

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

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

INTRODUCTION

- How do you know if someone is saved or not? By their works? By their fruit? By their baptismal record?
- We will see in this study that Paul knew if someone was saved “if they continue in the faith...”
- We will also see that Paul preached a mystery hidden from past ages and generations, and now it is given to us to disseminate, sometimes with much striving

Passage	Comments
Col 1:21-23	<p>Once we were all unsaved and doomed for Hell</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v21. Some believers accepted Christ early in life, while others, like Paul, were more overtly “alienated and hostile” toward the Gospel • v22. Both sets of believers owe God everything for taking the initiative to seek reconciliation so we can be presented holy and blameless! WOW! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Are we as grateful to God as we should be? • v23. “...if you continue in the faith...” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Some use this verse, along with other similar passages, to show salvation can be lost ◆ 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” 1John 2:18 ◆ Another interesting aspect of this passage is the Gospel has been “proclaimed in all creation under Heaven” – so no one has a valid excuse Rom 1:20 ◆ 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”? Consider the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Those who do have the mental capacity to consider God’s creation will receive “few stripes”. Lk 12:47-48 • For others, we can only go as far as the Bible goes. Where the Bible is silent, we too must be silent. Secret things belong onto God Deut 29:29
1:24	<p>Rejoice in Suffering or Rejoice on a Beach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paul knew that godly suffering is part of growing in Christ – much Heavenly rewards come from it • Barnes’ commentary says that the “leading desire of [Paul’s] soul, the great principle of his life — TO BE JUST LIKE CHRIST; alike in suffering, in moral character, and in destiny” • Paul didn’t seek suffering, but he didn’t shrink from it either. How does our suffering compare?
1:25-29	<p>Paul’s Mission – Take the Gospel to the Gentiles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paul was uniquely selected by God to go on a suicide mission – and he accepted it willingly!

Passage	Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv26-27. Why was the Gospel to the Gentiles a hidden mystery for 1000s of years? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Consider this. If Satan knew of this mystery of how the Death, Burial, and Resurrection of Christ would be the propitiation for Man’s sin and the inclusion of Gentiles into the family of God, he would have done everything in his power to prevent Jesus from dying on the Cross ◆ The Gospel includes a suffering Messiah, concept of the Trinity, resurrection from the dead, and the future suffering & glory of the saints (Jews & Gentiles) • v29. Paul took his mission seriously “striving according to the power of Christ” working in him <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ How much striving do we or should we do?
One Final Mystery Remains	<p>The Return of Christ</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Again, if Satan had this knowledge when Christ would return, he would be doing everything to thwart it • And if churches had this knowledge, there would even be more church splits and schisms than what we see today over what, where, and how Christ would come • We must admit “secret things belong onto God” (Deut 29:29). His wisdom not to reveal specific details keeps things on His schedule.
2:1-3	<p>Strive and Struggle in Prayer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v1. Since Paul never visited the Colossians, how did he struggle greatly for them? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Possibly he strived & struggled in prayer ◆ WOW! Do we struggle in prayer for anyone? ◆ How should we struggle in prayer? In time, in effort, in thoughtful planning... • vv2-3. True wealth is having the full assurance in understanding and knowing Christ..... Luke 12:15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Many strive & struggle for more money, leisure, and possessions. Instead, we should chase Christ

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

- The Apostle Paul did not take a “Live and Let Live” approach to life.
- He took a bold “In Your Face” approach – but with all gentleness and meekness in persuading people of the truth of the Good News in Christ – and so should we

NEXT WEEK: Col 2:4-15. What controls fleshly cravings? It is not legalism with all the regimented do’s and don’t’s. It is a deep abiding faith in Christ which frees us from sin – through obedient living

