

**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 did not plant this church, nor had he ever visited it, but he took an active interest in it even while being in prison
- The Colossians seemingly took a slight detour away from sound doctrine and started to mix in Jewish legalistic practices along with heathen rituals (this is called *syncretism*)

**“Every church is just one generation away from apostasy”**

- Paul quickly hits the Colossians hard & fast with Jesus not only being the creator of all things, but He sustains all things, and He wants them to be fruitful in every good work
- In effect, Paul wants the Colossians to get back to the basics – JESUS ALONE, and not Jesus + Works + Other Stuff!

Passage	Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v12-14. The 2<sup>nd</sup> aspect of Paul’s prayer life was an attitude of thankfulness for God’s generosity to us. After all, it He allowed His precious Son to suffer shame &amp; pain to pay for our redemption</li> </ul>
1:15-20	<p><b>Jesus → Creator, Sustainer, Author, Finisher</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paul spends considerable time detailing the significance of Christ</li> <li>• v15. “The firstborn of all creation” is a title highlighting Christ’s pre-eminence above all</li> <li>• vv16-17. God couldn’t spell it out any clearer about Jesus creating and sustaining all spiritual &amp; physical things in the Heavens and in the Earth</li> <li>• v18. AND, to top it off, Christ is also the head of the church. This seems to be the pinnacle, for the church has no meaning without Jesus</li> <li>• vv19-20. It is bewildering to think how the God-head planned our redemption from eternity past along with reconciling all things to God;                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Shame on us if we are not thankful and grateful</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

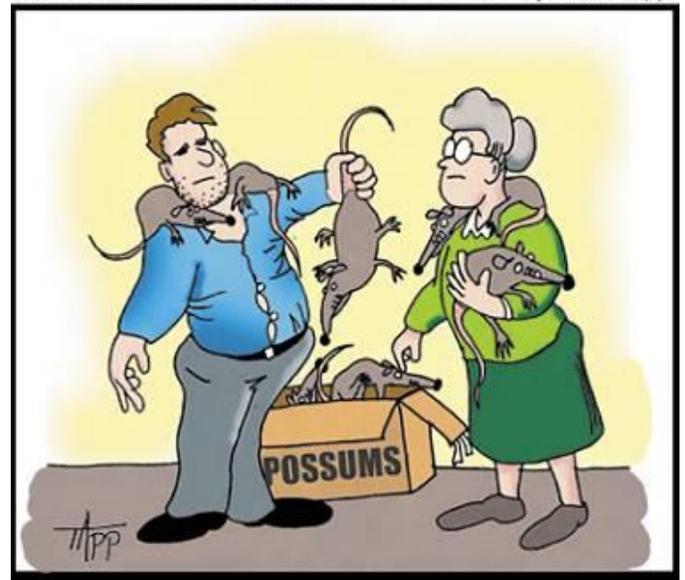
**CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS:**

- In summary, Jesus is EVERYTHING. We don’t exist, we can’t accomplish anything, and we go nowhere without Him
- We should strive to continuously pray for our fellow saints and let our faith in Christ shine to everyone who is watching
- **Historical Note.** Not long after this epistle was written, Colosse in 66 AD along with its neighboring city, Laodicea (noted in Revelations 3:16 for being lukewarm), suffered a devastating earthquake. Colosse was rebuilt, but today, it is nothing more than buried ruins, just like Laodicea. Uhm!

**NEXT WEEK: John 20:1-18.** Easter Message

Passage	Comments
Col 1:1-2	<p><b>Paul’s Apostleship Extends to All Churches</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paul had to state his apostolic authority since he was basically unknown to these believers</li> <li>• Timothy is mentioned as a common “brother” and possibly to show the Colossians that Paul was not alone in his assessment of their situation</li> <li>• v2. Paul calls the Colossians “saints and faithful brethren” which helps set a positive tone for the letter. This was good etiquette, &amp; it was truthful                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Would we be more attentive to hear someone out if they thought of us as “good looking” or as “scab face”?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
1:3-8	<p><b>The Gospel is Contagious</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v3. Paul thanked God for these saints every time he prayed. He did the same for the Christians in Rome, Corinth, Philippi, &amp; Thessalonica                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Try this exercise – every time you pray this week, thank God for every believer you know and make note of any changes in your attitude</li> </ul> </li> <li>• v4. If a visitor were to watch us, it is possible they could testify we have love for one another, but how would they see our Faith in Christ?</li> <li>• v6. The nature of the Gospel is self-perpetuating – it will grow and constantly bear fruit; and – the gates of Hell cannot prevail against it</li> <li>• vv7-8. Epaphras is another powerful example for us. Paul noted he was ‘beloved’ – or easy to love; a fellow jail mate who visited those in prison; and a faithful servant who hung tough</li> </ul>
1:9-14	<p><b>Spiritual Knowledge + Action → Fruitfulness</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• vv9-11. Paul’s prayer life continuously upheld believers. He made time to pray fervently &amp; intelligently for Christians to mature speedily</li> </ul>

**CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH** by Thom Tapp



**Members of the Martyrs Memorial Snake Handling Church work their way up slowly.**