

**Series Title:**

**“The Forgiveness Factor”**

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**Sermon Title:**

**“Standing On The Edge Of Forgiveness”**

Harbour Shores Church

(Part 3)

**Sermon Text:**

Philemon 8-16

9.21.08

**Introduction:**

- Paul’s appeal to Philemon to accept Onesimus as a brother in Christ was based on three incontrovertible facts:

**I. Paul’s Appeal Was Made On The Basis Of Philemon’s Spiritual Character** (vv. 8-9)

**II. Paul’s Appeal Was Made On The Basis Of Onesimus’ Supernatural Conversion** (vv. 10-14)

**III. Paul’s Appeal Was Made On The Basis Of Sovereign** (vv. 15-16)

- There are two reasons why this is a truly amazing statement:

**A. It reveals the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_**

- The word in the Greek translated “*perhaps*” is a word that means “ \_\_\_\_\_ ”

- **What we have here is a wonderful statement about God’s \_\_\_\_\_.**

*“Providence is God’s sovereign superintendence of all things, guiding them toward their divinely predetermined end in a way that is consistent with their created nature, and in a way that brings all to the glory and praise of God.”*

- There are several foundational principles that underlie any discussion of the doctrine of God’s providence:

**1) God is \_\_\_\_\_ in this universe and in complete \_\_\_\_\_ of all things**

- ✓ I Chronicles 29:11-12; Psalm 24:1; 115:3; 135:6; Genesis 45:5; 50:20; Romans 8:28, Psalm 76:10; Deuteronomy 4:35, 39; Isaiah 45:5-6; I Corinthians 8:4-6; I Timothy 1:17; Jeremiah 32:27; Luke 1:37

**2) God is created the world and therefore it \_\_\_\_\_ to Him and is \_\_\_\_\_ to Him**

- ✓ Deuteronomy 10:14; Job 9:5-10; Psalm 89:11; 95:3-5; I Corinthians 10:26; Psalm 50:1; Isaiah 40:15; I Timothy 6:15

**3) The God who made and governs this world has an \_\_\_\_\_ for it**

- ✓ Psalm 33:11; Proverbs 19:21; Ecclesiastes 3:14; Isaiah 14:24-27; 46:8-11

4) God's will and purpose are only realized in and through \_\_\_\_\_ and the illuminating work of the \_\_\_\_\_

✓ Ephesians 1:9-10; 3:11; I Corinthians 2:14-16; Romans 11:36

5) Although the plan of God has been partially revealed to us, the totality of it remains an ultimate \_\_\_\_\_

✓ Job 11:7-9; 26:14; 36:26; Ecclesiastes 3:11; 11:5; Isaiah 40:28; 55:8

**B. It reveals the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_**

*"Here we see Paul's amazing faith in the "invisible hand" of God moving through every part of human history."*

○ Philippians 1:12-14

○ *Paul's goal was to help Philemon to see God's sovereign \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_!*

○ Isaiah 55:8-9

**Onesimus' \_\_\_\_\_ was the very thing that \_\_\_\_\_ him to Christ!**

*"Onesimus' conversion led to an eternal relationship between him and Philemon – it was a fellowship that transcended the social structure of master and slave!"*

○ *Even though society may have regarded Onesimus as a slave, in God's eyes he was a \_\_\_\_\_!* (I Corinthians 7:22)

○ What is the meaning of the phrase *"in the flesh and in the Lord"*?

### Conclusion:

***What is your status before God – are you a slave or have you been set free?***

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.