**Refresh My Heart – Philemon 8-16**

**Making the Appeal to Reconcile**

1. **We are appealing to act in harmony. (v. 8)**
   1. **The Greek word for the phrase “what is required” is the word *aneko*, which can mean “that which is harmonious”.**
   2. **The definition of harmony is the combination of simultaneously sounded musical notes to produce chords and chord progressions having a pleasing effect.**
   3. **Paul is asking Philemon to act in such a way as to bring about harmony between Paul and Philemon, between Philemon and Onesimus, and between Philemon, Onesimus, and the church meeting in his house.**
2. **We are appealing to act out of love and through liberty. (v. 9-14)**
   1. **The Greek word for love here is *agape*, which is God-love, a self-giving, self-sacrificing love.**
   2. **Paul is asking Philemon to lay down his rights regarding Onesimus and to receive him back into the household.**
   3. **More than that, he wants Philemon to see Onesimus as Paul sees Onesimus, as a child of God.**
3. **We are appealing to act in accord with God’s providence. (v. 15-16)**
   1. **Patience and forgiveness grow well in the soil of God’s providential overruling of human sin and folly. – N.T. Wright**
   2. **The clearest example of this is the story of Joseph. Only after Joseph looks back in retrospect can he see the workings of God through the suffering he faced at the hands of his brothers.**
   3. **Perhaps through God’s providence, Onesimus is “no longer” to be seen as a slave but as a brother forever.**