

Series Title:

“The Forgiveness Factor”

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Sermon Title:

“A Portrait of Forgiving Grace”

Harbour Shores Church

Sermon Text:

Philemon 1-25

8.10.08

Introduction:

- As we introduce this book today, there are three things that we need to understand::

I. The _____ Of Philemon

“The term ‘book’ may be somewhat misleading because, given its size, Philemon is more like a ‘postcard’ than a book!”

- What value does the short book of Philemon have, and why?
- **Although Philemon is a _____ letter, it is not a _____ letter.**
- What is the most unique and most important characteristic of Philemon?
- ***The key verses in this letter are verses. 15-18.***

“As we approach the sacred postcard, it is vitally important to remember that this little letter to Philemon is a marvelous example of the strongest force in the universe – and that is the grace of forgiveness!”

- **With an estimated 60,000,000 slaves in the Roman Empire, this letter shows how Paul bridged the _____ between Christian _____ and Christian _____.**
- In Paul’s letter to Philemon, there are two beautiful pictures of what Jesus did for us – what are they?

“Wherever you cut the Bible, it bleeds Jesus!”

II. The _____ Of Philemon

- What was Philemon’s relationship to Paul? (vv. 1, 19)
- ***This letter is not about Philemon; it’s about his _____.***
- What was Paul’s relationship to Onesimus? (vv. 10, 11, 13)

“The Bible story doesn’t give us the ending, although other sources indicate that Philemon did forgive Onesimus, who later became a leader in the church.”

- This story isn't merely about a _____ being sent back to his _____. It's also about how that _____ was to receive this _____.
- Colossians 4:7, 9
- Onesimus is now a believer in Christ – he left a _____ and now returns as a _____.
- Matthew 6:14, 15

III. The _____ Of Philemon

- In Philemon, there is only one central issue, only one primary theme, and that is _____!
 - Exodus 34:6; Psalm 32:1-2; 103:12
- “Man is never more like God than when he forgives, because God is never more like God than when He forgives.”*
- Proverbs 19:11
 - **There are at least three ways in which the theme of forgiveness is presented in Scripture:** it is given in _____; it is given in _____; it is given in _____.
 - This little letter to Philemon is a marvelous example of the strongest force in the universe – *and that is the _____!*
 - In the book of Philemon we see how relational conflict is to be resolved in a _____ and _____ manner.

Conclusion:

Has God's Spirit placed someone on your heart that you need to forgive?

Remember, it is your responsibility to make the divine principles and truths contained in this message real by consistent application of them in your own life.