

**LESSONS THIS QUARTER**

- 1) 05 Sep 2021 .....Philippians 1:1-11..... Joy in Prayer
- 2) 12 Sep .....Philippians 1:12-30..... Joy in Adversity
- 3) 19 Sep .....Philippians 2:1-30..... Joy through Humility
- 4) 26 Sep .....Philippians 3:1-21..... Joy in Knowing Jesus
- 5) 03 Oct .....Philippians 4:1-9..... Joy through Peace
- 6) 10 Oct .....Philippians 4:10-23..... Joy and Contentment
- 7) 17 Oct .....Colossians 1:1-23.....The Gospel's Power**
- 8) 24 Oct ..... Colossians 1:24-29 | 2:1-3..... The Gospel's Goal
- 9) 31 Oct ..... Colossians 2:4-15..... The Gospel's Forgiveness
- 10) 07 Nov ..... Colossians 2:16-23..... The Gospel's Freedom
- 11) 14 Nov ..... Colossians 3:1-17..... The Gospel Lived
- 12) 21 Nov ..... Colossians 3:18-25 | 4:1-6..... The Gospel and Relationships
- 13) 28 Nov ..... Philemon 1:1-25..... Restoration

**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**)
- 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
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 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. So why do 7,000 churches close each year? Source: <a href="https://www.pastoralcareinc.com/statistics/">https://www.pastoralcareinc.com/statistics/</a></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; &amp; a faithful servant who hung tough. Do we have Epaphras in our church?</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 believers to mature speedily. What is our prayer life like?</li> <li>• v12-14. The 2<sup>nd</sup> aspect of Paul's prayer life was an attitude of thankfulness for God's generosity. After all, it He allowed His precious Son to suffer shame &amp; pain to pay for our redemption. How grateful are we?</li> </ul>

Passage	Comments
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 for it</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
1:21-23	<p><b>Once we were all unsaved and doomed for Hell</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v21. Some believers accepted Christ early in life, while others, like Paul, were more overtly "alienated and hostile" toward the Gospel</li> <li>• v22. Both sets of believers owe God everything for taking the initiative to seek reconciliation so we can be presented holy and blameless! WOW!</li> <li>• Are we as grateful to God as we should be?</li> <li>• v23. "...if you continue in the faith..."                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Some use this verse, along with other similar passages, to show salvation can be lost</li> <li>♦ Rather, Paul is stating the obvious – if we endure, we proclaim we are owned by Christ. If we forsake the Gospel, then, as John says "those who left us were never part of us, else they would have remained with us" ..... <b>1John 2:18</b></li> <li>♦ Another interesting aspect of this passage is the Gospel has been "proclaimed in all creation under Heaven" – so no excuse ..... <b>Rom 1:20</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>• How would the Gospel be knowable by the Aborigines who lived 1000 years BC, or by a mentally handicapped person, or a baby? Was Paul including them as part of "all creation"?</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!

**"Every church is just one generation away from apostasy"**

**NEXT WEEK: Col 1:24-29 & 2:1-3.** How do you know if someone is saved or not? By their works? By their fruit? By their baptismal record?

