

LOVE FORGIVES AND HOPES ALL THINGS (Philemon 20-25)

- In some respects, you are never more like God than when you...
- **The serious problems of unforgiveness: When you are unwilling to forgive another...**
 - 1) You _____ the _____ through _____. (Heb.12:15)
 - 2) You _____ to the _____ in your life. (Ephesians 4:26-27)
 - 3) You _____ the _____ who seeks to produce _____ in your life. (Eph. 4:30-31)
 - 4) You fail to _____ the _____ you have been undeservedly given because of _____. (Ephesians 4:32-5:2)
 - 5) You _____ your _____ in your daily walk. (1 John 1:6-10)
- A parable to remember: Matthew 18:21-35
- A process to recognize: Luke 17:3-4; Mark 11:25

A. The PERSONAL GREETINGS...from Paul (and Timothy) to Philemon, his family, and the church that met in his house. (1-3)

B. The PRAISE of PHILEMON ... for what God was doing in and through him. (4-7)

C. The PLEA of PAUL ... for Philemon to receive back Onesimus. (8-19)

D. The PRINCIPLES to REMEMBER ...to see God transform you by His grace and also your relationships.

E. The POSITIVE CLOSING REMARKS to PHILEMON...regarding his anticipated responses to Paul's appeal and coming, along with some closing greetings and encouragement. (20-25)

1. **Since love hopes all things and Philemon had a pattern of walking by faith and ministering to others in love, Paul appeals to him to _____ his heart by _____ to these instructions to receive back Onesimus. (20-21)**
 - How does Paul continue to view and approach Philemon?
 - While our decisions in life must always be done as unto the Lord, what is Paul's wish in this further appeal? What can you learn from this?

- What phrase is mentioned twice and significant? Why?
- Does Paul anticipate minimal compliance with his appeal? Could others expect this from you?

2. Since Paul _____ in God's sovereign _____ and the power of answered _____, he anticipates his soon release from prison and asks Philemon to _____ a _____ for him at his house. (22)

- Does Paul struggle with the reality of God's sovereignty and human responsibility?
- What would this anticipated visit by Paul further indirectly produce in Philemon's situation with Onesimus?

3. Since Philemon was from Colosse, he is personally greeted first by _____ who was probably a _____ there and was _____ for him. (23; Col.1:7-8, 4:12-13)

- How was Epaphras viewed in his imprisonment?
- What would this also indirectly produce in Philemon's situation with Onesimus?

4. Since Paul had the support of other believers in his imprisonment, _____, _____, _____, and _____ also greet Philemon. (24)

- What do we know about these believers?

5. Since the power of forgiveness and obedience is not resourced from the flesh, Paul closes this letter to his dear friend Philemon with a significant reminder about, "The _____ of _____ be _____ your _____." (25)

- So did Philemon respond or react to this appeal and receive Onesimus back?
- What can we learn from this regarding believers who choose to forgive others?
 - 1) Believers who forgive others are responding to the _____.
 - 2) Believers who forgive others are exhibiting _____.
 - 3) Believers who forgive others _____.
 - 4) Believers who forgive others _____.
 - 5) Believers who forgive others _____.
 - 6) Believers who forgive others _____.
 - 7) Believers who forgive others _____.

- How does all of this apply to you?