Create an exegetical outline for Philemon 1:15-16 (using the Legacy Standard Bible)

**ChatGPT said:**

ChatGPT

Here is an exegetical outline for **Philemon 1:15-16** (Legacy Standard Bible):

**Text (Philemon 1:15-16, LSB)**

15 For perhaps he was separated from you for a while, in order that you would have him back forever,  
16 no longer as a slave, but more than a slave, a beloved brother, especially to me, but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

**Exegetical Outline**

**I. The Purpose Behind Onesimus’ Temporary Separation (v. 15)**

1. **Recognition of Divine Providence**
   * *"For perhaps he was separated from you for a while"*
     + Use of "perhaps" indicates Paul’s humility in discerning God's purposes.
     + "Was separated" (passive voice) suggests divine agency in Onesimus’ departure.
2. **Redemptive Purpose**
   * *"In order that you would have him back forever"*
     + Temporal separation leads to eternal reconciliation.
     + "Forever" emphasizes the eternal nature of their relationship in Christ.

**II. The Transformative Nature of Reconciliation (v. 16)**

1. **A Change in Status**
   * *"No longer as a slave"*
     + Onesimus’ identity has changed; he is no longer merely a bondservant.
2. **A New Relationship**
   * *"But more than a slave, a beloved brother"*
     + The transformation elevates Onesimus to the status of family in Christ.
     + "Beloved brother" underscores the deep affection and spiritual kinship.
3. **Special Significance to Paul and Philemon**
   * *"Especially to me, but how much more to you"*
     + Paul’s personal relationship with Onesimus highlights his value.
     + Philemon’s relationship is elevated "both in the flesh and in the Lord," acknowledging both physical and spiritual bonds.

**Theological Themes**

1. **Divine Sovereignty**
   * God’s providence orchestrates events for redemptive purposes.
2. **Christian Brotherhood**
   * Earthly roles and distinctions are transcended by unity in Christ.
3. **Reconciliation in Christ**
   * The gospel transforms relationships, turning estrangement into eternal fellowship.

**Homiletical Applications**

1. Trust in God’s providential hand, even in difficult or unexpected circumstances.
2. Embrace reconciliation and unity within the church as a reflection of the gospel.
3. Recognize the eternal value of each believer, regardless of earthly status.

This outline highlights the key exegetical points and their theological implications while offering practical applications.

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**You said:**

Very nice. Update your exegetical outline to include the original Greek text (use the Nestle-Aland 28th edition).

**ChatGPT said:**

ChatGPT

Here is the updated exegetical outline for **Philemon 1:15-16** with the **original Greek text (Nestle-Aland 28th edition)**:

**Text (Philemon 1:15-16, NA28)**

15 τάχα γὰρ διὰ τοῦτο ἐχωρίσθη πρὸς ὥραν, ἵνα αἰώνιον αὐτὸν ἀπέχῃς,  
16 οὐκέτι ὡς δοῦλον ἀλλ’ ὑπὲρ δοῦλον, ἀδελφὸν ἀγαπητόν, μάλιστα ἐμοί, πόσῳ δὲ μᾶλλον σοὶ καὶ ἐν σαρκὶ καὶ ἐν Κυρίῳ.

**Exegetical Outline**

**I. The Purpose Behind Onesimus’ Temporary Separation (v. 15)**

1. **Recognition of Divine Providence**
   * *"τάχα γὰρ διὰ τοῦτο ἐχωρίσθη πρὸς ὥραν"*
     + **Key Observations**:
       - *τάχα* ("perhaps"): Reflects Paul’s humility in suggesting, not asserting, God’s providential work.
       - *διὰ τοῦτο* ("for this reason"): Indicates a purposeful design in the separation.
       - *ἐχωρίσθη* (passive voice, "was separated"): Suggests divine agency in Onesimus' departure.
       - *πρὸς ὥραν* ("for a while"): Emphasizes the temporary nature of the separation.
2. **Redemptive Purpose**
   * *"ἵνα αἰώνιον αὐτὸν ἀπέχῃς"*
     + **Key Observations**:
       - *ἵνα* ("in order that"): Marks a purpose clause, connecting the temporal event to eternal consequences.
       - *αἰώνιον* ("forever"): Highlights the eternal reconciliation now possible through Christ.
       - *ἀπέχῃς* (subjunctive, "you may have him"): Suggests the relational restoration of Onesimus to Philemon.

**II. The Transformative Nature of Reconciliation (v. 16)**

1. **A Change in Status**
   * *"οὐκέτι ὡς δοῦλον"*
     + **Key Observations**:
       - *οὐκέτι* ("no longer"): Signals a definitive change in Onesimus' identity.
       - *ὡς δοῦλον* ("as a slave"): Acknowledges Onesimus’ former role while emphasizing his new status.
2. **A New Relationship**
   * *"ἀλλ’ ὑπὲρ δοῦλον, ἀδελφὸν ἀγαπητόν"*
     + **Key Observations**:
       - *ἀλλ’ ὑπὲρ δοῦλον* ("but more than a slave"): Shows the elevation of Onesimus to a higher, familial relationship.
       - *ἀδελφὸν ἀγαπητόν* ("a beloved brother"): Highlights the spiritual bond in Christ.
3. **Special Significance to Paul and Philemon**
   * *"μάλιστα ἐμοί, πόσῳ δὲ μᾶλλον σοὶ"*
     + **Key Observations**:
       - *μάλιστα ἐμοί* ("especially to me"): Paul’s personal affection for Onesimus underscores his value.
       - *πόσῳ δὲ μᾶλλον σοὶ* ("how much more to you"): Philemon’s relationship with Onesimus is elevated by their shared faith.
       - *καὶ ἐν σαρκὶ καὶ ἐν Κυρίῳ* ("both in the flesh and in the Lord"): Reflects the dual dimension of their relationship—both physical and spiritual.

**Theological Themes**

1. **Divine Sovereignty**
   * The passive verb *ἐχωρίσθη* indicates God’s providence in orchestrating events for His purposes.
2. **Christian Brotherhood**
   * The phrase *ἀδελφὸν ἀγαπητόν* redefines earthly relationships within the spiritual family of Christ.
3. **Reconciliation in Christ**
   * *ἵνα αἰώνιον αὐτὸν ἀπέχῃς* points to the gospel’s power to transform temporary estrangement into eternal fellowship.

**Homiletical Applications**

1. Trust God’s providence, even when His purposes are unclear (*τάχα γὰρ...*).
2. Seek reconciliation and unity within the body of Christ as an outworking of the gospel (*οὐκέτι ὡς δοῦλον*).
3. Recognize and honor the eternal value of relationships transformed by Christ (*ἀδελφὸν ἀγαπητόν*).

This version integrates the Greek text into the exegetical framework, enhancing the study's depth and precision.