

PHILEMON

THE KEY TO FORGIVENESS

Philemon vv. 7-9

A. Review

B. The Kind of Guy Philemon Was (v. 7)

1. *"the hearts of the saints have been refreshed"* - In the past, Philemon had the reputation of being a kind man. He had shown acts of love and kindness to fellow believers. Paul said that this fact really encouraged his own heart.
2. Had Philemon even shown kindness to slaves before?
3. *"brother"* – what a tender term Paul used

C. Paul's Approach With Philemon (v. 8)

1. Paul now comes to the reason and burden of the letter.
2. *"Therefore"* - "Based on what I have heard about you, Philemon, I have no hesitation to write this letter and make this request of you."
3. Paul basically was saying that a man like Philemon would not be offended when someone told him frankly what he ought to do.
4. *"very bold in Christ"* – (parresia)
5. *"to command you what is fitting"* – Paul had the authority of an apostle to simply command Philemon what to do, but this was not the case.

D. For Love's Sake ... (v. 9)

1. *"for love's sake"*
2. *"appeal to you"*
3. In Paul's appeal for love's sake, he mentions two powerful points ... his age and his imprisonment.
4. *"the aged"* – (presbutes)
5. How old would Paul have been?
6. *"a prisoner of Jesus Christ"*