

Apphia

Scripture Reference: Philemon 1:2

Name Meaning: That which is fruitful

This believer, belonging to Colossae, the ancient Phrygian city now a part of Turkey, is spoken of as our "dearly beloved" and "our sister" (rv, margin). It is likely that she lived out the significance of her name by being a fruitful branch of the Vine. Apphia is believed to have been the wife of Philemon and either the mother or sister of Archippus who was evidently a close member of the family. She must have been closely associated with Philemon, otherwise she would not have been mentioned in connection with a domestic matter (Philemon 1:2). Tradition has it that Philemon, Apphia, Archippus and Onesimus were stoned to death during the reign of Nero. It was Onesimus who went to Colossae with a message for the Philemon household.