

good workes for necessarie vses that they be not vnfruteful.
15 All that are with me, salute thee. Grete them that loue vs in the faith. Grace be with you all, Amen.

To Titus, elect the first bishope of the Church of the Cre- tians, written from Nicopolis in Macedonia.

THE EPISTLE OF Paul to Philemon.

THE ARGUMENT.

Albeit the excellencie of Pauls spirit wonderfully appeareth in other his Epistles, yet this Epistle is a great witnes, and a declaration of the same. For farre passing the basenes of his matter, he steeth as it were vp to heauen, and speaketh with a diuine grace and maiestie. Onesimus seruant to Philemon bothe robbed his master, and fled away, whome Paul hauing wonne to Christ, sent againe to his master, earnestly begging his pardone, with moste waighie arguments prouing the duetic of one Christian to another, & so with salutations endeth.

1 He reioyceth to heare of the faith and laue of Philemon.
2 Whome he desireth to forgine his seruant Onesimus, and louingly to receiue him againe.

1 **P**AUL a prisoner of Iesus Christ, and our brother Timotheus, vnto Philemon our dere friend, & fellow helper,

2 And to our dere syster Apphia, and to Archippus our felowe souldier, & to the Church that is in thine house:

3 Grace be with you, and peace from God our Father, & from the Lord Iesus Christ.

4 I giue thanks to my God, making mention alwaies of thee in my praiers,

5 (When I heare of thy loue & faith, which thou hast towarde the Lord Iesus, & toward all Saintes)

6 That the felowship of thy faith may be made fruteful, and that whatsoeuer good thing is in you through Christ Iesus, may be known.

7 For we haue great ioye and consolacion in thy loue, because by thee, brother, the Saintes hearts are comforted.

8 Wherefore, thogh I be verie bolde in Christ to commande thee that which is conuenient,

9 Yet for louses sake I rather beseeche thee, thogh I be as I am, euen Paul aged, and euen now a prisoner for Iesus Christ.

10 I beseeche thee for my sonne Onesimus, whome I haue begotten in my bondes,

11 Which in time past was to thee vnprofitable, but now profitable bothe to thee and to me,

12 Whome I haue sent againe: thou therefore receiue him, y is mine owne bowels,

13 Whome I wolde haue retained with me, that in thy stede he might haue ministred vnto me in the bondes of the Gospel.

14 But without thy minde wolde I do nothing, that thy benefite shulde not be as it were of necessitie, but willingly.

15 It may be that he therefore departed for a ceason, that thou shuldest receiue him for euer,

16 Not now as a seruant, but aboue a seruant, euen as a brother beloued, specially to me: how muche more then vnto thee, bothe in the flesh, and in the Lord?

17 If therefore thou counte our things commune, receiue him as my self.

18 If he hathe hurt thee, or oweth thee ought, that put on mine accountes,

19 I Paul haue written this with mine owne hand: I wil recompense it, albeit I do not say to thee, that thou owest vnto me euen thine owne self.

20 Yea, brother, let me obtaine this pleasure of thee in the Lord: coforte my bowels in the Lord.

21 Trusting in thine obedience, I wrote vnto thee, knowing that thou wilt do euen more then I say.

22 Moreouer also prepare me lodging: for I trust through your praiers I shalbe giuen vnto you.

23 There salute thee Epaphras my fellowe prisoner in Christ Iesus,

24 Marcus, Aristarchus, Demas & Luke, my fellowe helpers.

25 The grace of our Lord Iesus Christ be with your spirit, Amen.

Written from Rome to Philemon, and sent by Onesimus a seruant.

^dHe fled away from thee.

^eFor he is thy seruant by condicion, & also now y Lords, so y bothe for thine & wne sake and for the Lords y oughtest to loue him.

^fThat all thinge is mine, & all mine is thine.

^gGrant me this benefite, w shalbe more acceptable vnto me of all others.

^hThat is, for Christs cause.

^aThes. 1. 2
^bThes. 1. 3.

^a Thy beneuolence toward the Saintes, w procedeth of a liuelie and effectual faith.
^b That experience may declare you are the members of Iesus Christ.
^c Meaning their inwarde partes & affections were through his charitic comforted.

^{Colos. 4. 9.}