

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]
- 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

- Japan just suffered their worst earthquake and tsunami ever recorded in history..... How can we help?
 - ♦ Designate your giving to Japan Tsunami Relief, and the church will forward such funds for proper distribution to SBC/International Mission Board
 - ♦ Pray for recovery efforts, relief, comfort & God's mercy
- Japan may have lost 10,000 lives, but remember that the 2004 Indonesian tsunami claimed more than 230,000 lives
 - ♦ Christians were also killed – ‘it rains on the just & unjust’
 - ♦ SBC provided more than \$16M for 2004 tsunami relief
- Such catastrophes do not take God by surprise. In fact, God either allows it (Job 1) or He initiates it Himself (Isa 45:7)
 - ♦ Reasons can be punitive, preventive, corrective, directive, or for reasons only God knows why
 - ♦ When it's all over – every knee will bow & confess Jesus Christ is Lord and God is righteous in all His dealings

Passage	Comments
2:1-2	<p>Leg #1 – Unity [imagine a 3-legged stool]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Big benefit for the Christian is found in UNITY • Being a hermit or a monk brings no rewards • We must “strive” together to achieve unity within our church and family to achieve God's results
2:3-4	<p>Leg #2 - Humility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider others as more important! • But what if they are nerds, weird, or look funny? • What if they are wicked, foolish, or selfish? 
2:5-7	<p>Leg #3 – Christ-likeness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v5. This “attitude” or mindfulness” is not an emotional feeling, but a transformed mind • These 3-legs, so to speak, are all needed for us to have a strong testimony and to accomplish much
2:8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God Knows Our Pains in Life, And Through Christ, God Experienced Our Pains • If Humility is our greatest focus, then our greatest stumbling block to Humility is our Pride • Lose our pride or lose everything worth keeping
2:9-11	<p>Jesus is and will be Highly Exalted by All</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Everyone will ultimately acknowledge Christ, though not everyone will be saved

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS:

- God “feels” our pains through the sufferings of Christ
- We should likewise feel the pain of others, since we too know what it's like to suffer pain and loss
- If we have Humility and Unity in our family life and in our church life, we have God's peace that passes all understanding, and we can endure all suffering sent our way

NEXT WEEK: Phil 2:12-30. We need to work out our faith with fear and trembling



“Should we blame this on the church or the state?”

Passage	Comments
Phil 1:27	<p>If We Are God's Kids We Should Act Like It!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paul seemed unsure whether he would be released like Peter or be beheaded like James Acts 12 • Either case, he expected the Philippians to be united in spirit and in purpose for the gospel • “Striving” in Greek is where we get “Athlete” and like an athlete, it takes strong effort and determination to win – and we must win together • Why do we give up so easy on must-win fights, such as saving unity in a marriage or in a church?
1:28	<p>Show No Fear!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have you ever told your kids if they kept crying you would give them something to cry about? • God told Jeremiah to prepare for a struggle, and not to be fearful of his opponents or God would give him something to be fearful aboutJer 1:17 • Same here, we should not fear our opponents of the Gospel – Whoever shows fear first, loses
1:29-30	<p>We are not Called to be Rich, but to Suffer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Struggle” or “conflict” in Greek is where we get our word for “agony” • Why would anyone want to be a Christian if we are called to suffer? That is why we must count the cost! • Do we suffer a little now for great gain later or do we live for the moment now and lose it all later? • Remember – the eye hasn't seen, nor has the ear heard or the mind comprehend what God has prepared for those who love Him 1Cor 2:9