

SUPER HEROES...SUPER MEN – PART FOUR
Philemon

A. The **COMMAND** for forgiveness (v17-20)

1. The **ATTITUDE** involved (v17)
 - a. Paul reminds Philemon that they are **partners** in the faith
 - b. By saying this, Paul is **reminding** Philemon that he now has this same partnership with Onesimus
 - c. As a result, he should **accept** Onesimus as he would accept Paul
2. The **ACTION** involved (v18-19)
 - a. Paul encourages Philemon to **illustrate** his forgiveness by not requiring material restitution
 - b. Philemon had every legal **right** to demand this restitution (Numbers 5:6-8)
 - c. Paul exhorts Philemon to show **grace** and give Onesimus what he does not deserve (Ephesians 4:32)
 - d. If Philemon were to demand **restitution** than Paul makes the offer to pay it
 - e. Paul's own handwriting became his **I.O.U.**
 - f. Paul reminds Philemon that he is also a **debtor** to Paul for leading him to Christ
3. The **AFTERMATH** involved (v20)
 - a. Forgiving Onesimus would be a spiritual **benefit** to the Apostle Paul in prison

b. “Refresh” = intermission from **labor** or rest as in an army resting after a long march

B. The **CLIMAX** of forgiveness (v21-22)

1. Paul's **CONFIDENCE** in Philemon (v21)
 - a. Paul has **confidence** that Philemon will accept and forgive his new brother in Christ
 - b. He asks Philemon to do even **more**
2. Paul's **COMING** to Philemon (v22)
 - a. Paul expected to **visit** Philemon
 - b. Knowing Paul's **intentions** to visit would further encourage Philemon to heed his advice

C. The **CONCLUSION** of the letter (v23-25)

1. The **GREETINGS** of Paul (v23-24)
 - a. **Epaphras** = a member of the Colossae church with Paul during his Roman imprisonment
 - b. **Mark** = John Mark, the cousin of Barnabas who deserted Paul but later wrote the Gospel of Mark
 - c. **Aristarchus** = a Jewish believer originally from Thessalonica
 - d. **Demas** = a partner who would later desert Paul during his second Roman imprisonment (2 Timothy 4:10)
 - e. **Luke** = physician; writer of the Gospel of Luke
2. The **GRACE** of God (v25) - Paul **reminds** Philemon of the only way he can fulfill these exhortations...grace

