



Philemon
“Paul’s plea for a Brother.”
Part #2

*“We are never more like our
God then when we forgive
others.” John MacArthur.....*

2 major points about FORGIVENESS in this letter that we need to realize.



- #1 Even though the over whelming theme of the letter is Forgiveness, we never see the word listed within it's wording.
- #2 No reference from Paul to Philemon stating the doctrines of forgiveness.

2 major things you must consider when you fail to forgive.

- #1 Your lack of forgiveness is your way of telling God that YOU are higher and more Righteous than He is.
- #2 Your unwillingness to forgive is commandeering or over taking the authority of God in your life.

Making his case for his brother.



Vr. 10-11 From useless to useful.

- **Paul saw Onesimus as His Spiritual offspring.**
- **Onesimus , A play on words.**

Vr. 12-14 His presence speaks of his heart.

- **I have sent him back IN PERSON!**
- **Paul describes him as his very heart.**
- **Paul desired to keep him BUT....He was not a free man.**



Making his case for his brother.

Vr. 15-16 God's hand in God's Plan.

- Could it be that God was at work in all these things, both good and bad; in order to reach this runaway slave with the gospel? **Rom 8:28**

Vr. 17-20 "Charge it to my account."

- **Key truths to our response in forgiveness.**
- We accept the offender, because we have been accepted by Christ.
- The debt that is owed us is removed, because the debt we own for our sin has been removed.
- The debt that is owed us is to be seen in the debt we owe others.
- Our response has the capacity to refresh the saints and glorify the Lord if we react in a Christ like manner. (vr. 20)

Vr. 21-25 A Confidence in Christ.



Paul's last challenges for Philemon. "I trust Christ in you to not only do the right thing, but to go above and beyond what is required so that Christ Jesus would be gloried through your actions."

Can we be trusted to allow Christ Jesus to work through us, to bring glory to himself through our acts of forgiveness towards others?