

15. τὰχα γὰρ διὰ τοῦτο^{a3} ἐχωρίσθη^{δ2 b7} πρὸς
 ὥραν^{←b① c→}, ἵνα αἰώνιον^② αὐτὸν ἀπέχης^{② ←c},

-1. Here is the third stage in comparison and contrast.

Onesimus was separated for an hour that he might be held forever. Figure 1 indicates a relatively short time which is contrasted with figure 2 indicated endless ages. At the same point the verbs contrast with the first indicating actual physical separation while the second indicates not reunion but rather being held closely or held in a place of control. The runaway slave was separated for a little while that (in the providence of God) he might be held close by his master forever. Philemon would be able to exert all the influence to which he was entitled over Onesimus forever. This would not however be the influence of master over slave but of brother to brother.

-a..a Used in the aorist passive the meaning of this verb alters and whereas it means "be separated" in the active it now denotes going away. It is the constative use of the Aorist and views the act as complete: "For quickly on this account he departed for an hour."

-b..b An adverbial accusative relative to time is thus employed "for an hour." His defection for a small period of time should be understood in a literal sense as balanced against his being held forever. The term hour is used figuratively but in a literal contrast. The use of the accusative is also continued into the second clause.