

SQUEEZED, PART 2
YOU WANT ME TO DO WHAT?
Philemon 1:10-21

To have been forgiven makes you a forgiver.

The heart of this letter is forgiveness and reconciliation.

It's Philemon's turn now to be "squeezed."

"What about the other slaves?"

"We've got a soft master!"
"Christianity makes you a doormat!"

"What about the other slave owners?"

Everyone else will be affected by this decision.
It's a test case in Colossae.

"What about our Christian outreach?"

The Romans despised love. To them, love was not high on the list of virtues.
"These Christians are so crazy, they love each other before they've even met."

Paul doesn't issue a command but invites Philemon to do the right thing.

"Legalism keeps you a baby forever." (Malcolm Smith)

In 1 Thessalonians 3:12, Paul speaks of the kind of love Philemon is called upon to extend.

"May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else."
The word "increase" = multiply (compounded interest)
The word "overflow" = exceed a fixed measure ("plenty too much")
These words are also used to describe the way God is.

The disciples ask Jesus, "How many times do we forgive someone? 7 times?" Jesus says, "No, 70 x 7 times."

How can the love of God permeate our town through us?

Colossians 3:12
Colossians 4:9

Christianity in expression is that aggressive, "plenty too much" kind of love.

Whenever justice has been violated, we say, "Someone has got to pay!" The gospel says: "Someone has paid!"

God has closed the ledger book on you. Now, you close the ledger book on others.

How? Act as if you can, and the miracle to do so will be there.