**1** Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,  
 To   
 Philemon our beloved fellow worker **2** and   
 Apphia our sister and   
 Archippus our fellow soldier, and   
 the church in your house:  
**3** Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**4** I thank my God always when I remember you in my prayers,   
 **5** because I hear of your love and of the faith that you have toward the Lord Jesus   
 and for all the saints, **6** and   
 I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective for the full knowledge of   
 every good thing that is in us for the sake of Christ.   
**7** For I have derived much joy and comfort   
 from your love, my brother,   
 because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you.

**8** Accordingly,   
 though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do what is required,   
 **9** yet for love's sake I prefer to appeal to you—  
 I, Paul, an old man and now a prisoner also for Christ Jesus—   
 **10** I appeal to you for my child, Onesimus,   
 whose father I became in my imprisonment.   
 **11** (Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me.)

**12** I am sending him back to you, sending my very heart. **13** I would have been glad to keep him with me, in order that he might serve me on your behalf during my imprisonment for the gospel, **14** but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your goodness might not be by compulsion but of your own accord.

**15** For this perhaps is why he was parted from you for a while, that you might have him back forever, **16** no longer as a bondservant but more than a bondservant, as a beloved brother—especially to me, but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

**17** So if you consider me your partner, receive him as you would receive me. **18** If he has wronged you at all, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. **19** I, Paul, write this with my own hand: I will repay it—to say nothing of your owing me even your own self.   
**20** Yes, brother, I want some benefit from you in the Lord. Refresh my heart in Christ.   
**21** Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

**22** At the same time, prepare a guest room for me, for I am hoping that through your prayers I will be graciously given to you.

**23** Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, sends greetings to you, **24** and so do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke, my fellow workers.

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

**Books on Forgiveness**

Augsburger, David. *Caring Enough to Forgive*  
Arnold, Johann Christoph. *Why Forgive?*  
Keller, Tim. *Forgive*

MacArthur, John. *The Freedom and Power of Forgiveness*  
Pritchard, Ray. *The Healing Power of Forgiveness*  
Smedes, Lewis B. *Forgive and Forget*