

-c..c The consummative perfect is used as the writer is thinking both of the present state and the past act. Thus it reads: "The bowels of the saints are now refreshed as they have been through you." Philemon's attitude towards those of the household of faith had not just evolved but apparently was well known for some time, if not from his very conversion.

-d..d However the source of this refreshment is by means of Philemon. It should be understood in this note and in -b. that the activity which motivated Philemon was that which motivates all believers: the Holy Spirit. There is then a sense in which Philemon, a man of means and position, is the source of the refreshment but the fact is that primarily the means of the refreshment. "By means of you, brother," says the Apostle, indicating that if God had not chosen Philemon He could easily have appointed another to refresh the saints. He is the means of God's working and this phrase must be understood as an ablative of means.

-e..e Use of the vocative for address is indicative of the direct personal attitude of the Epistle. This form is used here and in verse 20 in the warm, affectionate meaning of "Brother," an offspring of the same Father, with the same family ties.

Resultant Reading:

For I have great joy and companionship in the regions of your love because the depths of the lives of the saints have been relieved of stress by means of your cooperation, brother.