

And I want you to be sure that the people understand these things. Then those who believe in God will be careful to use their lives for doing good. These things are good and will help everyone.

⁹Stay away from those who have foolish arguments, who talk about useless family histories, or who make trouble and fight about what the Law of Moses teaches. These things are useless and will not help anyone. ¹⁰Give a warning to all those who cause arguments. If they continue to cause trouble after a second warning, then don't associate with them.

¹¹You know that people like that are evil and sinful. Their sins prove they are wrong.

Final Instructions and Greetings

¹²I will send Artemas and Tychicus to you. When I send them, try hard to come to me at Nicopolis. I have decided to stay there this winter. ¹³Zenas the lawyer and Apollos will be traveling from there. Do all that you can to help them prepare for their trip. Be sure that they have everything they need. ¹⁴Our people must learn to use their lives for doing good and helping anyone who has a need. Then they will not have empty lives.

¹⁵All the people with me here send you their greetings. Give my greetings to those who love us in the faith.

Grace* be with you all.

Philemon

¹Greetings from Paul, a prisoner for Jesus Christ, and from Timothy, our brother.

To Philemon, our dear friend and worker with us. ²Also to our sister Apphia, to Archippus, who serves with us in the Lord's army, and to the church* that meets in your home.

³Grace* and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Philemon's Love and Faith

⁴I remember you in my prayers. And I always thank my God for you. ⁵I thank God because I hear about the love you have for all of God's holy people* and the faith you have in the Lord Jesus. ⁶I pray that the faith you share will make you understand every blessing we have in Christ. ⁷My brother, you have shown love to God's people, and your help has greatly encouraged them. What a great joy and encouragement that has been to me.

Accept Onesimus as a Brother

⁸There is something that you should do. And because of the authority I have in Christ, I feel free to command you to do it. ⁹But I am not commanding you; I am asking you to do it out of love. I, Paul, am an old man now, and I am a prisoner for Christ Jesus. ¹⁰I am asking you for my son Onesimus. He became my son while I was in prison. ¹¹In the past he was useless to you. But now he has become useful^a for both you and me.

¹²I am sending him back to you, but it's as

hard as losing part of myself. ¹³I would like to keep him here to help me while I am still in prison for telling the Good News.* By helping me here, he would be representing you. ¹⁴But I did not want to do anything without asking you first. Then whatever you do for me will be what you want to do, not what I forced you to do.

¹⁵Onesimus was separated from you for a short time. Maybe that happened so that you could have him back forever, ¹⁶not to be just a slave, but better than a slave, to be a dear brother. That's what he is to me. And I know he will mean even more to you, both as your slave and as one who shares your faith in the Lord.

¹⁷If you accept me as your friend, then accept Onesimus back. Welcome him like you would welcome me. ¹⁸If he has done any wrong to you or owes you anything, charge that to me. ¹⁹I, Paul, am writing this in my own handwriting: I will pay back anything Onesimus owes. And I will say nothing about what you owe me for your own life. ²⁰So, my brother, as a follower of the Lord please do this favor^b for me. It would be such a great encouragement to me as your brother in Christ. ²¹I write this letter knowing that you will do what I ask, and even more than I ask.

²²Also, please prepare a room for me. I hope that God will answer your prayers and that I will be able to come and see you.

^b*20 please do this favor* Paul here makes another wordplay on the name Onesimus, using a verb related to it.

^a*11 useless... useful* Paul here makes a play on words with the name Onesimus, which means "useful."

Final Greetings

²³Epaphras is a prisoner with me for Christ Jesus. He sends you his greetings. ²⁴Also Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke send

their greetings. They are workers together with me.

²⁵The grace* of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

Hebrews

God Has Spoken Through His Son

1 ¹In the past God spoke to our people through the prophets.* He spoke to them many times and in many different ways. ²And now in these last days, God has spoken to us again through his Son. He made the whole world through his Son. And he has chosen his Son to have all things. ³The Son shows the glory* of God. He is a perfect copy of God's nature, and he holds everything together by his powerful command. The Son made people clean from their sins. Then he sat down at the right side^a of God, the Great One in heaven. ⁴The Son became much greater than the angels, and God gave him a name that is much greater than any of their names.

⁵God never said this to any of the angels:

“You are my Son.
Today I have become your Father.”

Psalms 2:7

God also never said about an angel,

“I will be his Father,
and he will be my son.” *2 Samuel 7:14*

⁶And then, when God sent his firstborn* Son into the world, he said,

“Let all God's angels worship the Son.”^b

⁷This is what God said about the angels:

“He changes his angels into winds^c
and his servants into flaming fire.”
Psalms 104:4

⁸But this is what he said about his Son:

“God your kingdom will last forever and
ever.
You use your authority for justice.

^a**1:3 right side** The place of honor and authority (power).

^b**1:6 “Let... Son”** These words are found in Deut. 32:43 in the ancient Greek version and in a Hebrew scroll from Qumran.

^c**1:7 winds** This can also mean “spirits.”

⁹ You love what is right and hate what is wrong.

So God, your God, has chosen you,
giving you more honor and joy than
anyone like you.” *Psalms 45:6-7*

¹⁰God also said,

“O Lord, in the beginning you made the
earth,
and your hands made the sky.

¹¹ These things will disappear, but you will
stay.

They will all wear out like old clothes.

¹² You will fold them up like a coat,
and they will be changed like clothes.

But you never change,
and your life will never end.”

Psalms 102:25-27

¹³And God never said this to an angel:

“Sit at my right side
until I put your enemies under your
power.”^d *Psalms 110:1*

¹⁴All the angels are spirits who serve God and are sent to help those who will receive salvation.

Our Salvation Is Greater Than the Law

2 ¹So we must be more careful to follow what we were taught. We must be careful so that we will not be pulled away from the true way. ²The teaching that God spoke through angels was shown to be true. And every time his people did something against that teaching, they were punished for what they did. They were punished when they did not obey that teaching. ³So surely we also will be punished if we don't pay attention to the salvation we have that is so great. It was the Lord Jesus who first told people about it. And those who heard him proved to us that it is true. ⁴God also proved it by using miraculous signs,* wonders,* and all kinds of miracles.* And he proved it by giving people various

^d**1:13 until I put... power** Literally, “until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.”

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Last Updated: September 21, 2006

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