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

- Everyone believes they have the right doctrine
  - Catholics, Hindus, and Atheists believe they are right
  - Mormons, Muslims, and Methodists believe they are right
  - And we Baptists believe we have our doctrinal act together as well
    - It is humbling to think that Southern Baptists became Southern Baptists by holding onto false teachings on slavery
    - Even though that issue has been repented of, racial tension still comes up to challenge us from time to time – as it should
    - One thing we still have to our credit, however, is we are still one of the largest missionary-sending organizations in the world

Quick Statistics

- There are over 7.8B people in the world
- Only 2.4B are Christians (~1/3rd)
- Half of all Christians are Catholics (1.2B)
- Southern Baptists only constitute 1.25% (~15M) of all Protestants
- Therefore, we Baptists can't get too haughty thinking we are the only ones who have the correct hold on God's Truth

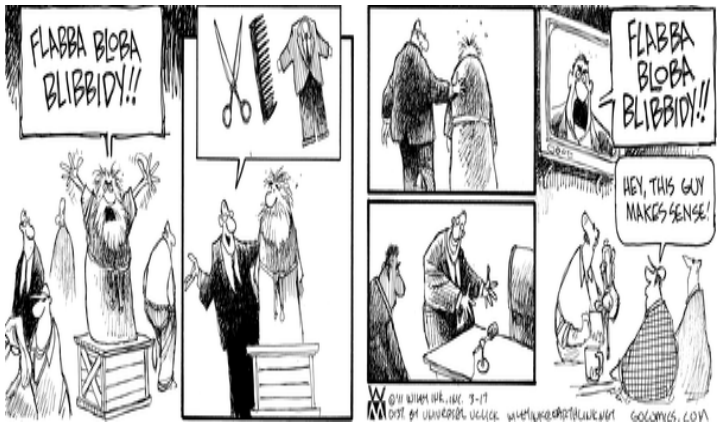
- So, who has the best hold on the right doctrines? The easy answer is anyone who stays true to God's Word as God meant for it to mean.
- In this lesson, Paul highlights the doctrinal problems the Colossians struggled with & the fix they needed to implement

Passage	Comments
Col 2:4-5	**How Gullible are We? How Disciplined are We?** • v4. Paul warned the Colossians from being duped into accepting some false teachings. Where are we duped at times? In doctrine? In practices/traditions? • v5. The remedy from being deceived by others (Eph 5:6; 2Thes 2:3), being self-deceived (1Cor 3:18; 2Cor 13:5), or even deceived by Satan (Rev 12:9; 13:14; 19:20) is to be vigilant / disciplined in our faith by studying God's word, seeking wise counsel, diligently praying for God's guidance & even the weeding out of erroneous biases
2:6-7	**How Grateful / Thankful Are We?** • v6. Walk the Talk! If we are truly saved, live it! • v7. And we should be "overflowing in gratitude" for having our faith "rooted," "built up," and "established" in Christ. What does all this mean? What does it look like?
Col 2:8	**Be Not Deceived – Guard Against False Doctrine** • Paul lists several elements to avoid 1. Captivating philosophies ..... 1Tim 6:20; 2Tim 4:3 2. Empty deception (or vain deceit). Any examples? 3. Traditions of men (e.g., Altar Calls? Sinner's Prayer?) 4. Worldly elementary principles (e.g., "if it feels good do it," and "live and let live" and "all ways lead to Christ") 5. Anything not according to Christ • How can we be pro-active and not reactive in our guard duties against deception at home & church?
2:9-15	**Do Not Forsake Christ** • v10. We are made complete in Christ • Many false teachings marginalize or neglect Christ (e.g, Mormonism, Jehovah Witnesses, Muslims, and liberal protestant groups) • vv12-13. To be spiritually sharp we should often recall how we are symbolically buried with Christ through baptism and raised up with Him in newness of life through faith, with all of our sins forgiven!
What are some "*strange doctrines*" today?	The SBC Statement of Faith is more inclusive than exclusive of various beliefs – & that's not all bad, at times • We can swing between Calvinism and Arminianism • Regarding the Gifts of the Holy Spirit, we can also swing between cessationist and continuationist views • And we can swing between evolution & creation views • BUT acceptance of gay marriages and same-sex unions is still "strange" for most SBC churches • Any other "*Strange Doctrines*" we should challenge? ☐ Co-habitation? ☐ Polygamy? ☐ All ways get to God? ☐ Critical Race Theory? ☐ Others?

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

- The emphasis of the Christian faith is having a growing, loving relationship with God, not on rules
- Today, there may be multiple issues churches struggle with from unity to purity, but the fix is always the same – forsake deceitful teachings of men & seek out God's truth in His word
- **Remember** – *"In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, charity"* – St. Augustine

Supporting Passages:

1Cor 3:18. Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you thinks that he is wise in this age, he must become foolish, so that he may become wise.
2Cor 13:5. Test yourselves [to see] if you are in the faith; examine yourselves!
Eph 5:6. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.
2Thes 2:3. Let no one in any way deceive you…
1Tim 6:20. O Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to you, avoiding worldly [and] empty chatter [and] the opposing arguments of what is falsely called "knowledge" —
2Tim 4:3. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but [wanting] to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires,
Rev 12:9. The great dragon, the serpent of old, the devil, Satan, deceives the whole world.
Rev 13:14. And he deceives those who dwell on the earth because of the signs which it was given him to perform in the presence of the beast.
Rev 19:20. The beast was seized, & with him the false prophet who performed the signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast.

NEXT WEEK: Col 2:16-23. We continue to see the importance of sound teachings & how to appropriately respond to and challenge false teachings.