

# **Paul, His Life and Teachings**

## **Paul's Letter to Philemon**

### **Lesson 33**

*Biblical-Literacy.com*

© Copyright 2008 by W. Mark Lanier. Permission hereby granted to reprint this document in its entirety without change, with reference given, and not for financial profit.



Have you ever wanted to persuade  
someone to do something?



# Onesimus Resume

**Occupation:**

**Religion:**

**Personal:**

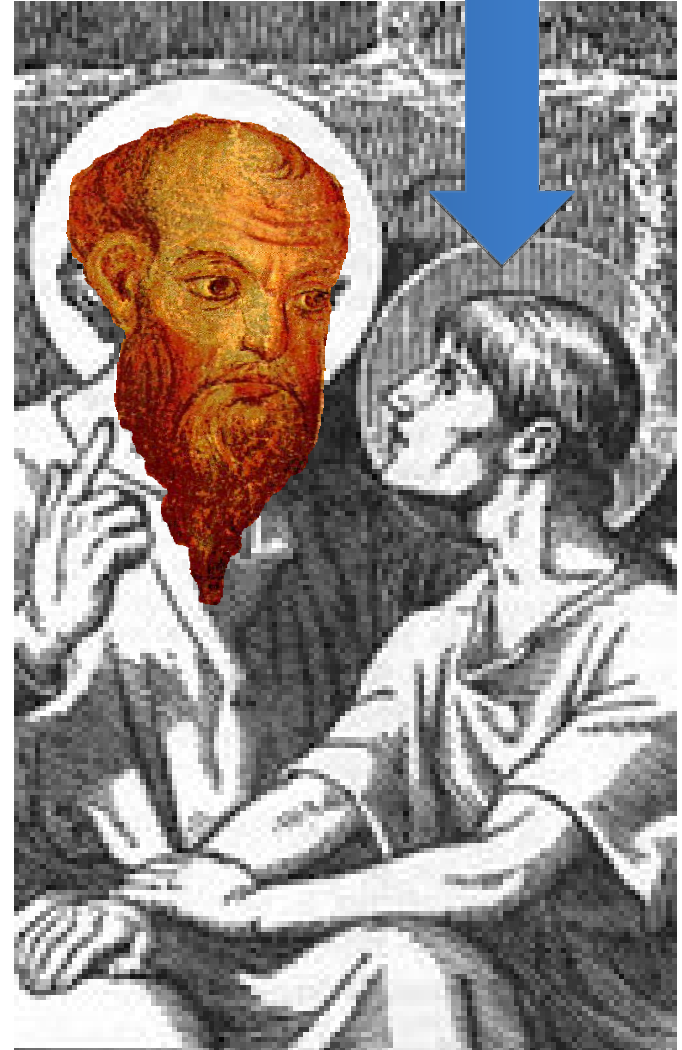


# Onesimus Resume

**Occupation:**

**Religion:**

**Personal:**



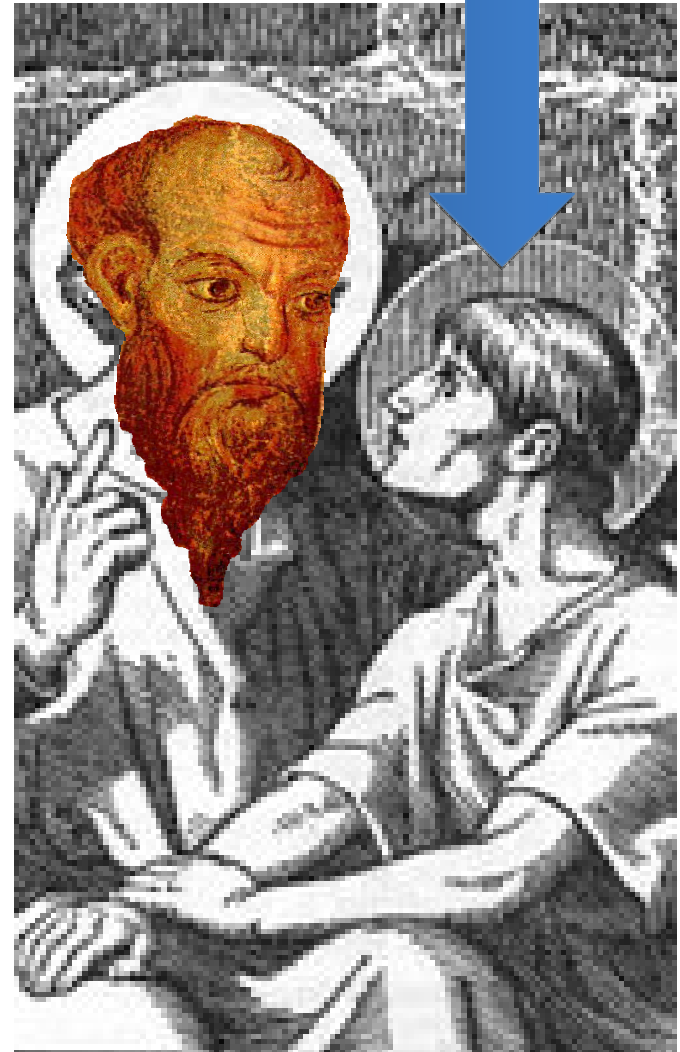
# Onesimus Resume

## Occupation:

Young slave of Philemon  
Recently relocated

## Religion:

## Personal:



# Onesimus Resume

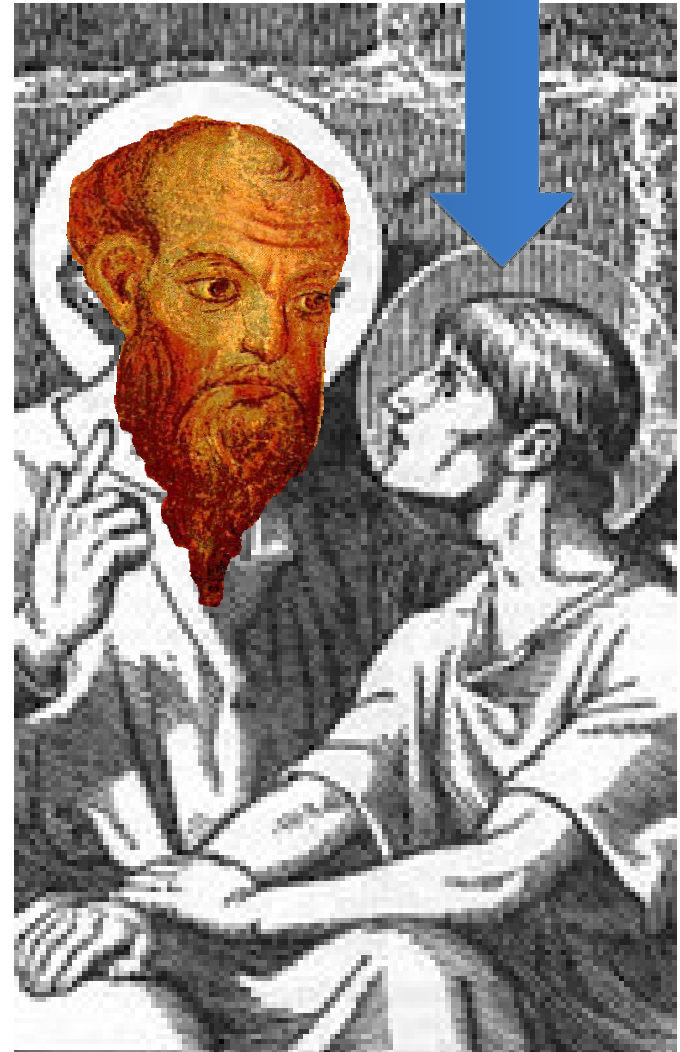
## Occupation:

Young slave of Philemon  
Recently relocated

## Religion:

Recent convert of St. Paul  
Assistant to Paul in Rome

## Personal:





# Onesimus Resume

## Occupation:

Young slave of Philemon  
Recently relocated

## Religion:

Recent convert of St. Paul  
Assistant to Paul in Rome

## Personal:

Unmarried



# Philemon Resume

**Occupation:**

**Religion:**

**Personal:**





# Philemon Resume

## Occupation:

Wealthy businessman and  
slave owner/home owner

## Religion:

## Personal:



# Philemon Resume

## Occupation:

Wealthy businessman and  
slave owner/home owner

## Religion:

Church leader; converted  
through Paul's ministry

## Personal:



# Philemon Resume

## Occupation:

Wealthy businessman and  
slave owner/home owner

## Religion:

Church leader; converted  
through Paul's ministry

## Personal:

Wife – Apphia

Son - Archippus



Paul wrote Colossians and Philemon at  
about the same time



dictated

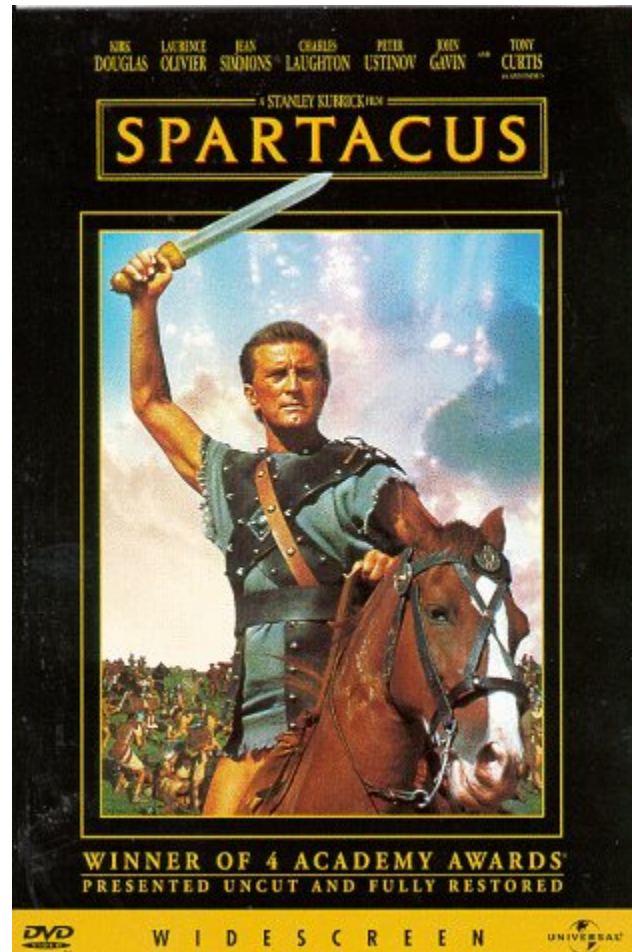
Paul ~~wrote~~ Colossians and Philemon at  
about the same time



dictated  
Paul ~~wrote~~ Colossians and Philemon at  
about the same time



Rome and its slavery laws differed from  
America's slave trade past

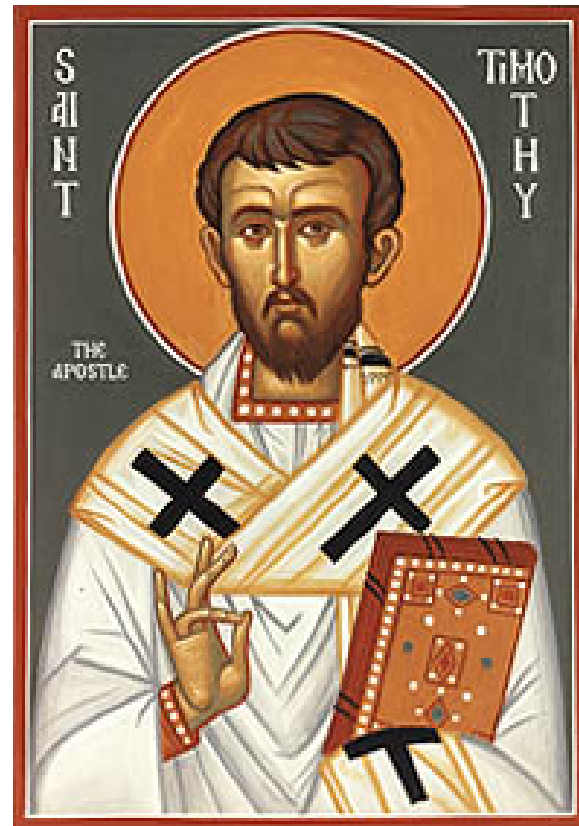




# Roman slavery differed from Jewish slavery



Paul's letter to Philemon takes a very personal tone



Paul's letter to Philemon takes a very personal tone



“We” becomes “I”

Paul's letter to Philemon takes a very personal tone

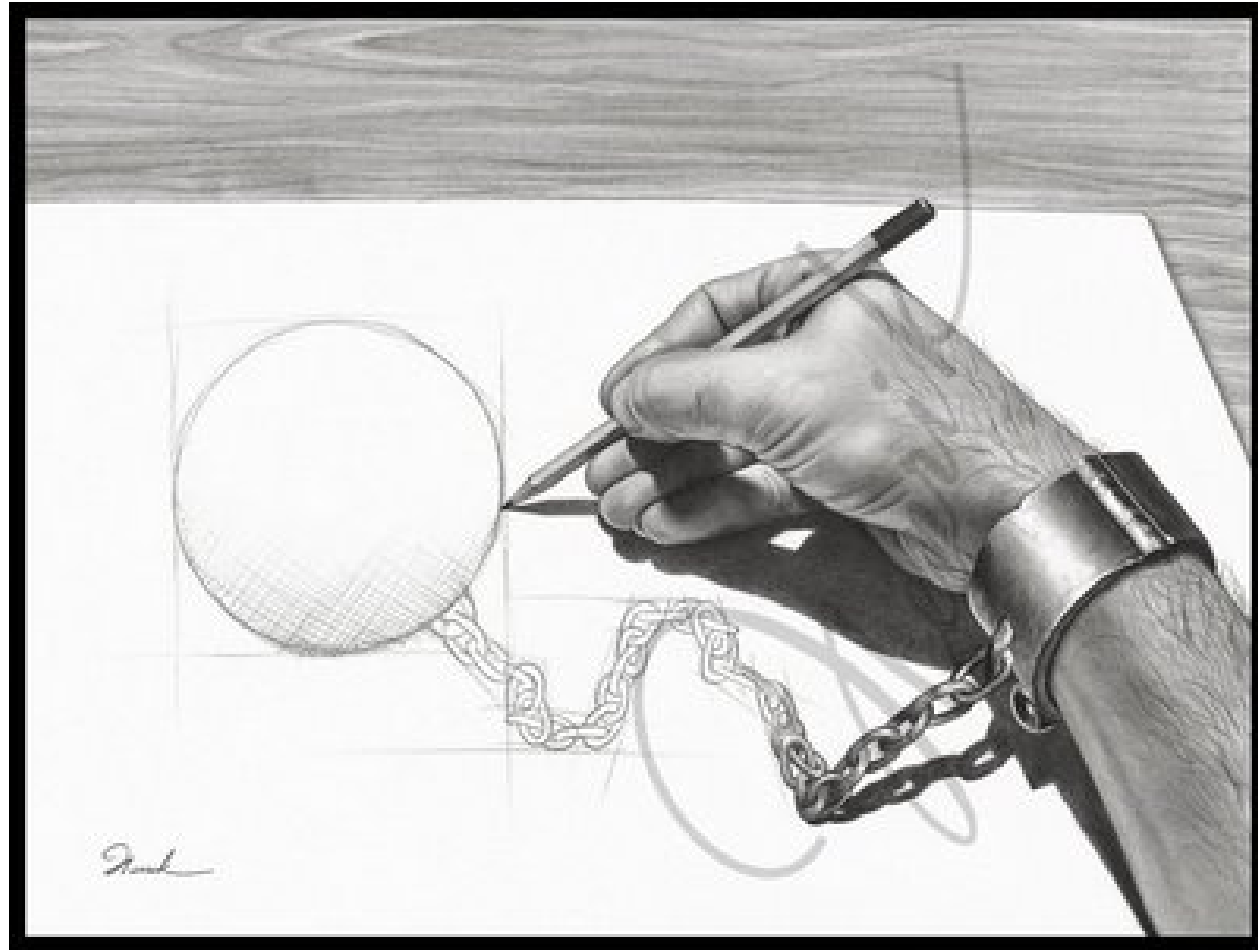


Paul's letter to Philemon takes a very personal tone



“Y’all” becomes “just you”

“Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus and  
Timothy our brother” (1)







“To Philemon *our beloved* fellow worker and Apphia *our* sister and Archippus *our* fellow soldier, and the church that meets in your house” (1-2)





“Grace to you and  
peace from God our  
Father and the Lord  
Jesus Christ” (3)



“I thank my God always  
when I remember you  
in my prayers, because I  
hear of *your love* and of  
the faith that you have  
toward the Lord Jesus  
and *for all the saints.*”  
(4-5)



“I thank my God always  
when I remember you  
in my prayers, because I  
hear of *your love* and of  
the faith that you have  
toward the Lord Jesus  
and *for all the saints.*”

(4-5)



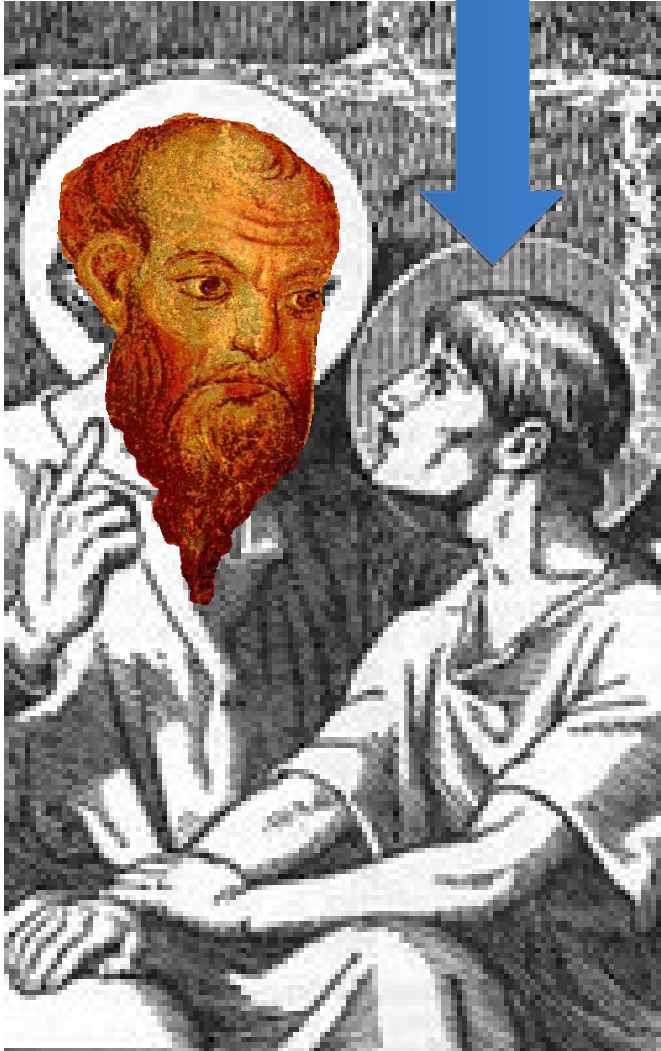
“and I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective for the full knowledge of every good thing that is in us for the sake of Christ.” (6)



“For I have derived much *joy* and *comfort* from *your love*, my brother, because the hearts *of the saints* have been refreshed through you.” (7)

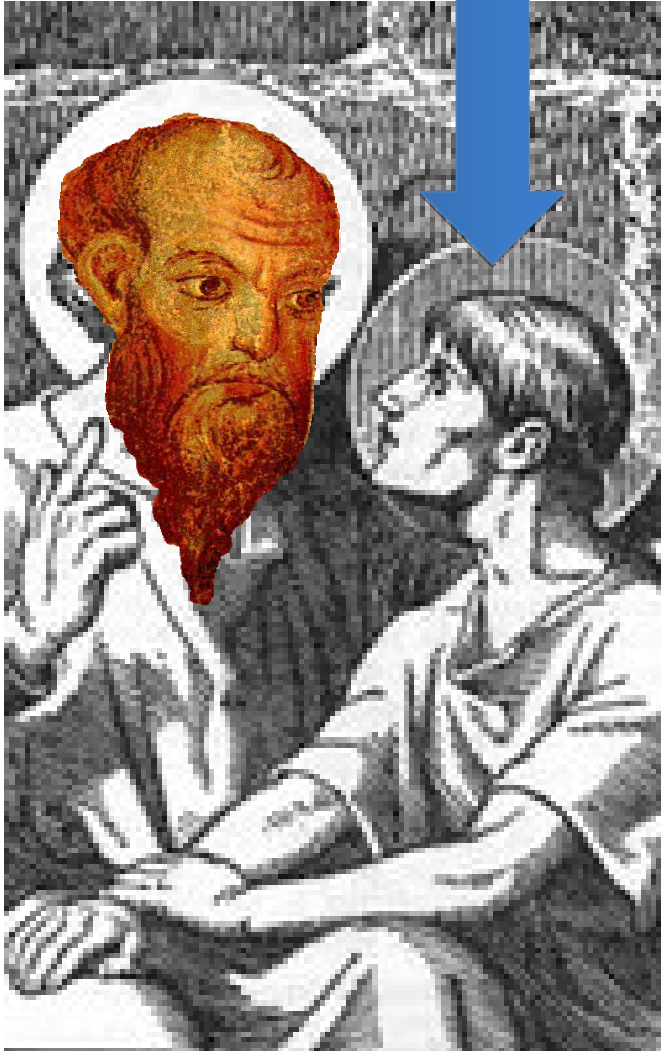


“For I have derived much *joy* and *comfort* from *your love*, my brother, because the hearts *of the saints* have been refreshed through you.” (7)

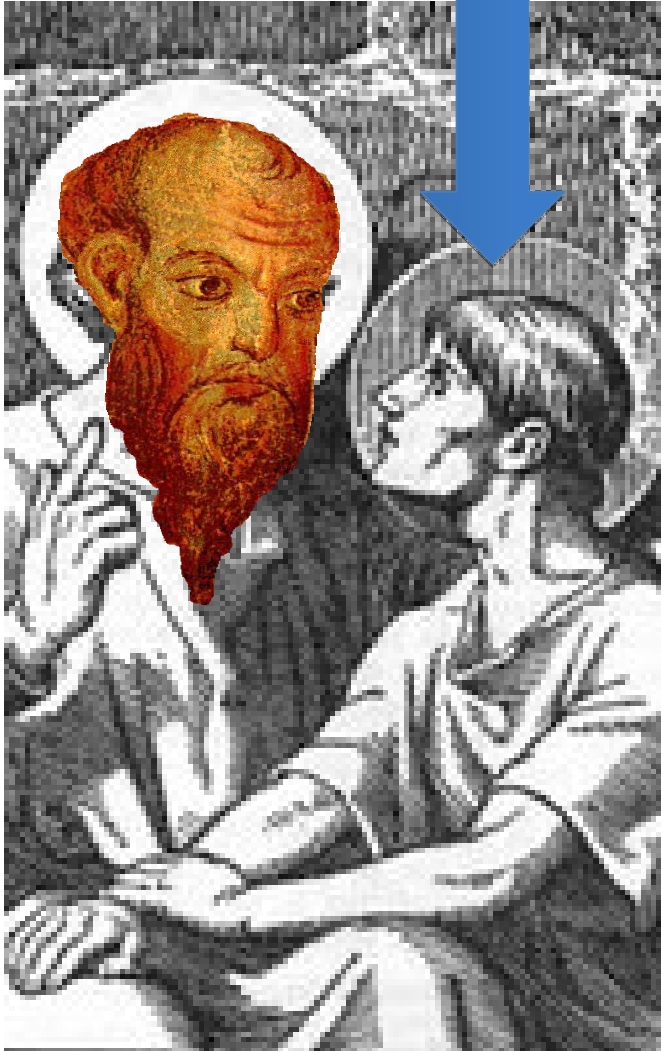


“Accordingly, though I  
am bold enough in  
Christ to command you  
to do what is required,  
yet for love’s sake I  
prefer to appeal to you  
...” (8-9)

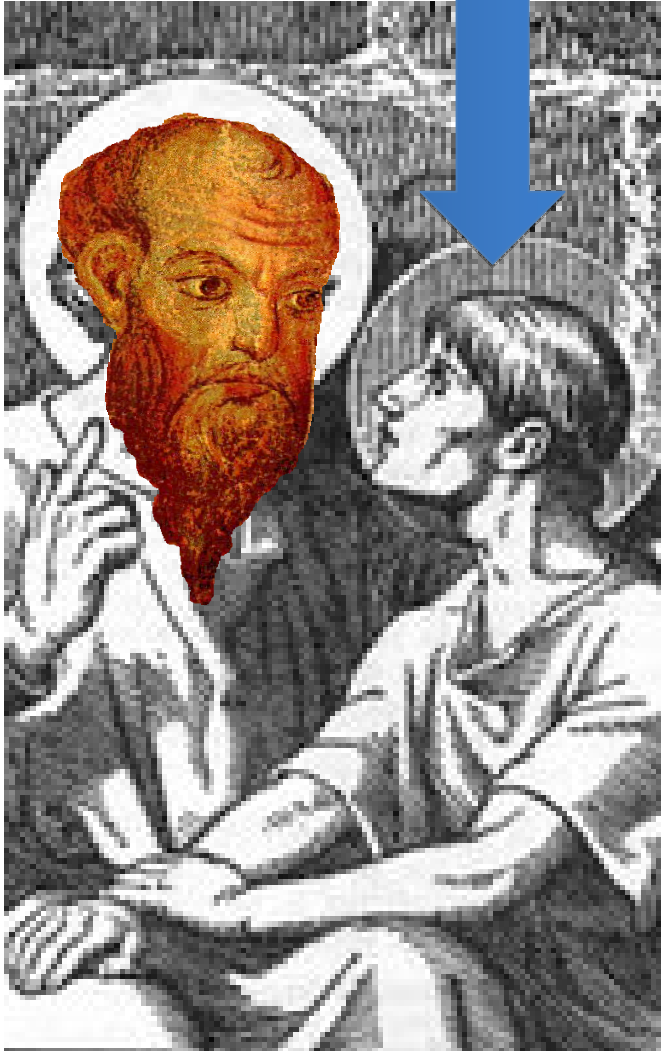




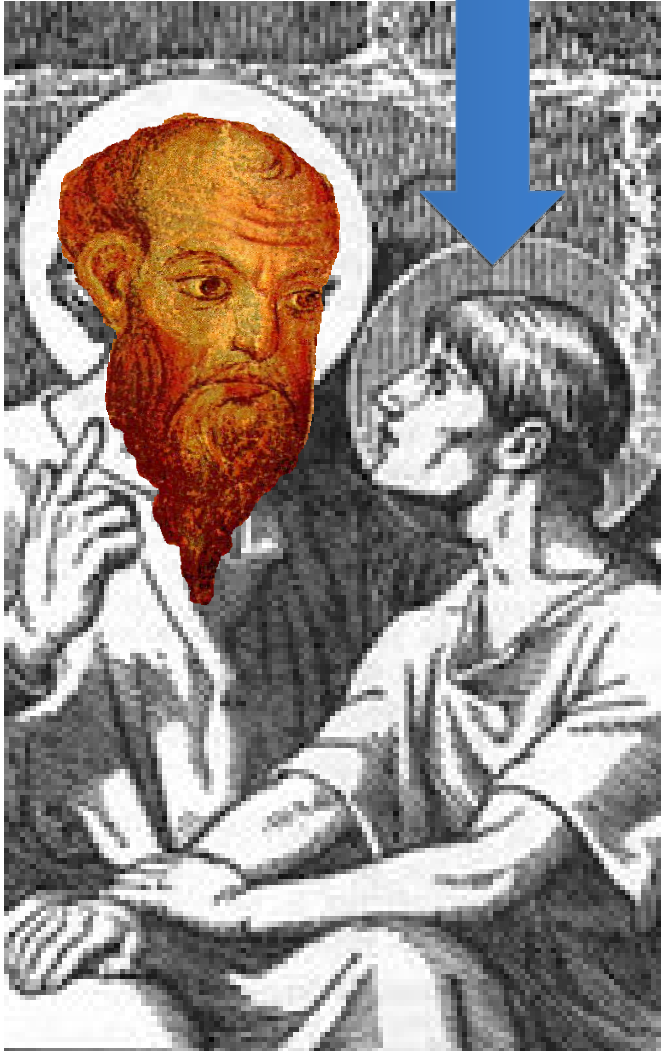
“Accordingly, though *I am bold enough in Christ to command* you to do what is required, yet for love’s sake I prefer to appeal to you ...” (8-9)



“Accordingly, though *I am bold enough in Christ to command* you to do what is required, yet *for love’s sake I prefer to appeal* to you ...” (8-9)



“I, Paul, an old man and now a prisoner for Christ Jesus – I appeal to you for my child Onesimus whose father I became in my imprisonment.” (10)



“I, Paul, an *old man* and now a prisoner for Christ Jesus – I appeal to you for my child Onesimus whose father I became in my imprisonment.” (10)

# Hippocrates and Philo on the seven ages of man:

# Hippocrates and Philo on the seven ages of man:

NAME	AGE	REASON
<hr/>		

# Hippocrates and Philo on the seven ages of man:

NAME	AGE	REASON
"Little boy"		



# Hippocrates and Philo on the seven ages of man:

NAME	AGE	REASON
"Little boy"	0 - 7	

# Hippocrates and Philo on the seven ages of man:

NAME	AGE	REASON
"Little boy"	0 - 7	Sheds his teeth

# Hippocrates and Philo on the seven ages of man:

NAME	AGE	REASON
"Little boy"	0 - 7	Sheds his teeth
"Boy"		

# Hippocrates and Philo on the seven ages of man:

NAME	AGE	REASON
"Little boy"	0 - 7	Sheds his teeth
"Boy"	2 x 7	

# Hippocrates and Philo on the seven ages of man:

NAME	AGE	REASON
"Little boy"	0 - 7	Sheds his teeth
"Boy"	2 x 7	Puberty

# Hippocrates and Philo on the seven ages of man:

NAME	AGE	REASON
"Little boy"	0 - 7	Sheds his teeth
"Boy"	2 x 7	Puberty
"Lad"		

# Hippocrates and Philo on the seven ages of man:

NAME	AGE	REASON
"Little boy"	0 - 7	Sheds his teeth
"Boy"	2 x 7	Puberty
"Lad"	3 x 7	

# Hippocrates and Philo on the seven ages of man:

NAME	AGE	REASON
"Little boy"	0 - 7	Sheds his teeth
"Boy"	2 x 7	Puberty
"Lad"	3 x 7	Chin grows downy



# Hippocrates and Philo on the seven ages of man:

NAME	AGE	REASON
"Little boy"	0 - 7	Sheds his teeth
"Boy"	2 x 7	Puberty
"Lad"	3 x 7	Chin grows downy
"Young man"		

# Hippocrates and Philo on the seven ages of man:

NAME	AGE	REASON
"Little boy"	0 - 7	Sheds his teeth
"Boy"	2 x 7	Puberty
"Lad"	3 x 7	Chin grows downy
"Young man"	4 x 7	

# Hippocrates and Philo on the seven ages of man:

NAME	AGE	REASON
"Little boy"	0 - 7	Sheds his teeth
"Boy"	2 x 7	Puberty
"Lad"	3 x 7	Chin grows downy
"Young man"	4 x 7	Body has grown

# Hippocrates and Philo on the seven ages of man:

NAME	AGE	REASON
"Little boy"	0 - 7	Sheds his teeth
"Boy"	2 x 7	Puberty
"Lad"	3 x 7	Chin grows downy
"Young man"	4 x 7	Body has grown
"Man"		

# Hippocrates and Philo on the seven ages of man:

NAME	AGE	REASON
"Little boy"	0 - 7	Sheds his teeth
"Boy"	2 x 7	Puberty
"Lad"	3 x 7	Chin grows downy
"Young man"	4 x 7	Body has grown
"Man"	7 x 7	

# Hippocrates and Philo on the seven ages of man:

NAME	AGE	REASON
"Little boy"	0 - 7	Sheds his teeth
"Boy"	2 x 7	Puberty
"Lad"	3 x 7	Chin grows downy
"Young man"	4 x 7	Body has grown
"Man"	7 x 7	Man

# Hippocrates and Philo on the seven ages of man:

NAME	AGE	REASON
"Little boy"	0 - 7	Sheds his teeth
"Boy"	2 x 7	Puberty
"Lad"	3 x 7	Chin grows downy
"Young man"	4 x 7	Body has grown
"Man"	7 x 7	Man
"Elderly man"		

# Hippocrates and Philo on the seven ages of man:

NAME	AGE	REASON
"Little boy"	0 - 7	Sheds his teeth
"Boy"	2 x 7	Puberty
"Lad"	3 x 7	Chin grows downy
"Young man"	4 x 7	Body has grown
"Man"	7 x 7	Man
"Elderly man"	Up to 8 x 7	



# Hippocrates and Philo on the seven ages of man:

NAME	AGE	REASON
"Little boy"	0 - 7	Sheds his teeth
"Boy"	2 x 7	Puberty
"Lad"	3 x 7	Chin grows downy
"Young man"	4 x 7	Body has grown
"Man"	7 x 7	Man
"Elderly man"	Up to 8 x 7	Elderly man

# Hippocrates and Philo on the seven ages of man:

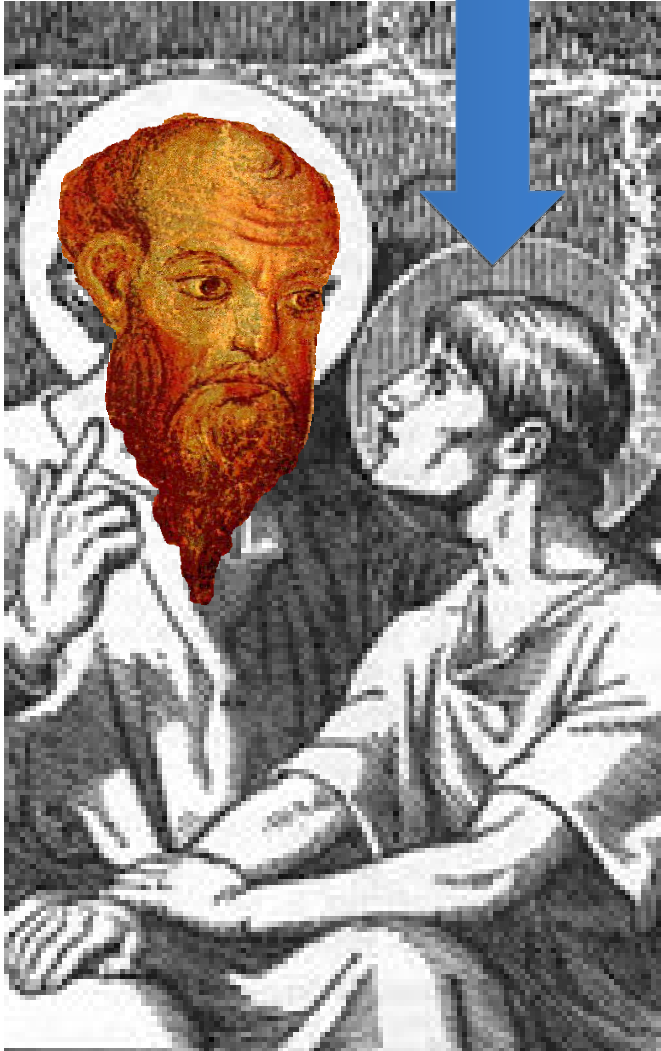
NAME	AGE	REASON
“Little boy”	0 - 7	Sheds his teeth
“Boy”	2 x 7	Puberty
“Lad”	3 x 7	Chin grows downy
“Young man”	4 x 7	Body has grown
“Man”	7 x 7	Man
“Elderly man”	Up to 8 x 7	Elderly man
“Old man”		

# Hippocrates and Philo on the seven ages of man:

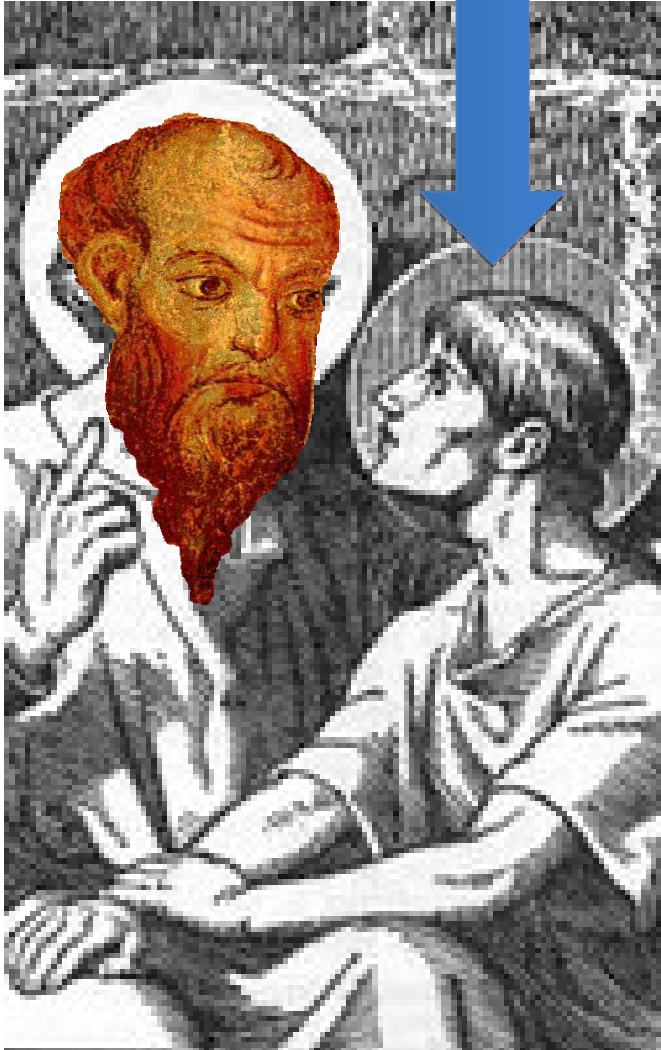
NAME	AGE	REASON
“Little boy”	0 - 7	Sheds his teeth
“Boy”	2 x 7	Puberty
“Lad”	3 x 7	Chin grows downy
“Young man”	4 x 7	Body has grown
“Man”	7 x 7	Man
“Elderly man”	Up to 8 x 7	Elderly man
“Old man”	Over 8 x 7	

# Hippocrates and Philo on the seven ages of man:

NAME	AGE	REASON
"Little boy"	0 - 7	Sheds his teeth
"Boy"	2 x 7	Puberty
"Lad"	3 x 7	Chin grows downy
"Young man"	4 x 7	Body has
"Man"	7 x 7	grown Man
"Elderly man"	Up to 8 x 7	Elderly man
"Old man"	Over 8 x 7	Old man



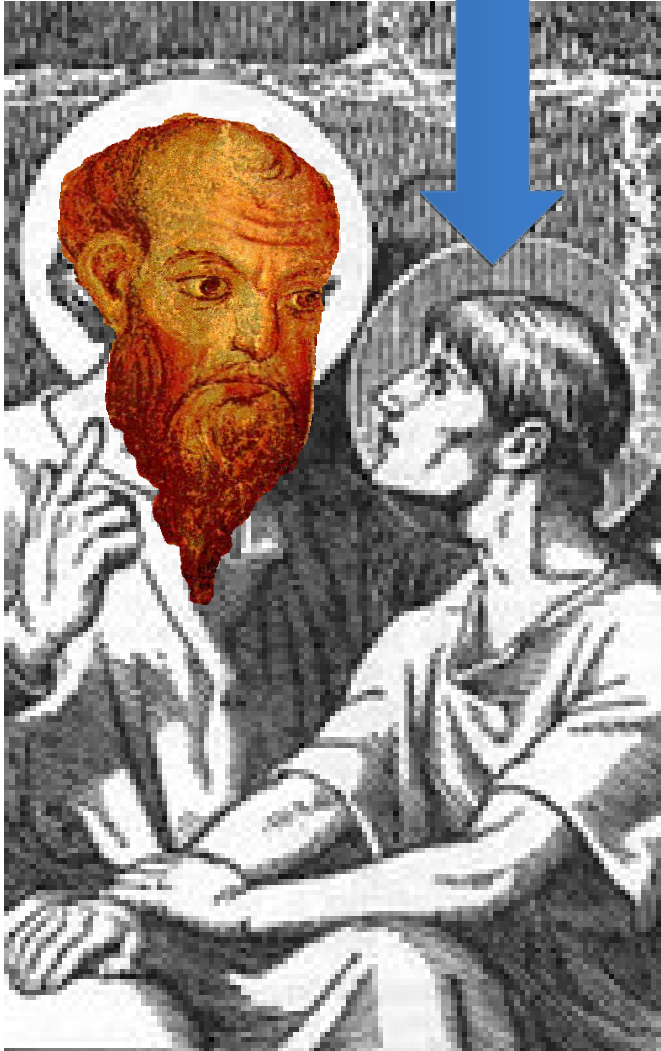
“I, Paul, an *old man* and now a prisoner for Christ Jesus – I appeal to you for my child Onesimus whose father I became in my imprisonment.” (10)



“I, Paul, an *old man* and  
now *a prisoner for*  
*Christ Jesus* – I appeal to  
you for my child  
Onesimus whose father  
I became in my  
imprisonment.” (10)

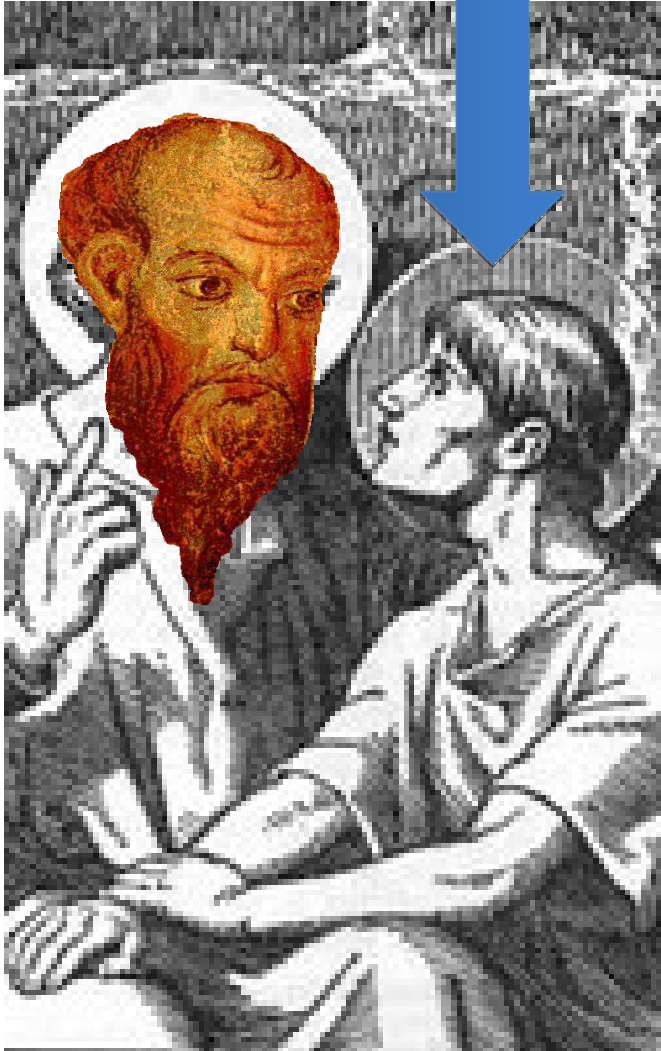


“I, Paul, an *old man* and  
now *a prisoner for*  
*Christ Jesus* – I appeal to  
you for *my child*  
Onesimus whose father  
I became in my  
imprisonment.” (10)



“I, Paul, an *old man* and  
now *a prisoner for*  
*Christ Jesus* – I appeal to  
you for *my child*  
Onesimus whose father  
I became in *my*  
*imprisonment.*” (10)



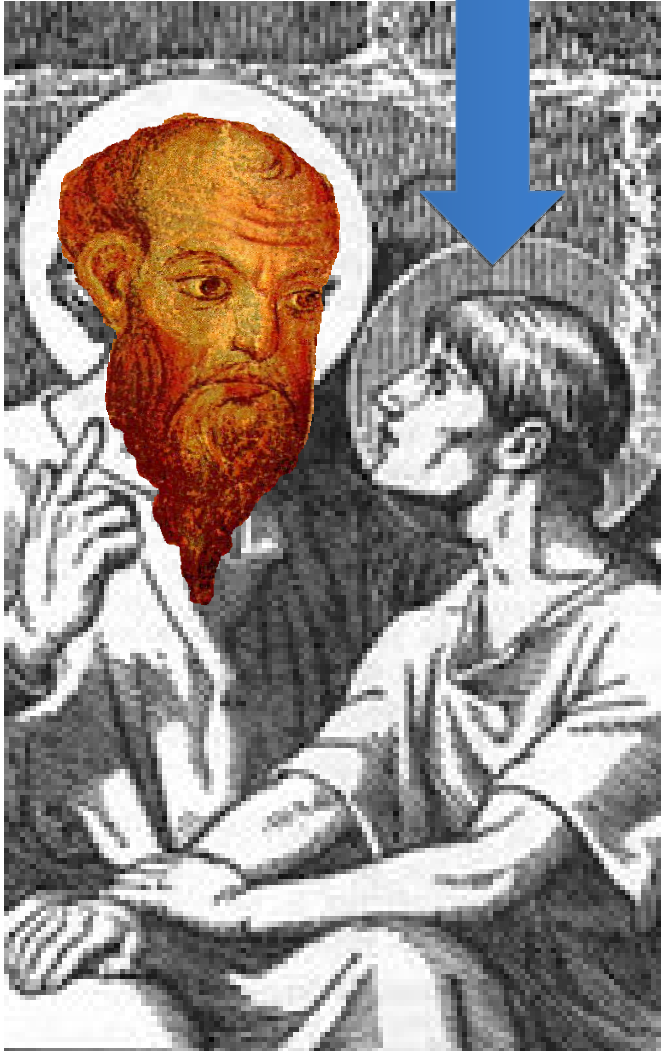


“Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me.” (11)

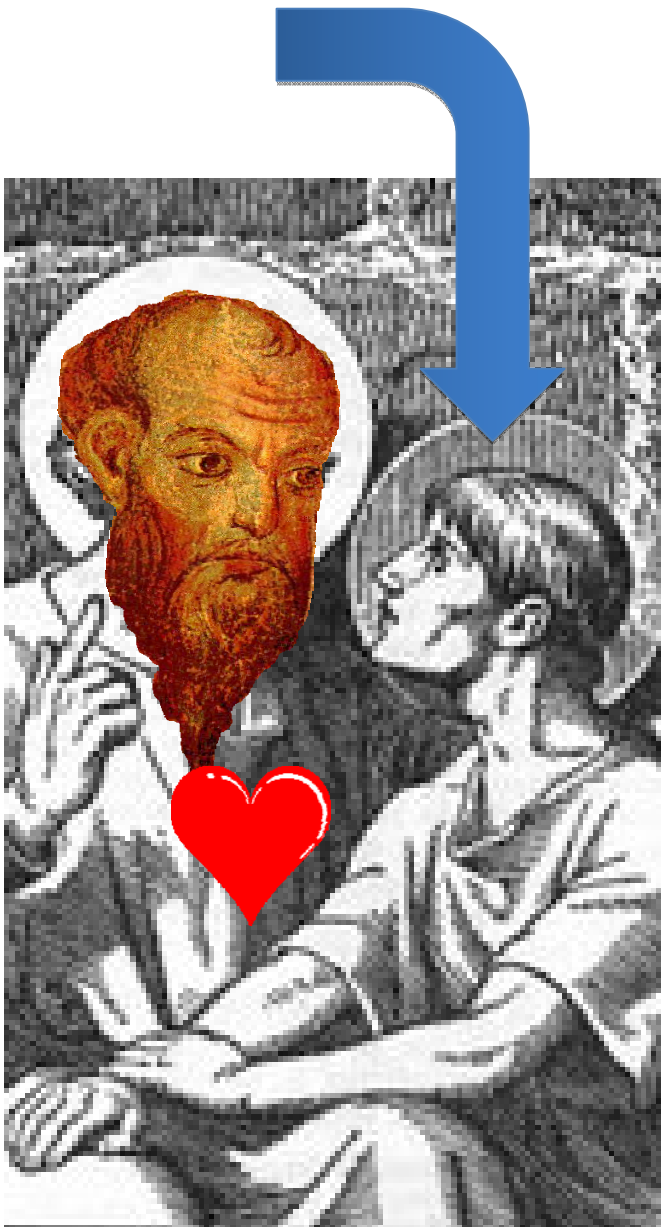


“Onesimus” means  
“useful” in Greek

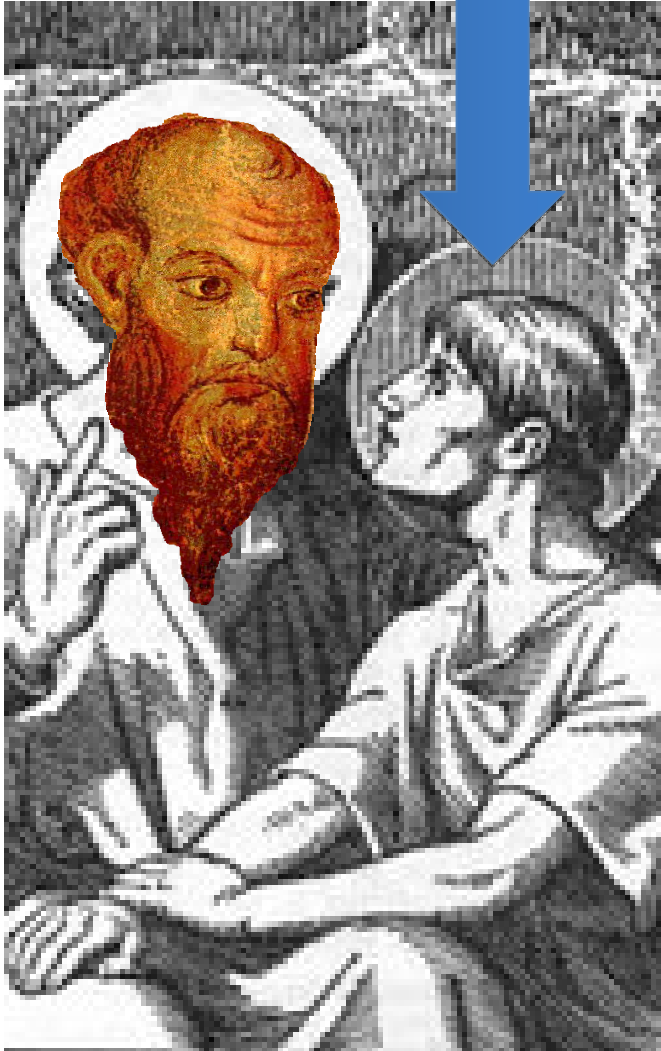
“Formerly he was  
*useless* to you, but now  
he is indeed *useful* to  
you and to me.” (11)



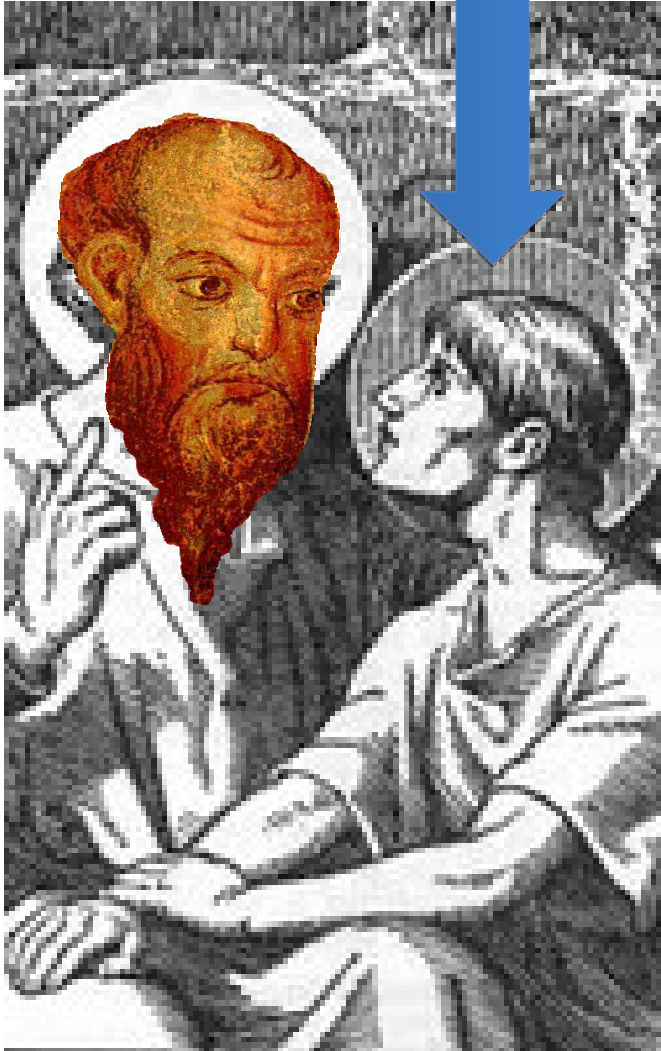
“I am sending him back to you, sending my very heart.” (12)



“I am sending him back  
to you, sending my very  
heart.” (12)



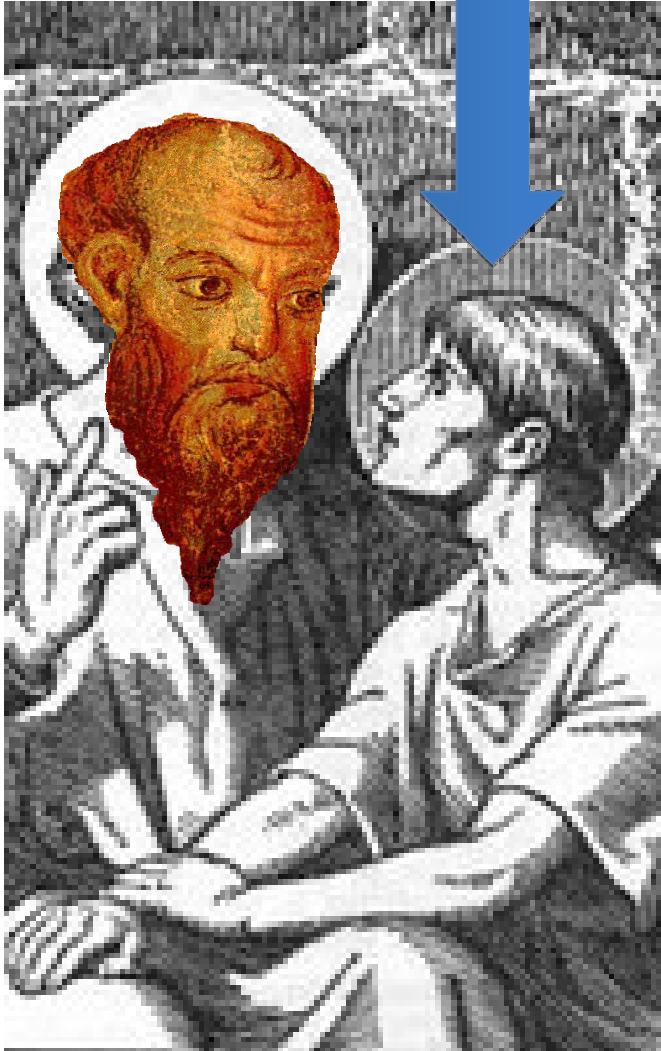
“I would have been glad to keep him with me, in order that he might serve me on your behalf during my imprisonment for the gospel.” (13)



“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.” (13)

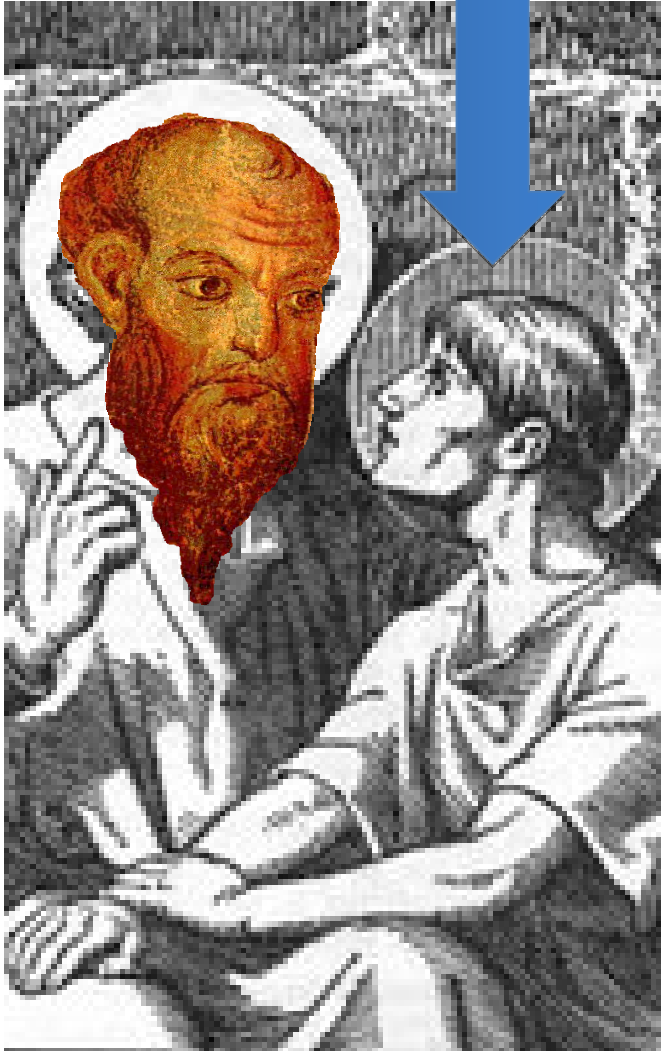


“but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your goodness might not be by compulsion but of your own accord.” (14)



“but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that *your goodness* might not be by compulsion but of your own accord.” (14)

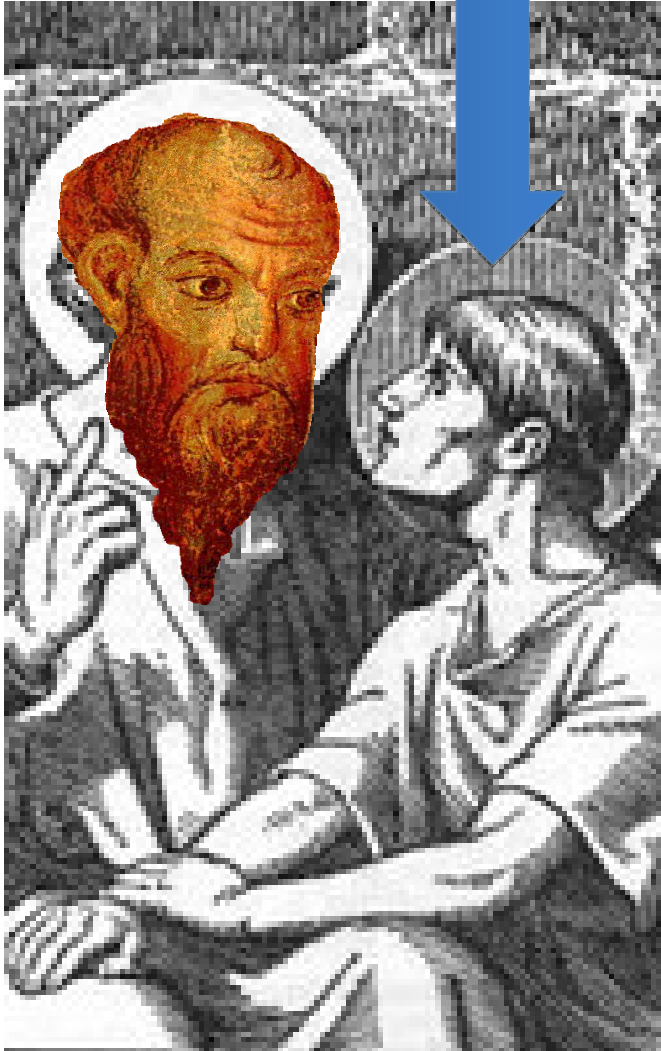




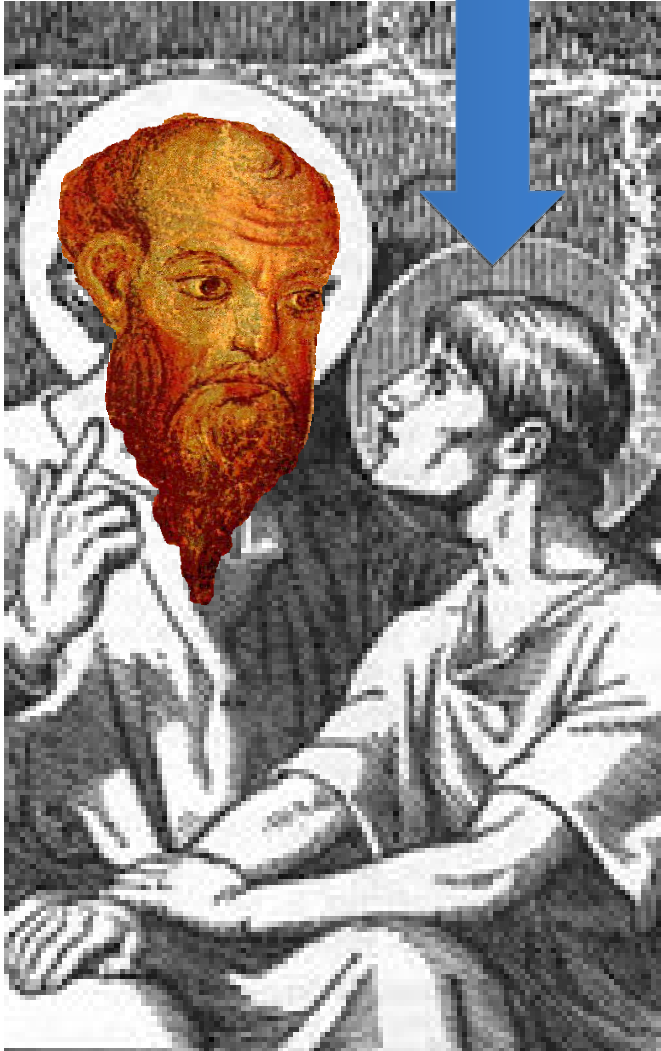
“For this perhaps is why  
he was parted from you  
for a while, that you  
might have him back  
forever.” (15)



“For this perhaps is why  
he was parted from you  
for a while, that you  
might have him back  
*forever*,” (15)



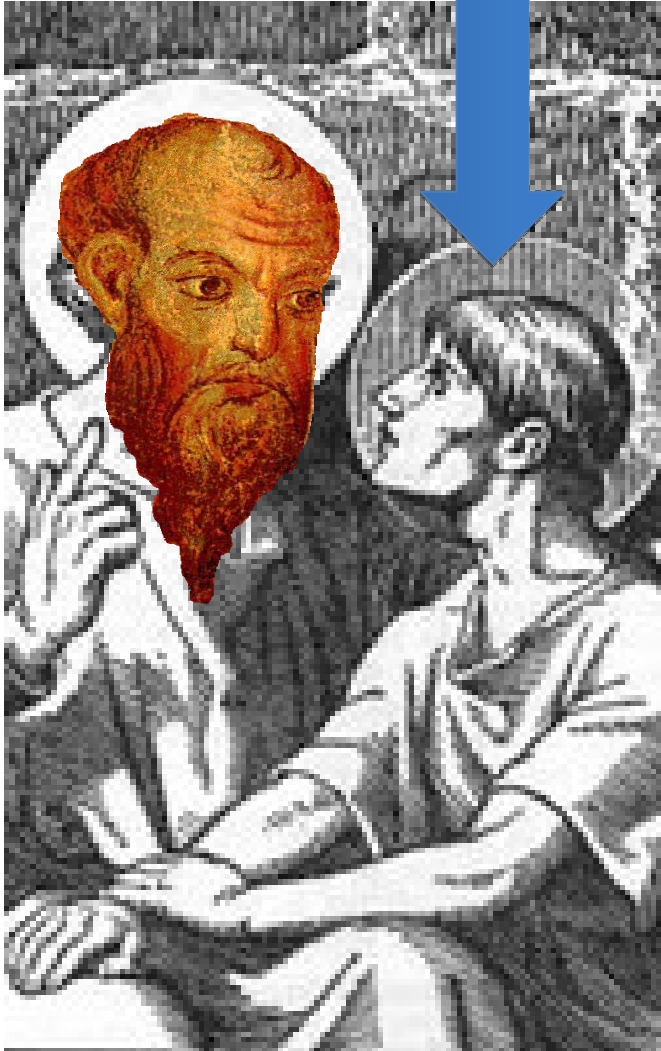
“no longer as a slave  
but more than a slave,  
as a beloved brother –  
especially to me, but  
how much more to you,  
both in the flesh and in  
the Lord.” (16)



“no longer as a slave  
but more than a slave,  
as a *beloved brother* –  
*especially to me*, but  
how much more to you,  
both in the flesh and in  
the Lord.” (16)



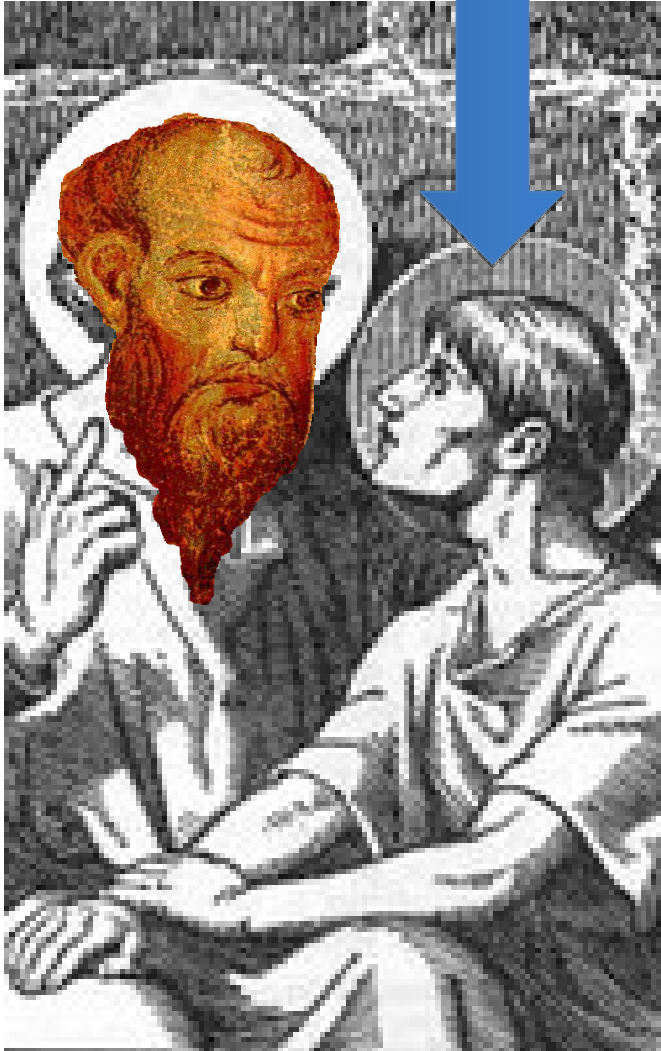
“To Philemon *our*  
*beloved* fellow worker  
and Apphia *our* sister  
and Archippus *our*  
fellow soldier, and the  
church that meets in  
your house” (1-2)



“no longer as a slave  
but more than a slave,  
as a *beloved brother* –  
*especially to me*, but  
how much more to you,  
both in the flesh and in  
the Lord.” (16)

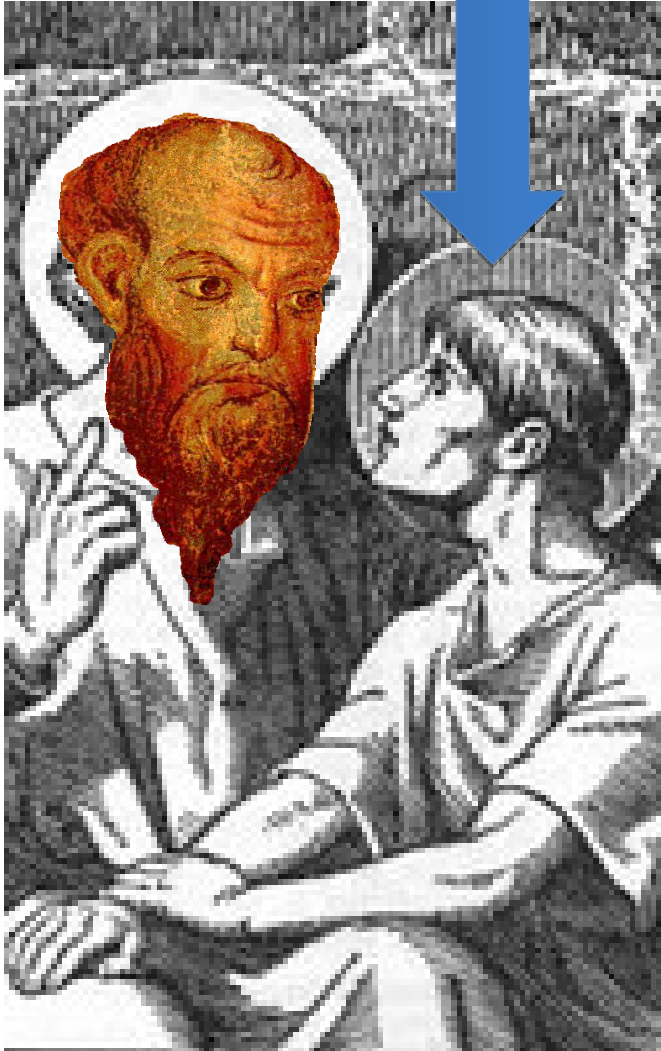


“So if you consider me your partner, receive him as you would receive me. If he has wronged you at all, or owes you anything, charge that to my account.” (17 - 18)



“I, Paul, write this with  
my own hand: I will  
repay it – to say  
nothing of your owing  
me even your own self.”  
(19)

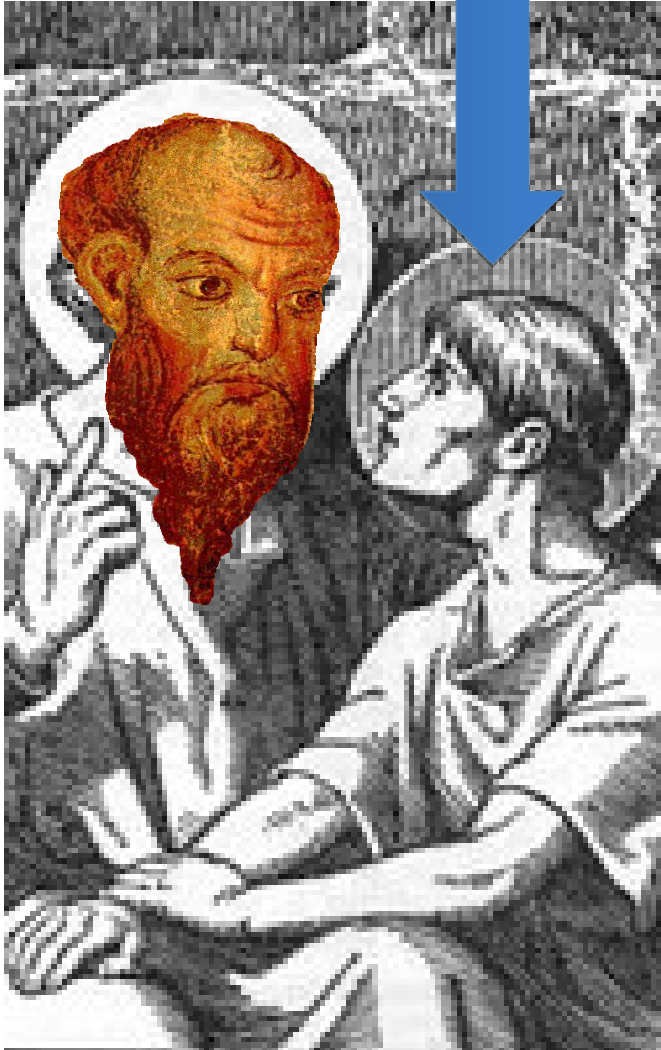




“Yes, brother, I want some benefit from you in the Lord. Refresh my heart in Christ.” (20)

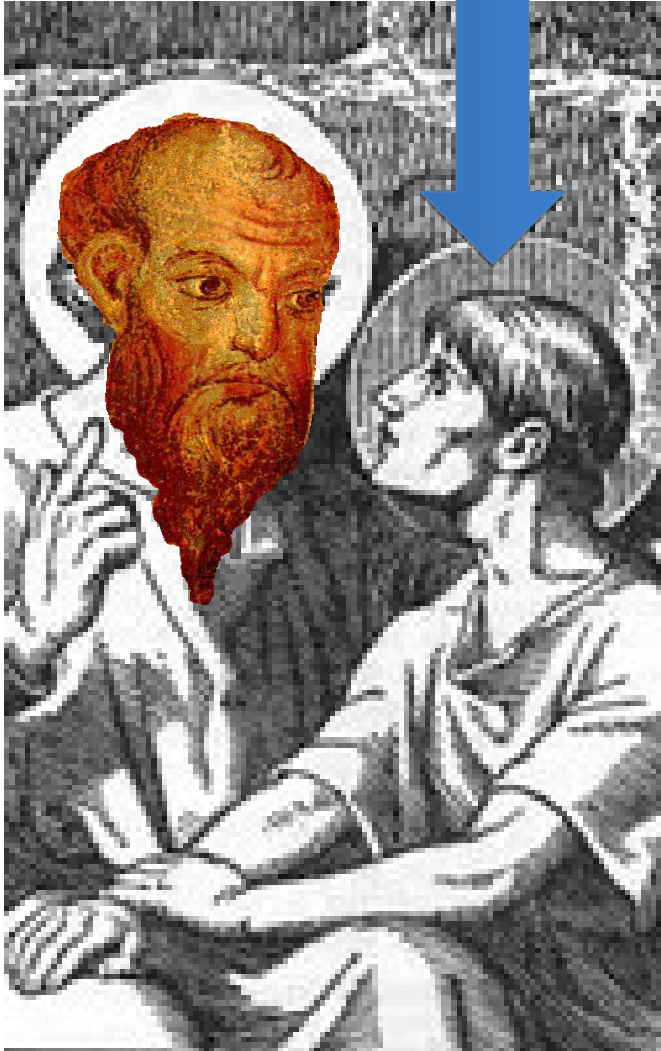


“Yes, brother, I want some *benefit* from you in the Lord. Refresh my heart in Christ.” (20)



“Onesimus” means  
“useful” in Greek

“Yes, brother, I want  
some *benefit* from you  
in the Lord. Refresh my  
heart in Christ.” (20)



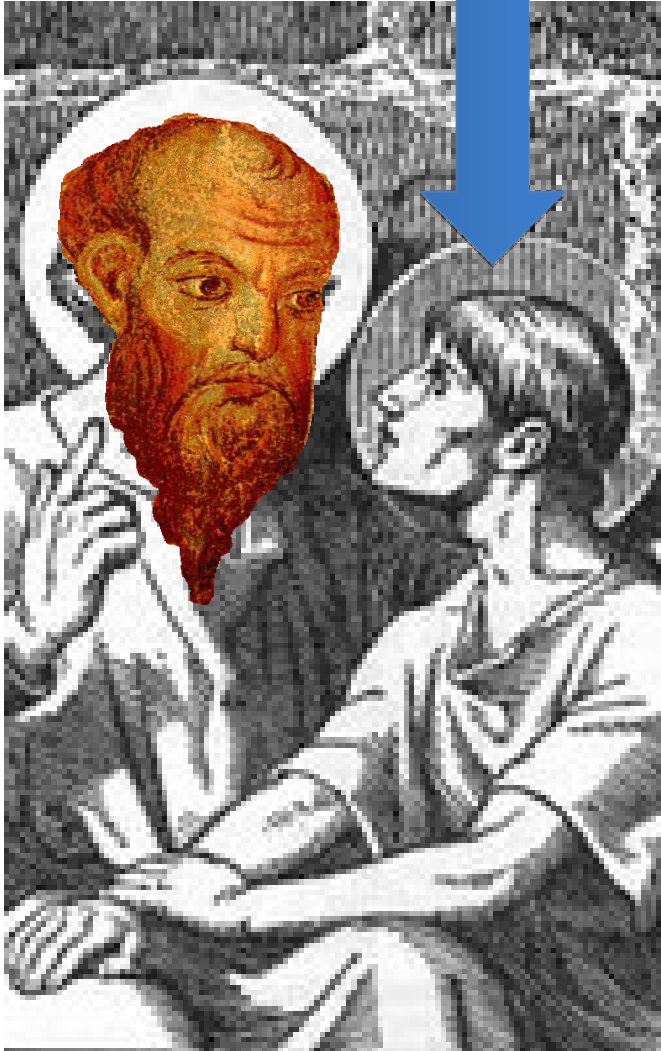
“Yes, brother, I want some *benefit* from you in the Lord. *Refresh* my heart in Christ.” (20)



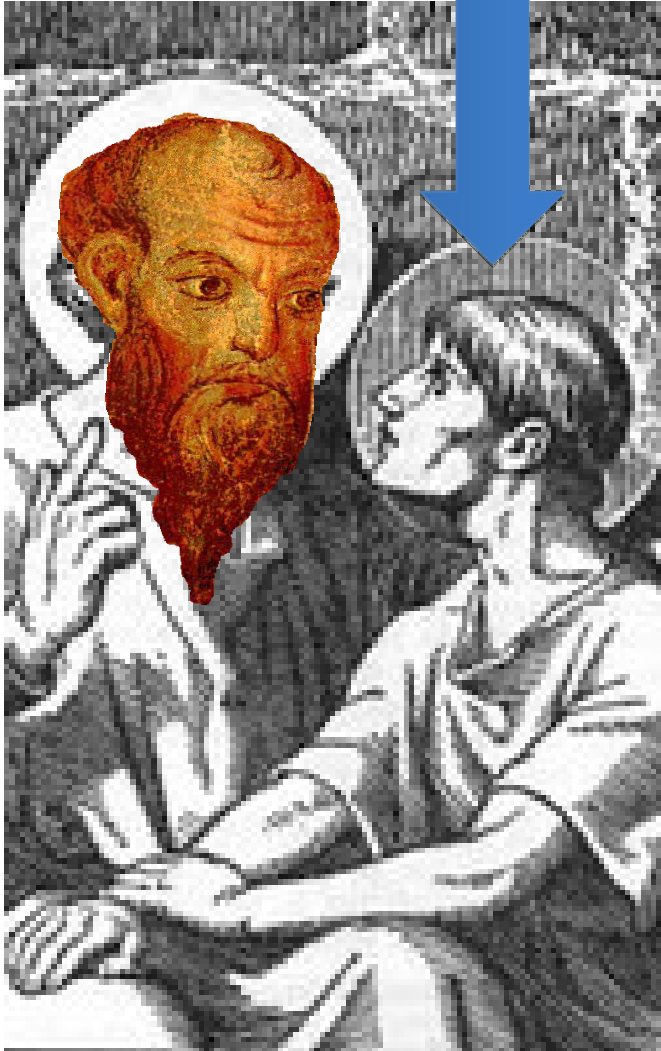
“For I have derived much *joy* and *comfort* from *your love*, my brother, because the hearts *of the saints* have been refreshed through you.” (7)



“For I have derived much *joy* and *comfort* from *your love*, my brother, because the hearts *of the saints* have been refreshed through you.” (7)



“Yes, brother, I want some *benefit* from you in the Lord. *Refresh* my heart in Christ.” (20)

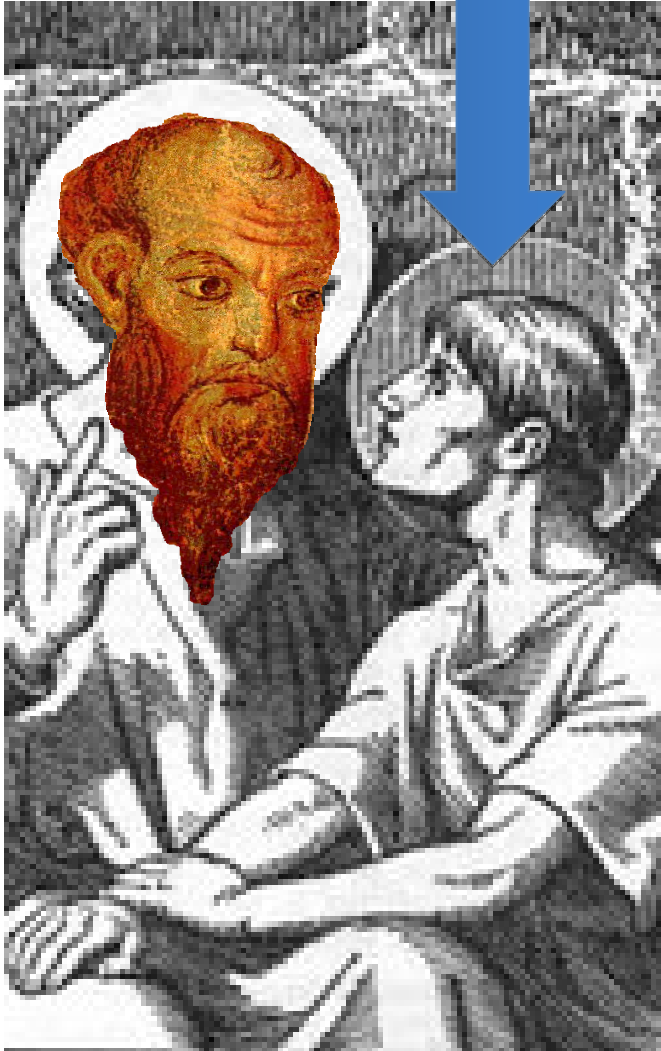


“Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say. At the same time, prepare a guest room for me, for I am hoping that through your prayers I will graciously be given to you” (21-22)





“Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say. At the same time, prepare a guest room for me, for I am hoping that *through your prayers I will graciously be given to you*” (21-22)



“Epaphras, *my fellow prisoner* in Christ Jesus, sends greetings to you, and so do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke, my fellow workers. The grace of the Lord Jesus be with your spirit” (23-25)

# Bruce asks three questions:

1. What was Paul asking for?

# Bruce asks three questions:

1. What was Paul asking for?



# Bruce asks three questions:

1. What was Paul asking for?

2. Did he get it?



# Bruce asks three questions:

1. What was Paul asking for?

2. Did he get it?



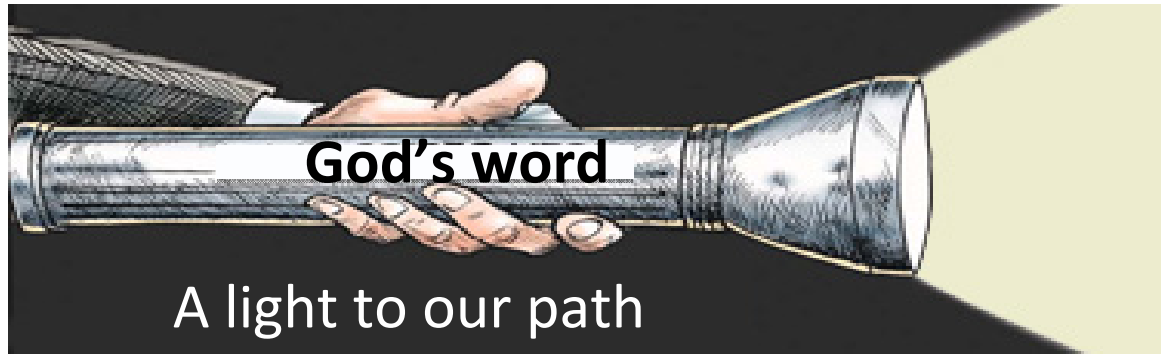
# Bruce asks three questions:

1. What was Paul asking for?

2. Did he get it?

3. Why was this letter saved?





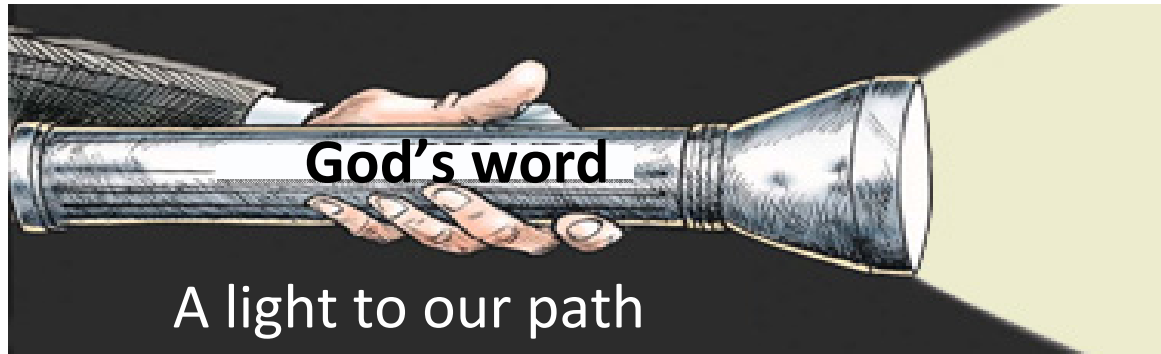
## Points for Home

---



“Though I am bold enough in  
Christ to command you... yet for  
love’s sake I prefer to appeal to  
you” (8-9)





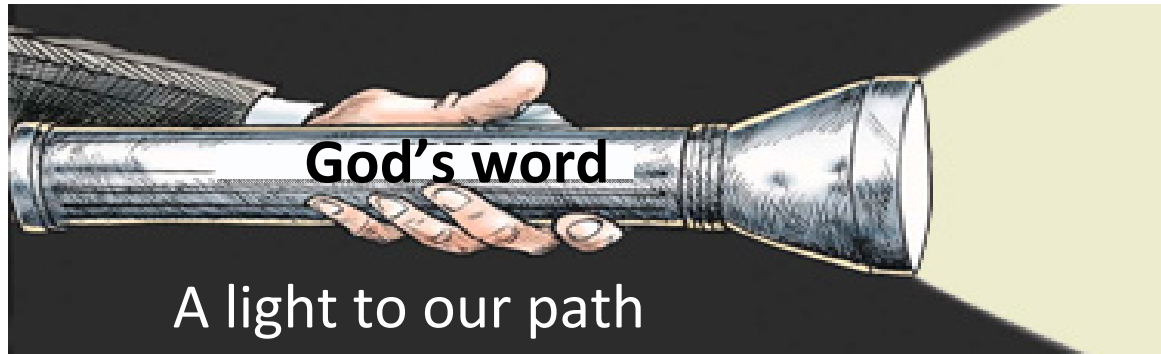
## Points for Home

---



“Formerly he was useless to you,  
but now he is indeed useful to  
you and to me” (11)

“We are all God’s Onesimus’s” -  
Luther



## Points for Home

---



“Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more” (21)