FORGIVENESS | FROM USELESS TO USEFULL
PHILEMON 8-16

In writing this brief letter, Paul has a profound purpose. He desires to facilitate reconciliation between two men who have both been changed by the Gospel of Jesus Christ and reconciled to God. In the first several verses, we receive a lesson on heartfelt tact. Paul was a premier leader in the church and in his sixties at this point. He was called by God to be the apostle to the Gentiles. He could have demanded a certain response and pulled rank. Instead, he was warm, humble and gracious in his communication to Philemon. He demonstrated the heart of a mediator in that he identified with Philemon, communicated the good he saw in him, and put a priority on their relationship. Now as Paul makes his appeal, he will approach Philemon on behalf of someone who was once useless to him, but now has been transformed by the Gospel. How does the Gospel impact us and our relationships?

1. The Gospel transforms our lives so that we are incredibly _____ to _____ and _____.

2. The Gospel is the transforming power that can _____ offenses and _____ opposition to the glory of God.