

Squeezed

Forgiven and Forgiving in
the Book of Philemon



Part 3

So, All This Was Planned?

Philemon 1:15-25

“What does Christianity look like when it’s put into practice—especially as it pertains to relationships?”



“Everyone says forgiveness is a lovely idea
until they have something to forgive.”

– C. S. Lewis



The gospel of Jesus Christ re-humanizes us so we can flourish in this life, regardless of our circumstances.



To have been forgiven makes you a forgiver.



Philemon 1:15-16

“Perhaps the reason he **was separated** from you for a little while was that you might have him back for good—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 man and as a brother in the Lord.”



The Scriptures are adamant and consistent about the rule and reign of God on earth in all things that come to pass.



Psalm 103:7

“[God] made known His **ways** to Moses,
His **acts** to the sons of Israel.”



Psalm 103:19

“The LORD has established his throne in the
heavens,
And His **sovereignty** rules over all.”



1 Chronicles 16:31

“Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be
glad;

let them say among the nations, ‘The LORD
reigns!’”



Matthew 28:18

“All authority is given to me in heaven and on earth.”



All the events of this world have their origin in—and are superintended by—the all-wise, infinitely good God whose name is “Love.”



Acts 2:23

This man [Jesus] was handed over to you **by God's set purpose and foreknowledge**; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. But God raised him from the dead....”



“When you can’t trace God’s hand, you can trust his heart.”

– Charles Spurgeon



Genesis 50:20

“As for you, you meant evil against me; **but God meant it for good**, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.”



So, all this was planned? In a universe governed by an all-sovereign God, we have to answer that question with a resounding “yes”! And that’s good news.



Philemon 1:1

“Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus...”



Psalm 56:8

“You have taken account of my wanderings;
Put my **tears** in your bottle.”



Philemon 1:18

“If he has done you any wrong or owes you anything, **charge it to me.**”



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