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*** START OF THE PROJECT GUTENBERG EBOOK, Weymouth New Testament in Modern Speech, Philemon ***

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Book 57 Philemon

001:001 Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother:

To Philemon our dearly-loved fellow labourer--

001:002 and to our sister Apphia and our comrade Archippus--
as well as to the Church in your house.

001:003 May grace be granted to you all, and peace, from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ.

001:004 I give continual thanks to my God while making mention of you,
my brother, in my prayers,

001:005 because I hear of your love and of the faith which you
have towards the Lord Jesus and which you manifest towards
all God's people;

001:006 praying as I do, that their participation in your faith may
result in others fully recognizing all the right affection
that is in us toward Christ.

001:007 For I have found great joy and comfort in your love,
because the hearts of God's people have been, and are,
refreshed through you, my brother.

001:008 Therefore, though I might with Christ's authority speak
very freely and order you to do what is fitting,

001:009 it is for love's sake that--instead of that--although I am
none other than Paul the aged, and am now also a prisoner
for Christ Jesus,

001:010 I entreat you on behalf of my own child whose father I have
become while in my chains--I mean Onesimus.

001:011 Formerly he was useless to you, but now--true to his name--
he is of great use to you and to me.

001:012 I am sending him back to you, though in so doing I send
part of myself.

001:013 It was my wish to keep him at my side for him to attend
to my wants, as your representative, during my imprisonment
for the Good News.

001:014 Only I wished to do nothing without your consent, so that
his kind action of yours might not be done under pressure,
but might be a voluntary one.

001:015 For perhaps it was for this reason he was parted from you for a time,
that you might receive him back wholly and for ever yours;

001:016 no longer as a slave, but as something better than a slave--
a brother peculiarly dear to me, and even dearer to you,
both as a servant and as a fellow Christian.

001:017 If therefore you regard me as a comrade, receive him as if
he were I myself.

001:018 And if he was ever dishonest or is in your debt, debit me
with the amount.

001:019 I Paul write this with my own hand--I will pay you in full.
(I say nothing of the fact that you owe me even your own self.)

001:020 Yes, brother, do me this favour for the Lord's sake.
Refresh my heart in Christ.

001:021 I write to you in the full confidence that you will meet my wishes,
for I know you will do even more than I say.

001:022 And at the same time provide accommodation for me; for I hope
that through your prayers I shall be permitted to come to you.

001:023 Greetings to you, my brother, from Epaphras my fellow prisoner
for the sake of Christ Jesus;

001:024 and from Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke, my fellow workers.

001:025 May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with the spirit
of every one of you.

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