

16. οὐκέτι ^a ὡς δοῦλον ^a ἀλλὰ ὑπὲρ ^b δοῦλον,
 ἄδελφόν ἀγαπητόν, ^c μάλιστα ^① ἐμοί, ^c πρὸς
 δεῖ μᾶλλον σοὶ ^d καὶ ἐν σακρί ^② καὶ ἐν
 κυρίῳ. ^d

-1. This term, although meaning chiefest, should not be read to mean that Paul valued Onesimus above all others in his company but rather as a strong term to show the depths of his feeling for his convert. Comparison is used again and the "one who is chiefest to me--but rather how much more to you..." is the means of showing how useful Onesimus has now become.

-2. "In the flesh and in the Lord" shows how the profit is manifested. Whether in physical matters or in spiritual matters Onesimus is now of great profit.

-a..a A beautiful simile is read in this line: he should not be received as a slave but instead of a slave as a beloved brother.

-b..b With the accusative this preposition usually means above, beyond, instead of, etc. However after a comparative adjective it often means than. In this case there is no actual comparative adjective but the thought is comparative and "than" makes a smoother translation. "No longer as a slave but rather than as a slave as a beloved brother."

In these accusative phrases there seems to be a double accusative stemming from the verb "hold" and with objects being "servant" and "brother". This is somewhat speculative.