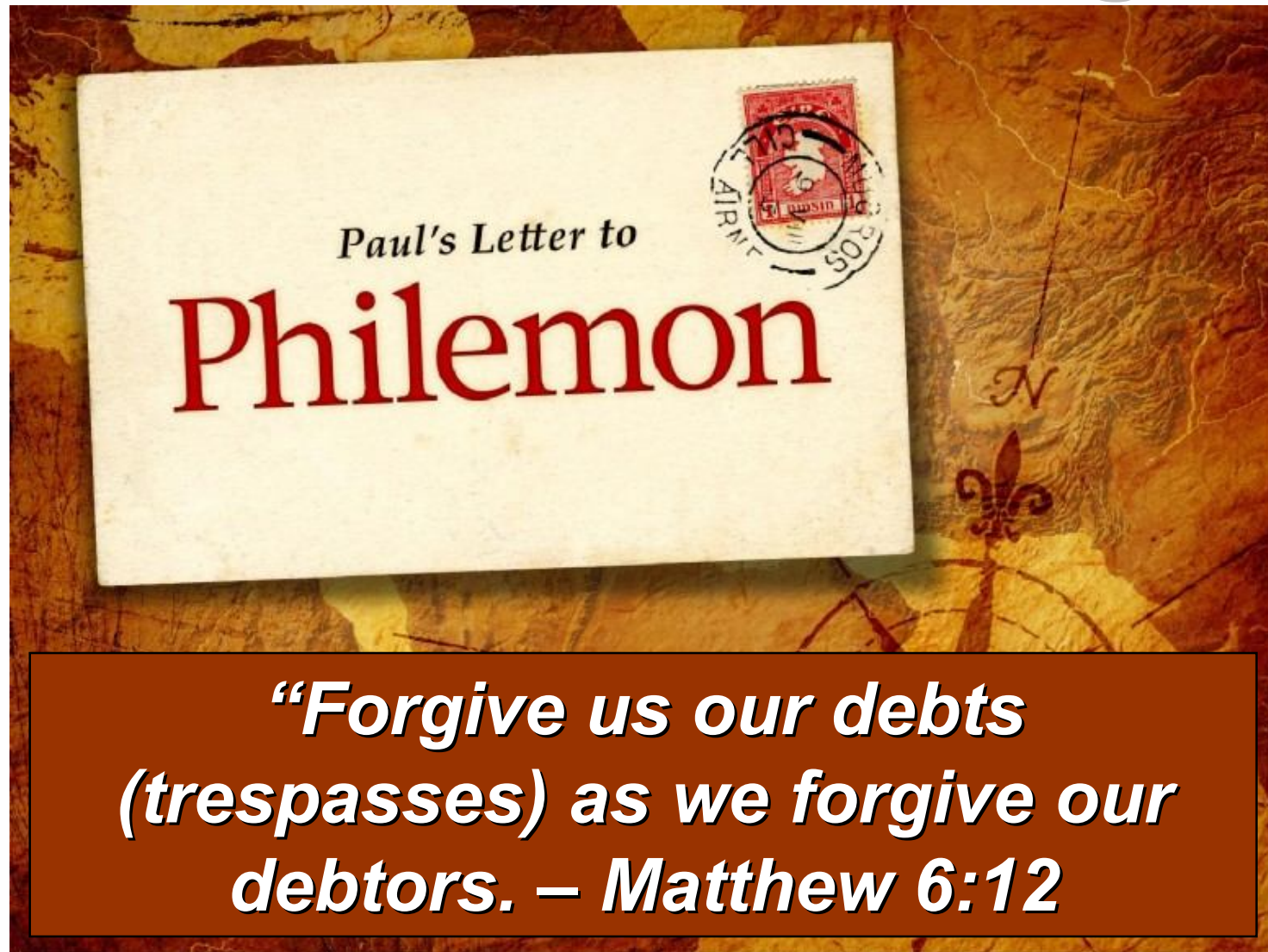


Paul's Letter to
Philemon



Forever Forgiven!

Receive Him Back Again



THE APPEAL

Therefore, although in Christ I could be bold and order you to do what you ought to do, 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—that I appeal to you for my son Onesimus, who became my son while I was in chains. Formerly he was useless to you, but now he has become useful both to you and to me. I am sending him—who is *my very heart*—back to you.

THE TRANSFORMATION

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. 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. Perhaps the reason he was separated from you for a little while was that you might have him back forever—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, both as a fellow man and as a brother in the Lord. So if you consider me a partner, welcome him as you would welcome me.

THE WRONG MADE RIGHT

If he has done you any wrong or owes you anything, charge it to me. I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand. I will pay it back—not to mention that you owe me your very self. I do wish, brother, that I may have some benefit from you in the Lord; refresh my heart in Christ. Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.

Onesimus – the prodigal

- 1. Remorse – godly sorrow**
- 2. Repentance – confess & forsake**
- 3. Regeneration – born again**
- 4. Restitution – make it right**

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

ANY MAN IN CHRIST

2 Corinthians 5:16-19

So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. 17 **Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!** 18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: 19 that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.

Philemon – the father

- 1. Release him – dept is paid**
- 2. Receive him – with open arms**
- 3. Restore him – to former position**
- 4. Rejoice with him – new life**

Matthew 18:35 So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if you from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses.

An Unforgiving Spirit

1. You're Angry
2. You're Hurt
3. You're Bitter
4. You're Wishing Evil
5. You're Vengeful
6. You've Unresolved Conflict
7. You're Unhappy, unrest within
8. You're Stewing - Can't let it go
9. Unable or unwilling to forgive

Not until they apologize, say they are sorry, and beg for my forgiveness.

Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast?... But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; - Gen 4:7

True Forgiveness

1. Forgiveness is never earned.
2. Forgiveness is not justice.
3. Forgiveness is mercy & grace.
4. Forgiveness is from the heart.
5. Forgiveness is unilateral.
6. Forgiveness is not about worthiness.
7. Forgiveness is not overlooking sin.
8. Forgiveness is not excusing the sin.

No one owes you an apology!

Let it go! Lay it down at Jesus' feet or it will enslave you.

What God Did With My Sin

1. They were paid in full – Rom. 5:11
2. They were forgiven/pardoned – I John 1:9
3. They were laid on Jesus – Is 53:6
4. They were washed whiter than... – Is 1:18
5. They were covered – Ps 32:1
6. They were cleansed by the blood – Heb 9:22
7. They were blotted out – Is 44:22
8. They were removed as far as... – Ps 103:12
9. They were cast in depths of sea – Micah 7:19
10. They were forever forgotten – Jer 31:34

JESUS PAID IT ALL

Jesus paid it all
All to him I owe
Sin has left a crimson stain
He washed it white as snow.

And when he sits on the throne,
I stand in him complete.
Jesus died my soul to save,
My lips shall still repeat.