

1. Παῦλος ^αδέσμιος ^βΧριστοῦ Ἰησοῦ ^γκαὶ
 Τιμόθεος ^δὁ ἀδελφὸς ^εΦιλήμονι τῷ ἀγαπῶντι ^ς
 καὶ ^ζσυνεργῶ ἡμῶν

-1. Paul's usual way of referring to himself is as "the bondsman of Jesus Christ" or "the sent one of Jesus Christ", but in this epistle he refers to himself as "the one in bounds" or "the bound one of Jesus Christ". The term employed occurs also in Eph. 3:1 and is understood to make literal reference to bonds or bindings. It is thought that in these passages it indicates Paul's actual imprisonment in Rome and is used as a proof to indicate his incarceration there following the account of Acts 28. This is a reference more clearly to the human bonds employed by man than to the spiritual bonds which held him so fast to Christ that are noted in other places. (Rom.1:1) So it might read: "Paul who is bound by men in behalf of Jesus Christ."

-2. Such a term as this meaning "dearly beloved" is truly indicative of the affection which believers felt for one another as those who by the love of God were bound together. It is a letter to "the one who is dearly loved."

-a..a The construction in this phrase represents either a basic use of the genitive or ablative cases. Somewhat of the exactness depends upon how literal a meaning is given to -1 above. Understanding this as a literal usage indicating physical binding the construction is that of an ablative of separation