

## **Cotton Patch**

- Philemon

### **Peter**

- Peter-1
- Peter-2

# Letter to Philemon

*Cotton Patch Version*

**1.** From Paul, Christ Jesus prisoner, and Brother Timothy.

To Philemon, our beloved co-worker, and Sister Abbey, and Archie, our fellow fighter, and the church gathered at your house.

We wish you grace and peace from our Father-God and our Lord Jesus Christ.

**4.** You have constantly been in my prayers as I thanked God for the news of your love for all the Christians and of the life you lead based on the Lordship of Jesus. May your common life together stimulate you to a deeper understanding of all the advantages of being a Christian.

**7.** I personally got a lot of joy and comfort from your love because, brother, you really did make the members perk up.

**8.** There's a matter about which I as a Christian have every right to make a demand of you, but because of our mutual love, I'll rather make it a request. Being no other than Paul, an old man and now a prisoner for the cause of Christ Jesus, I want to make a request of you about my boy, Obie, whom I converted while in jail. Before his conversion he wasn't worth a dime to you, but now he is very valuable to both you and me. And though it tears my heart out, I'm sending him back to you. I wanted so much to hold on to him myself, so he could pinch-hit for you in waiting on me while I'm in jail for the gospel. But I wouldn't do a thing like that without your permission, because you might feel obligated to respond favorably, rather than doing it gladly from your heart.

**15.** Perhaps the reason he left you for a while was that you might have him with you always, no longer as your slave – far more than that – as your beloved brother. He is especially dear to me, and I'm sure he'll be even more so to you, both as a person and as a brother in the Lord. If then you count me your partner, treat him as you would me. If he has hurt you in any way, or is in debt to you, transfer it to my account. I, Paul, hereby pledge with my own signature to pay it. (I won't mention the fact that *you owe me* your own self.) Yes sir, brother, I'd even like to make a little profit on you for the Lord! Give me a bit of Christian encouragement, will you?

**21.** I have written to you like this because I am sure of a favorable response from you. In fact, I believe you'll do even more than I'm asking. And by the way, get that guest room ready for me, because I'm hoping to be released soon and will be coming your way.

**23.** Pat, my cell-mate in Christ Jesus, sends his greetings, as do Mark, Rusty, Damon and Luke, my co-workers.

**25.** May the unmerited favor of the Lord Jesus Christ be upon the spirit of you all.

Sincerely,

*Paul*

# I Rock

[1 Peter]

*Cotton Patch Version*

## I Rock

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

### 1.

1. Rock, Jesus Christ's agent, to the migrant Christians scattered through Florida, Georgia, Oklahoma, Texas and California. With his experienced eye, Father-God handpicked you and created you in his spirit, for washing and processing by Jesus Christ. May kindness and peace bust loose all over you.

3. Three cheers for the Father-God of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his overflowing mercy he has refathered us into a life of hope, based on the raising of Jesus Christ from the dead. This put us in a family that's unbroken, uncorrupted and undwindling—a spiritual family set up especially for you who are sheltered by God's power. This power is yours because of your faith in the solution that's ready to be made crystal clear at the last roundup. Delight in this, even though for a while it is necessary for you to put up with all kinds of harassment. When your faith is tested like this, it is more valuable than perishable gold which also is tested by fire. And at a time when Jesus Christ is clearly present, your faith stands out with commendation, genuineness and respect. You are indescribably happy with One whom you've never seen but still love, whom you've never caught a glimpse of, but still have faith to live by. As a result of a faith like that you'll find the answer to your deepest needs. In fact, this is the solution that was sought after and studied over by the old-time preachers who foresaw the undeserved favor that would fall on you. Under the leadership of the spirit of Christ that was in them, they studied hard to find out who would have the credentials of the suffering Christ and when he would appear. And it was made clear to them that the matters they were dealing with were not for them but for you. These very things are now explained to you by those who, in the Holy Spirit from on high, brought the Good News to you. They are things of which angels themselves have a craving to be a part.

13. So, put work clothes on your mind and get moving. Have a grown man's hope in the spiritual power that's delivered to you at a time when Jesus Christ is clearly present. Now that you are God's obedient children, don't be controlled by the hankering you had before you saw the light. Instead, you should be different in your whole manner of life, just as he who invited you to it is different. For there's a verse which says, "You all be different, because *I* am different."

17. And if you claim as Father the One who utterly disregards a man's race and is concerned only with the way he acts, then carry out your Christian commitment with fear and trembling. Realize that you were snatched from the emptiness of your traditional ways not by material things—money and jewelry and such stuff—but by the priceless lifeblood of Christ himself, who was as innocent and harmless as a lamb. That he would do this was known from time immemorial, but it came through sharp and clear only recently when you put your trust in God who raised him from the dead and qualified him. That's why your faith and hope are rooted in God.

22. Now that by your response to the truth you have dedicated your inner lives to genuine brother-love, go ahead and love one another straight from the heart with all you've got. For you all have been refathered, not by a mortal man, but by the immortal word of a living and abiding God.

□ *Every human being is like a blade of grass,  
And his appearance is like a blossom.  
The grass dries up, the blossom falls off;*

## II Rock

[2 Peter]

*Cotton Patch Version*

### II Rock

1.

2.

3.

### 1.

1. From Simon (Rock), a “captive” of Jesus Christ, as well as his agent, to those who, due to the fairness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ, have gotten a faith that’s every bit as good as ours. May you have lots of undeserved favor and peace as you get to know God and our Lord Jesus better.

3. Through his divine power and through the knowledge of him who has invited us because of the goodness of his own heart, he has loaded us up with all we need for the good life. In so doing he has dealt us in on some wonderful offers that are out of this world. By accepting them you may become partners in the divine order and may escape from the awful hellishness which greed generates in the world. On top of this, you should do your dead-level best to put goodness in your faith;

*wisdom in your goodness,  
self-control in your wisdom;  
patience in your self-control,  
godliness in your patience;  
brotherliness in your godliness,  
and love in your brotherliness.*

8. Being packed down and running over with these things keeps you from being duds and washouts in the course of the Lordship of Jesus Christ. But the man who hasn’t got them is nearsighted and is going blind; he has become forgetful of his previous cleansing from his sins. So, brothers, concentrate all the more on taking the slack out of your Christian commitment and assignment. By doing so, you won’t ever fall overboard. What’s more, you’ll be guaranteed full admission into the spiritual movement of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

12. Well, I’m going to keep right on nagging you on these matters, even though you are fully aware of them and have been drilled in the essential points. So, as long as I’m in this “house,” I think it is a good idea to keep jogging your memory. I realize that in a little while I’ll be moving out of my “house,” just as our Lord Jesus Christ made clear to me. That’s why I’ll do my best to help you always to have a clear memory of these things even after I’ve checked out. For when we made known to you the power and the presence of our Lord Jesus, we didn’t bait you along with polished sermons; rather, we spoke from firsthand experience of his greatness. For we were there on the holy bill with him when he accepted from Father-God honor and praise, as a voice came to him with surpassing glory. With our own two ears we heard that voice coming in from heaven and saying, “This is my dearly loved Son, of whom I’m real proud.”

19. Also, we put the prophetic word on a more solid footing, and you’ll do yourself a favor by clutching it as though it were a light in a dismal swamp, and hanging on to it until day breaks and “Light-bearer” rises in your hearts.

20. Understand this from the outset: No prophetic writing launches itself<sup>[b1]</sup>. For prophecy is never produced by human volition; instead, as men get carried away by holy spirit, they speak for God.