

a friend came to see him from Phī-līp'pī in Măç-e-dō'nī-ă. His name was Ē-păph-ro-dī'tus, and he brought to Paul a loving message from that church, and also gifts to help Paul in his need. In return, Paul wrote to the church at Phī-līp'pī a letter, "The Epistle to the Phī-līp'pī-anș," full of tender and gentle words. It was taken to the church by Ē-păph-ro-dī'tus and by Tīm'o-thŷ, whom Paul sent with him, perhaps because in Rōme Ē-păph-ro-dī'tus was very ill, and Paul may have thought it better not to have him go home alone.

In Rōme a man named Ō-nēs'ī-mūs met Paul. He was a runaway slave who belonged to a friend of Paul, named Phī-lē'mon, living at Cō-lōs'sē in Ā-șiă Mī'nor, not far from Ēph'e-sūs. Paul led Ō-nēs'ī-mūs to give his heart to Christ, and then, although he would have liked to keep him with himself, he sent him back to Phī-lē'mon, his master. But he asked Phī-lē'mon to take him, no longer as a slave, but as a brother in Christ. This he wrote in a letter which he sent by Ō-nēs'ī-mūs, called "The Epistle to Phī-lē'mon." Ō-nēs'ī-mūs carried at the same time another letter to the church at Cō-lōs'sē. This letter is "The Epistle to the Cō-lōs'sī-anș." And about the same time Paul wrote one of the greatest and most wonderful of all his letters, "The Epistle to the Ē-phē'sians," which he sent to the church in Ēph'e-sūs. So all the world has been richer ever since Paul's time by having the four letters which he wrote while he was a prisoner at Rōme.

It is thought, though it is not certain, that Paul was set free from prison after two years; that he lived a free man, preaching in many lands for a few years; that he wrote during those years the First Epistle to Tīm'o-thŷ, whom he had sent to care for the church at Ēph'e-sūs, and the Epistle to Tī'tus, who was over the churches in the island of Crête; that he was again made a prisoner and taken to Rōme; and from his Rō'man prison wrote his last letter, the Second Epistle to Tīm'o-thŷ, and that soon after this the wicked Emperor Nē'rō caused him to be put to death. Among his last words in the letter to Tīm'o-thŷ were these:

"I have fought a good fight; I have run my race; I have kept the faith; and now there is waiting for me the crown which the Lord himself shall give me."