

**SUNDAYS IN AUGUST**

# **PHILEMON**

**A LIVING LESSON ON FORGIVENESS**



**HOPE CITY  
CHURCH**



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***“Helping people experience the Hope  
found in a life-changing relationship with Jesus”.***

# • God is a God of forgiveness.

- Exodus 34:6

- *“The Lord God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in loving kindness and truth, who keeps loving kindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression, and sin.”*



• Jesus:

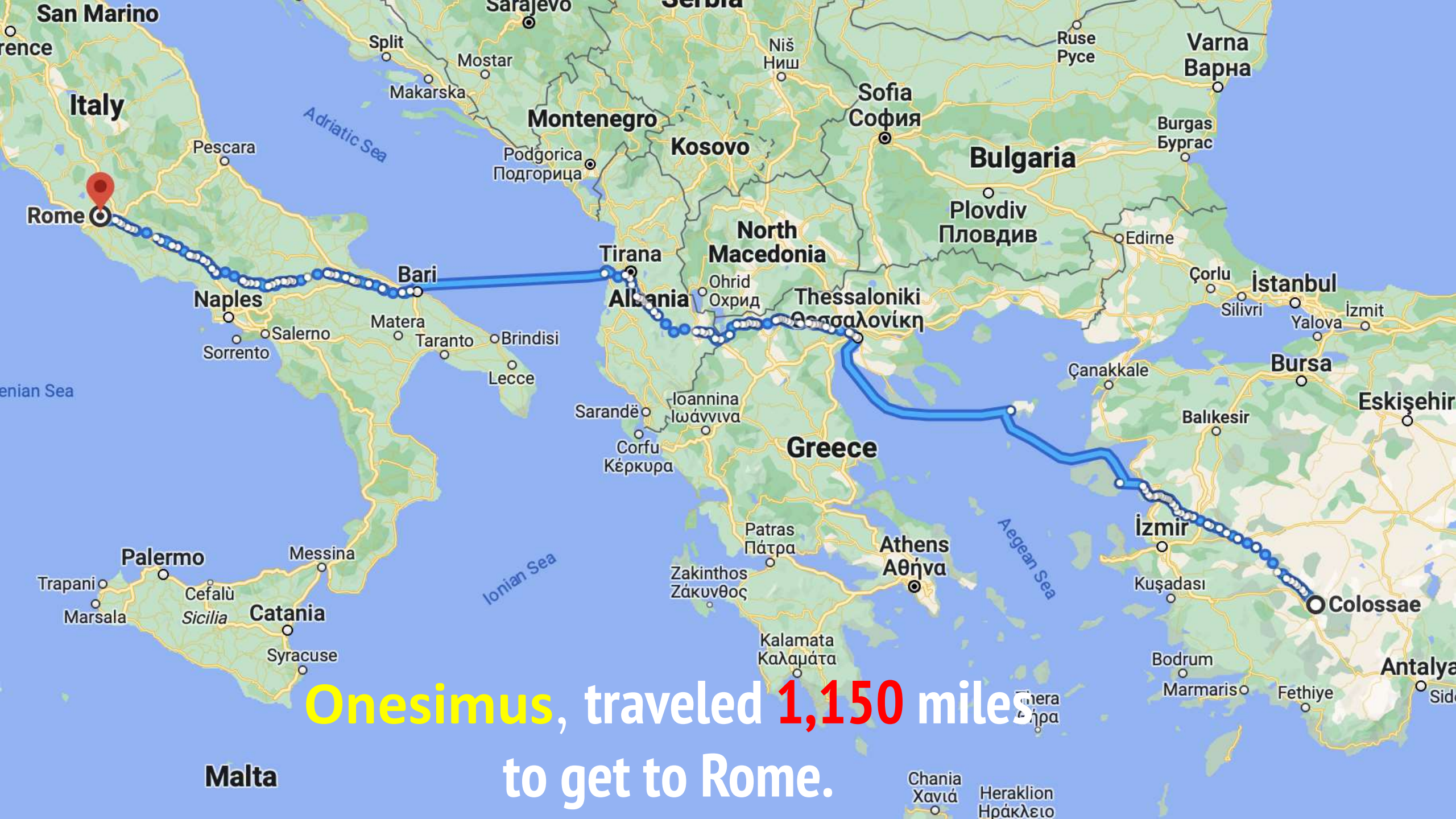
Matthew 6:12

*“Forgive us our trespasses **as we forgive those who trespass against us**”*

*God’s forgiveness of us* is based *in our forgiveness of others.*

14-15 *“For if you forgive men their transgressions, **your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive men, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.**”*





**Onesimus**, traveled **1,150 miles**  
to get to Rome.

## Why forgiving others can be so difficult?

- Forgiving someone is often very difficult because it means letting go.
- **We were told to “forgive and forget” but we can’t actually forget.**
- We wait for the other person to apologize.
- **We don’t think we should.**
- We are afraid.

# Philemon

- **1** *This letter is from Paul, a prisoner for preaching the Good News about Christ Jesus, and from our brother Timothy.*
- *I am writing to Philemon, our beloved co-worker,*
- **2** *and to our sister Apphia, and to our fellow soldier Archippus, and to the church that meets in your house.*
- **3** *May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace.*

# Philemon

- **4** I always thank my God when I pray for you, Philemon,
- **5** because I keep hearing about Your faith in the Lord Jesus and Your love for all of God's people.
- **6** And as you understand and experience all the good things we I am praying that you will put into action the generosity that comes from your faith as you understand and experience all the good things we have in Christ.
- **7** Your love has given me much joy and comfort, my brother, for your kindness has often refreshed the hearts of God's people.

**4 I always thank my God when I pray for you, Philemon,**

**5 because I keep hearing about **Your faith** in the Lord Jesus and  
**Your love** for all of God's people.**

- **1. Your faith** in the Lord Jesus and V.5

- **2. Your love** for all of God's people. V.5

- **6** And **I am praying that** you will put into action the generosity that comes from your faith as you understand and experience all the good things we have in Christ.
- **Faith =** Acts of generosity from understanding all the good things we have in Christ.

- **7** **Your love** has given me much joy and comfort my brother, for your kindness has often refreshed the hearts of God's people.
- **Love =** Joy – Comfort – Kindness – refreshing of the heart of God's people.

# Two Characteristics of a forgiving person:

## 1. Faith in the Lord Jesus. V.5a

- The word Faith GRK = **Pistos** =  
*literally means a strong trust in Jesus*
- Faith = **Pistos.** - Faith.
- In = **Eis** - In. *Deep down in your heart.*

- Luke 17
- <sup>1</sup> Jesus said to his disciples: “Things that cause people to stumble are bound to come, but woe to anyone through whom they come. <sup>2</sup> It would be better for them to be thrown into the sea with a millstone tied around their neck than to cause one of these little ones to stumble.
- <sup>3</sup> So watch yourselves. “If your brother or sister sins against you, rebuke them; and if they repent, forgive them. <sup>4</sup> Even if they sin against you seven times in a day and seven times come back to you saying, ‘I repent,’ you must forgive them.”
- <sup>5</sup> The apostles said to the Lord, “Increase our faith!”

- Luke 17

- <sup>6</sup> He replied, “*If you have faith as small as a mustard seed*, you can say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea,’ and it will obey you.

# Two Characteristics of a forgiving person:

2. Love for all of God's people. V.5b.

- 7 Your love has given me much joy and comfort, my brother, for your kindness has often refreshed the hearts of God's people.

- Love for all of God's people. V5b

# Two Characteristics of a forgiving person:

• Eros Love....      Phileo Love.....

•

• He uses the word AGAPE

Choice, willing, self-sacrificial, selfless love,  
humble, not an emotional love, love that can  
only come from God

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# Two Characteristics of a forgiving person:

- “That is the love that forgives.”
- 1 Cor. 13
- <sup>4</sup> Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. <sup>5</sup> *It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.* <sup>6</sup> *Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.* <sup>7</sup> *It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.*
- <sup>8</sup> Love never fails. <sup>8b</sup> many things will pass away.

# Two Characteristics of a forgiving person:

- *<sup>13</sup> And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.*

- 1 John 3
- <sup>10</sup> *By this it is evident who are the children of God,* and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, *nor is the one who does not love his brother.* <sup>11</sup> For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, *that we should love one another.*

- Two main principles

- Last week:

- God's forgiveness of us is based in our forgiveness of others.

- This week:

- Faith / Trust in Jesus will lead you to acts of Generosity
  - and Love for all God's people will lead you to acts of kindness

- The result

- Forgiveness of those who have hurt you or offended you!!!

- **Faith** = Generosity.      **Love** = Kindness.

- **Results in Forgiveness**

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