

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

- The Colossians seemed ripe to be deceived. Paul highlighted some of the following issues they were contending with:
 - ♦ Some were judging people for their dietary habits (i.e., meat & drink)
 - ♦ Others were judging what day was the best to worship
 - ♦ And some thought angels should be worshipped
 - ♦ In essence, legalism was trying to take hold of this young church

Passage	Comments
2:16-17	<p>Be Not Judged by Others - Reject False Teachers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v16. How do you STOP someone from judging you? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Do you challenge them, ignore them, or leave church? ♦ Do you take it to court or to the church body? ♦ Do you write letters or emails or post to Facebook? ♦ Consider what Paul did when he was judged for his behavior. He appealed to CaesarActs 25:11 • We are to judge bad behavior and bad teachings within the church1Cor 6:1-7 • Also, if one is truly in the right and behaving biblically, then God is their only judge • Let each man be persuaded in his own mind when it comes to keeping traditionsRom 14:5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ So, if someone tries to get us to include or exclude certain works to either save us or make us more spiritual – Watch Out! ♦ Even works of righteousness, such as tithing and giving to the needy, can be done wrong ♦ Remember - Giving does not draw us closer to God, but if we draw close to God, we will give
2:18-19	<p>Be Not Disqualified and Lose Your Reward</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v18. If we ignore sound doctrine and chase after false teachings (e.g., “self-abasement” or giving undue honor or worship to angels, to saints, to Mary, etc.) we will shortchange ourselves and lose God’s blessings He would love to bestow on us • Remember – Sound doctrine is able to both save us and protect us from evil.....1Tim 4:16; 2Tim 3:15,16 • Elements which can cause us to lose our heavenly rewards include the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Self-abasement or extreme legalism (e.g., Corban giving hurts the family, Mat 7:11) 2. Worship of angels (e.g., praying to angels or even to dead saints to intercede for them) 3. Dwelling on visions (misplaced focus) 4. Puffed up (selfish pride) 5. Not holding on to Christ • v19. We need to hold fast to the “Head” (IOW, Christ) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Christ is the head of the body, the church Col 1:18 ♦ So, how do we hold fast to Christ? <input type="checkbox"/> Be frivolous in our devotion to Him (e.g., in fellowship, giving, study)?

Passage	Comments
Does being devoted to Christ involve being rigidly obedient to His Word to the point of being legalistic?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In its purest sense – YES • The bad form of legalism is forcing people to keep laws to achieve some kind of self-imposed righteousness <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ The Jews of Jesus’ day were notoriously legalistic where they obeyed the letter of the law while ignoring the spirit of the law ♦ Modern day forms of church legalism could include enforcing dress codes and eating/drinking habits beyond what scripture intended • But, Jesus did say, “If you love Me, keep my commandments” Jn 14:15 • Also recall what Paul told the Corinthians, “What matters in life is not if you are circumcised, but in keeping the commandments of God 1Cor 7:19 • So, which commandments do we need to keep? And how rigidly do we need to keep them? Do we need to be militant? Do we need to exercise mercy? Can we be flexible in our obedience? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Test Cases - How rigid or flexible should we be with: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dressing modestly? 2. Keeping the speed limit? 3. Keeping our marriage vows? 4. Being a faithful, honest worker? 5. Telling the truth in court or on our tax returns? 6. Expecting others to be honest with us?
2:20-23	<p>Do Not Handle, Do Not Taste, Do Not Touch</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Though we are not given all the details in this passage we can logically assume the issues dealt with frivolous rules such as dietary restrictions, circumcision, possibly modes of baptism, etc. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ In other words, we are to avoid majoring in the minors • Paul never rejected following the moral requirements of the Law, but he fully rejected works of the Law as requirements for salvation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ For Example: We are told in 1Cor 7:1 it is good for a man not to touch a woman – but let them first marry (this avoids adultery between two single individuals) ♦ Yet, Jesus did say the ONE WORK everyone needs to do to get into Heaven is to “believe in Him (Jesus), whom God has sent” John 6:29

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

- God is looking for obedience and not sacrifice or self-flagellation.
- The Jews always preferred the letter of the Law and failed to follow the spirit of the Law (God's true intended purpose for the Law)
- The liberty we have in Christ frees us from every law (the letter of the law), yet makes us slaves to righteousness (i.e., the spirit of the law)
- Paul’s challenge was for them (and us) to look at the bigger picture and put everything in perspective of our relationship with a Living Christ.

NEXT WEEK: Col 3:1-17. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.

