

**LESSONS THIS QUARTER**

- 1) 06 Mar..... Phil 1:1-11 ..... Link Up with Others
- 2) 13 Mar..... Phil 1:12-26 ..... Lift Up the Gospel
- 3) 20 Mar..... Phil 1:27-2:11 ..... Live Up to the Gospel
- 4) 27 Mar..... Phil 2:12-30 ..... Light Up the World
- 5) 03 Apr..... Phil 3:1-21 ..... Look Up to Heaven
- 6) 10 Apr..... Phil 4:1-23 ..... Never Let Up
- 7) 17 Apr..... Col 1:1-20 ..... Knowing the Truth
- 8) 24 Apr..... John 20:1-18 ..... Believing the Truth [Easter Message]
- 9) 01 May..... Col 1:21-2:7 ..... Expressing the Truth
- 10) 08 May..... Col 2:8-23 ..... Keeping the Truth
- 11) 15 May..... Col 3:1-17 ..... Be Focused
- 12) 22 May..... Col 3:18-4:18 ..... **Be Faithful**
- 13) 29 May..... Philemon 1-25 ..... Be Forgiving

**INTRODUCTION**

- Paul had so much to say, but he chose to condense things into short proverbial statements in these last 26 verses
- Paul’s readers would need to consider, ponder, think through, in essence meditate on these passages to glean proper applications in life

Passage	Comments
3:18	<p><b>Wives – Submit (parallel passage Eph 5:22)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nowhere in Scripture are women directly commanded to obey their husbands                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ While children are to obey their parents and slaves are to obey their masters, wives are to submit to their husbands “as unto the Lord”</li> <li>♦ The Lord, in effect, provides a loophole for the wife to biblically disobey her husband if his behavior or request is unbiblical</li> <li>♦ Can someone be submissive without obeying? - Consider a husband who wants to buy a fancy new car and plunge his family into debt. He might want his wife to submit to his wishes and obey his desire for her to sign on the dotted line. A wise wife would challenge her husband on this and get him to consider other options to avoid debt. She would still be considered a supportive, submissive wife, and worthy to be praised as “she does him good and not evil all the days of her life” ..... Proverbs 31:12</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
3:19	<p><b>Husbands – Love (Agape) Your Wives</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Eros love</b> (where we get the term for erotic) is a conditional love based on feelings (I will love you IF you do something for me)</li> <li>• <b>Phileo love</b> is a companion type love ( I will love you because of something we have in common)</li> <li>• <b>Agape love</b> is a self-sacrificing love (I will love you in spite of what you do to me)</li> <li>• “Do not be bitter toward them” – this word for “bitter” is only used 4x in the Bible. The other 3x are in Revelations (8:11,10:9,10) in reference to the bitter waters of Wormwood that kill many men and having a bitter stomach from digesting the truth of God’s word (wrath is coming)</li> <li>• So, “be not bitter toward your wife” conveys do not be harsh to her, or cause her angst – in other words, <b>DO NOT BE HIGH MAINTENANCE</b></li> </ul>
3:20	<p><b>Children – Obey Your Parents</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No exceptions or loopholes are given</li> <li>• For Paul to directly address the children shows</li> </ul>

Passage	Comments
	<p>that God’s words is comprehensible to them – so do not be negligent in teaching them early in life</p>
3:21	<p><b>Fathers – Do Not Provoke Your Kids</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This word for “provoke” only occurs twice in the Bible. Here in Colossians 3:21 in a negative way, and in 2Cor 9:2 where it is used in a positive way for how the Corinthian’s zeal for Christ provoked many to serve Him with more fervor</li> <li>• To positively impact the next generation, Fathers should encourage and motivate their kids to love and good works and not to negatively provoke or discourage them through harsh criticism</li> </ul>
3:22, 4:1	<p><b>Slaves – Obey Your Masters</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No exceptions or loopholes are given here either</li> <li>• The Apostle Peter commands slaves to be submissive not only to the good and gentle masters, but also to the harsh ones. .... 1Peter 2:18</li> <li>• However, Paul highlights the need to obey with the right motivation and attitude – do it for God</li> <li>• So, from an employer perspective we should be submissive to unruly bosses – EXCEPT where God’s commands would be violated ..... Acts 4:19</li> <li>• 4:1. Masters/Employers (who are Christians) need to be fair and just ( impartial) in their dealings,</li> </ul>
3:23-26	<p><b>Serve the Lord Heartily or Enthusiastically</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We should not be in God’s service for personal gain – though we will inherit the riches of Christ</li> <li>• “Enthusiastically”, literally, “out of the soul”</li> <li>• This “out of the soul” conveys going beyond what we normally would do – In other words, go 2 miles instead of 1 mile, turn the other cheek, give your shirt and your coat .....Mat 5:38-42</li> <li>• vv24-25. God will reward both do-gooders and workers of evil – IMPARTIALLY! No favoritism</li> </ul>



Passage	Comments
Col 4:2-4	<p><b>Devote yourself to Prayer ..... (cf Rom 12:12)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Paul addresses praying 43x in his 13 letters, and he credits prayer as the means to accomplish God’s will to get the Gospel out to the world</li> <li>v2. “Stay alert” means “to refrain from sleep” - Recall Jesus challenging His disciples in the Garden of Gethsemane to ‘watch and pray – the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak’ .. Mark 14:38</li> <li>vv3-4. Paul asked for prayer on his behalf so God would do great things (open doors to speak boldly and clearly) – How much more should we pray?</li> </ul>
4:5	<p><b>Make the Most of Your Opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Time and reputation are commodities that can be used wisely or wasted as we promote the Gospel</li> </ul>
4:6	<p><b>Salty Speech Brings Healing and Thirst to Listen</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Be prepared to intelligently respond to queries Pr 12:18b ...the tongue of the wise brings healing</li> </ul>
4:7-8	<p><b>Tychicus – another faithful Go-To-Guy for Paul</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tychicus was a lovable type of a guy (‘beloved’)</li> <li>He was also a faithful worker who wouldn’t quit</li> <li>...and a comforter of hurting people</li> <li>Can you see a need for people like him today?</li> </ul>
4:9	<p><b>Onesimus – Once an Unwilling Slave</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Paul took a bitter runaway slave and made him a faithful and useful slave for Christ and man</li> <li>Onesimus will be discussed further next week in the book of Philemon. Philemon (a Christian slave owner) was Onesimus’ master</li> </ul>
4:10-11	<p><b>Jews for Jesus – Aristarchus, Marcus, and Justus</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Aristarchus</b> was another saint highlighted as a fellow prisoner with Paul. Other fellow prisoners: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Andronicus and Junias (wife?)..... Rom 16:7</li> <li>Epaphras..... Philemon 1:23</li> <li>They may not have been incarcerated with Paul, but they may have spent a lot of time visiting Paul while he was in bonds or they spent more time than many others working with Paul as he was a prisoner of Christ to the Gentiles</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Marcus</b> (Mark), nephew of Barnabas went from Zero to Hero with Apostle Paul .....2Tim 4:11</li> <li><b>Justus</b> (his Greek name) – proved himself, along with Aristarchus and Mark to be an encourager</li> </ul>
4:12-13	<p><b>Epaphras</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fellow prisoner, faithful minister of Christ with Paul. He labored at Colosse, his home town. He also agonized in prayer for the Colossians, with zeal for their welfare ..... Col 1:7; Phm 23</li> </ul>
4:14	<p><b>Luke and Demas</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Luke</b> is just noted as a ‘beloved physician’ He should be noted as a fellow laborer, fellow prisoner, exceptional historian, excellent writer</li> <li><b>Demas</b> – a rising meteor who crashed and burned <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In Philemon 1:24 Demas is listed alongside Mark, Aristarchus, and Luke as Paul’s fellow laborer, but in 2Timothy 4:10 Paul says Demas forsook him “having loved this present world”</li> <li>Even the Apostles were not immune from being duped by wolves in sheep’s clothing</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Passage	Comments
4:15-16	<p><b>Nympha (bride) or Nymphas (bridegroom)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Greet the saints in Laodicea and the saints in Nymphas’ house (most translations render Nymphas as masculine/male, others as a female)</li> <li>Nymphas must’ve been a wealthy individual to have a house big enough to be used as a church <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Application – Stay in close touch with other churches. Baptists are very good with this</li> </ul> </li> <li>House churches were common in the New Testament and several are mentioned <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mary’s (mother of Mark)..... Acts 12:12</li> <li>Lydia’s..... Acts 16:40</li> <li>Aquila &amp; Priscilla’s ... Rom 16:4-5; 1Cor 16:19</li> <li>Nymphas’ ..... Col 4:15</li> <li>Philemon’s ..... Philemon 1:2</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
4:17	<p><b>Archippus – Reprove or Encourage?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One interpretation of this verse has Paul reproofing Archippus (possible pastor) for being delinquent in his duties to resolve church conflicts</li> <li>However, Archippus is mentioned in Philemon 1:2 in a positive light as being a “fellow soldier” with Paul. Since Philemon and Archippus both had Colosse in common, Archippus is probably the same individual Paul had in mind when he wrote Colossians and Philemon</li> <li>Therefore, 4:17 is not a reproof but a passage for the church people to encourage Archippus in his duties...“and say to Archippus ‘do your job...’” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This seems similar to the people telling Ezra to do his job to remove unfaithful ones from their midst ‘and we will be with you’ .....Ezra 10:1-4</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Application.</b> The pastors and elders often have dirty jobs to do (e.g., church discipline), and these dirty jobs are made easier when these men receive backing and encouragement from their congregation</li> </ul>
4:18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Paul’s salutation or signature was on the original autograph possibly to help prevent forgeries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recall 2Thessalonians 2:2 where Paul alluded to a forged letter that was causing issues</li> </ul> </li> <li>‘Remember my bonds’ – We must always be challenged to remember good things and good people – else, out of sight out of mind</li> </ul>

**CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS**

- We need to be like Tychicus and the others mentioned here – trustworthy, enjoyable to be around, prayer warriors, hard working, faithful, bold, and able to bring comfort to hurting people

**NEXT WEEK: Philemon 1-25.** Paul is used by God to help save a runaway slave (Onesimus) and then has the slave return to his master (Philemon) for reconciliation – and it works!

