

"Colossians & Philemon"

~ Philemon 1:11-18 ~

"Charge it to Me!"



Philemon 8-17

⁸ Therefore, although in Christ I could be bold and order you to do what you ought to do, ⁹ yet I prefer to appeal to you on the basis of love. It is as none other than Paul—an old man and now also a prisoner of Christ Jesus—¹⁰ that I appeal to you for my son Onesimus, who became my son while I was in chains.

¹¹ Formerly he was useless to you, but now he has become useful both to you and to me.

¹² I am sending him—who is my very heart—back to you.

Read by: Kim Deluca



Philemon 8-17

¹³ I would have liked to keep him with me so that he could take your place in helping me while I am in chains for the gospel.

¹⁴ But I did not want to do anything without your consent, so that any favor you do would not seem forced but would be voluntary.

¹⁵ Perhaps the reason he was separated from you for a little while was that you might have him back forever—

¹⁶ no longer as a slave, but better than a slave, as a dear brother. He is very dear to me but even dearer to you,

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Philemon 8-17

... both as a fellow man and as a brother in the Lord.

¹⁷ So if you consider me a partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. ¹⁸ If he has done you any wrong or owes you anything, charge it to me.

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It's something that everyone needs...

...is eager to receive...

...but is very hard to give...

Forgiveness!



v10-11

¹⁰ that I appeal to you for my son Onesimus, who became my son while I was in chains.

¹¹ Formerly **he was useless** to you, but now he has become useful both to you and to me.

was

An unprofitable slave!

Useless!

Acted wickedly against his master

Stolen something perhaps...

In rebellion!

Fleeing from his master!

Hiding in a foreign land!



V10-11

¹⁰ that I appeal to you for my son Onesimus,
who became my son while I was in chains.

¹¹ Formerly he was useless to you, but now he has become
useful both to you and to me.

was

Useful!



A life renewed!
Value restored!

V10-11

¹⁰ that I appeal to you for my son Onesimus,
who became my son while I was in chains.

¹¹ Formerly he was useless to you, but now he has become
useful both to you and to me.

“Anyone who belongs to Christ has
become a new person. The old life is
gone; a new life has begun!”

2 Corinthians 5:17

V10-11

¹⁰ that I appeal to you for my son Onesimus,
who became my son while I was in chains.

¹¹ Formerly he was useless to you, but now he has become
useful both to you and to me.

2 Timothy 4:11 –

“Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with
you, because he is useful to me in my ministry.”

Acts 13:13 – Mark abandoned the mission...

Later, when Barnabas wanted to bring Mark along on
another journey, Paul and Barnabas had a “sharp
disagreement” - Acts 15:39

Think for a moment...

What might Philemon's initial reaction have been
to such a request?



- Slavery was prevalent in Roman Empire.
- Unlike Judaism, Christianity had no recognized legal status.
- While Rome generally ignored Christianity (unless it challenged imperial rule), Christians were regarded with suspicion and occasionally persecuted for their beliefs.
- Some important Christian rituals were even taken as cannibalism and others as incest.



Into that atmosphere, Paul sends his note asking for
full forgiveness AND even more...

To treat a rebellious slave as a family member!

WHAT?? No flogging? No punishment?
Reward instead??

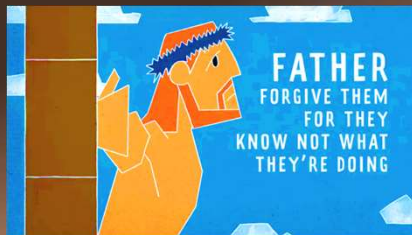
How would such a response from Philemon be viewed
by the general Roman population?

Forgiveness!

>> “theological concept” ...



Forgiveness!



As Jesus forgave Peter!
As Jesus forgave His crucifiers!
As Jesus forgave US!

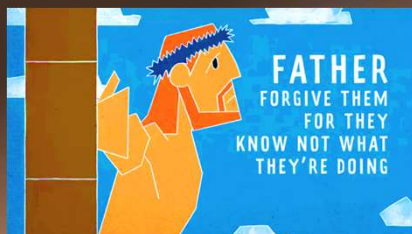
"Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who have trespassed against us!"

Forgiveness!



Applied! (in real life!)

Forgiveness!



Luke 7:36-50: The parable of the two debtors

"And behold, a woman in the city who was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at the table in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster flask of fragrant oil, 38 and stood at His feet behind Him weeping; and she began to wash His feet with her tears, and wiped them with the hair of her head; and she kissed His feet and anointed them with the fragrant oil..."

Forgiveness!



Matthew 18:23-33: The parable of the UNFORGIVING debtor

"Therefore, the Kingdom of Heaven can be compared to a king who decided to bring his accounts up to date with servants who had borrowed money from him..."



Forgiveness!

Connected to an injustice or an injury

Forgiveness has a "cost!"
... which requires someone has to
"cover" it!

Forgiveness!

Connected to an injustice or an injury

Forgiveness has a "cost!"
... which requires someone has to
"cover" it!

For "justice" to be accomplished, the offender must pay restitution...

That which was taken + a penalty =

Debt!

Forgiveness!

My Debt...



GOD MADE HIM WHO HAD NO SIN TO BE SIN FOR US, SO THAT IN HIM WE MIGHT BECOME THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD.

- 2 CORINTHIANS 5:21 -

"Imputation" (logizomai) - the word the apostle Paul used meaning, "to reckon," "to charge to one's account."

>> Forgiveness!



Injury or debt **Restitution** **Reconciliation** **Embrace**

Receive them as FAMILY!

>> Forgiveness!



Injury or debt **Restitution** **Reconciliation** **Embrace**

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

JOHN 13:34-35

In reality, WE WERE ALL Onesimus!



But now... He Calls me FRIEND!

John 15:15

PSALM 103:12



FORGIVEN

AS FAR AS THE **EAST** IS FROM THE **WEST**

SO FAR HAS HE REMOVED OUR TRANSGRESSIONS FROM US

That same precious gospel that had come to Philemon... had already had its way with Saul!

Acts 9:3 - As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven. **4** Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?"

1 Corinthians 15:9-10 – "For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰ But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them—yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect."

So much more than a "theological concept!"

A RENEWAL - in which there is no distinction between Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and freeman, but Christ is all, and in all

Colossians 3:11



Applied! (in real life!)

Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone.

Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

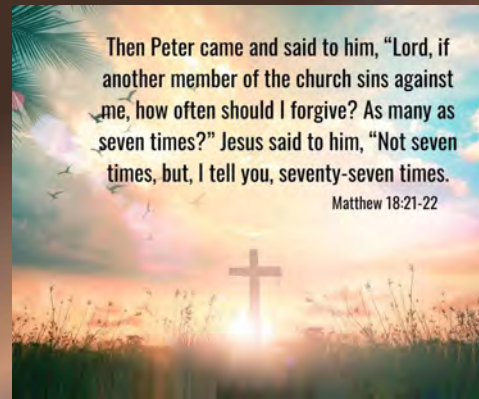
Colossians 3:13



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Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times."

Matthew 18:21-22



Jesus Paid It All
(Lyric Video)

Performed by
Shane & Shane

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Htiuq1xe4v8>