

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

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

INTRODUCTION

- Virtues and vices are common to the Christian walk
- Knowing where to step is just as important as knowing where not to step
- The Apostle Paul listed numerous vices to avoid and virtues to acquire (see table below).....Does this make us legalistic?

Vices (Things to Avoid)		Virtues (Things to Acquire)	
Abusive Speech	Evil Desire	Beloved	Joy
Anger / Wrath	Hypocrisy	Compassion	Kindness
Carousing	Idolatry / Sorcery	Excellence	Love
Deceit / Lying	Immorality	Faithfulness	Patience
Disputes / Strife	Impurity	Gentleness	Peace
Dissensions / Factions	Jealousy	Good Repute	Self-Control
Drunkenness	Malice / Murderous	Goodness	Purity
Enmity / Hatred	Passion / Sensuality	Holiness	Righteousness
Envy / Greed	Reviler / Slander	Honorable	Truthful
	Swindlers / Thefts	Humility	Praise Worthy
1Corinthians 5:9-11; Galatians 5:19-23; Philipians 4:8; Colossians 3:5,8,9, 12; 1Peter 2:1; Revelations 9:21			

- How do we keep from becoming legalistic like the Jews since we have numerous do's and don'ts to be aware of?
- **REMEMBER** – We don't get closer to God by doing or avoiding certain activities – Even Satan has the Bible memorized and it hasn't helped him one bit

Passage	Comments
Col 3:1-4	<p>So Where Should We Focus?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv1-2. "Seek what is above" and "set your mind on what is above" The battle is with the mind! • vv3-4. "Our life is hidden in Christ" conveys that Christianity works from the inside out • How focused should we be on eternal things such as pleasing God and reaping rewards? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ How much should we sacrifice of our family, friends, time, money, possessions, reputation? ♦ How much did Christ sacrifice for us? ♦ Remember – "<i>He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.</i>" - Jim Elliot (1927-1956)
3:5-11	<p>What Activities Should We Avoid?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv5,8-9. Vices included activities that please the flesh in a negative or selfish way <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Paul also cautioned about being ascetic or self-abased (see Col 2:23) to appear wise ♦ NOTE. The religious sect called the Shakers even avoided sex within marriage because it brought pleasure to the flesh – As of Jan 2011 there are only 3 members left (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shakers)

Passage	Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v6. Because of sinful vices God's wrath will be poured out on the wickedRev 16:17-21 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ In essence, since wars, famines, earthquakes, floods, and fires do not change the hearts of the wicked neither will the eternal torment of hell • v7. Even the Colossians were once part of the wicked crowd – doomed for destruction • vv10-11. Now, due to their belief in Christ, the Colossians were being "renewed" daily <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ This "renew" term is only used twice in Scripture (here and in 1Cor 4:16), and Paul uses it to convey that our minds are presently being transformed into something more Christ-like through accepting God's truth of His Son (this is our sanctification process) ♦ Verse 11 highlights that our race and status in life mean nothing. Galatians 3:28 also includes being male or female makes no difference. - We can all come to Christ on an equal footing ♦ BUT, does one's age and IQ make a difference in approaching Christ?Deut 29:29
3: 12-17	<p>What Virtues Should We Acquire?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verse 14 sums up all the virtues by identifying LOVE as the main element to "put on" • v15. Paul also highlights the need for us to be "thankful" • And verse 17 stresses that our attitude should be so focused on Christ (who is above) that our every thought, word and deed is done for Him – with thankfulness • I think the Apostle Peter matches Paul's thoughts on why it is crucial to acquire the virtues listed by saying "... they render you neither useless nor unfruitful" 2Peter 1:8

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS:

- We get closer to God by first wanting to be closer to God
- This motivates us (along with God's grace) to want and be able to do the do's and not to do the don'ts in life
- God doesn't want robots who automatically know what to do, when to do it, how to do it, and even why to do things
- God wants people who willfully want to love their Creator to such an extent they enjoy doing the do's and avoiding the don'ts – all for His glory

NEXT WEEK: Col 3:18-4:18. Wives submit, Children obey, Husbands behave, and everyone conduct themselves wisely so that we will know how to respond to each person

