

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 Nov ..Colossians 3:18-25 | 4:1-23..... The Gospel and Relationships
- 13) 28 NovPhilemon 1:1-25..... Restoration

INTRODUCTION

- Paul had so much to say, but he chose to condense things into short proverbial statements in these last 26 verses
- Paul's readers would need to consider, ponder, think through, in essence meditate on these passages to glean proper applications

| Passage | Comments |
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| Col 3:18 | <p>Wives – Submit (parallel passage Eph 5:22)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nowhere in Scripture are women explicitly commanded to obey their husbands <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ While children are to obey their parents and slaves are to obey their masters, wives are to submit to their husbands “as unto the Lord” ◆ Though, by definition, submitting does convey being willingly obedient to the one being submitted to, there are biblical reasons to justify disobedience ...Acts 5:29 ◆ The Lord, in effect, provides a loophole for the wife to disobey her husband if his behavior is ungodly • Can someone be submissive without obeying? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Consider a husband who wants to buy a fancy new car and plunge his family into debt. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He might want his wife to submit to his wishes and obey his desire for her to sign on the dotted line. • A wise wife would challenge her husband on this & get him to consider other options to avoid debt • She would still be considered a submissive wife, and worthy to be praised as “she does him good and not evil all the days of her life” Pro 31:12 |
| 3:19 | <p>Husbands – Love (Agape) Your Wives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eros love (where we get the term for erotic) is a conditional love based on feelings (I will love you IF you do something for me) • Phileo love is a companion or brotherly type love (I will love you because of something we have in common) • Agape love is a self-sacrificing love (I will love you despite what you do to me) • “Do not be bitter toward them” – this word for “bitter” is only used 4x in the Bible. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The other 3x are in Revelations (8:11; 10:9; 10:10) in reference to the bitter waters of Wormwood that kill many men and having a bitter stomach from digesting the truth of God’s word (wrath is coming) • So, “be not bitter toward your wife” conveys do not be harsh to her, or cause her angst – in other words, DO NOT BE HIGH MAINTENANCE |
| 3:20 | <p>Children – Obey Your Parents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No exceptions or loopholes are given • For Paul to directly address the children shows that God’s words are comprehensible to them – so do not be negligent in teaching them early in life |

| Passage | Comments |
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| 3:21 | <p>Fathers – Do Not Provoke Your Kids</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This word for “provoke” occurs twice in the Bible. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Here in Col 3:21 where it is used in a negative way, & 2. 2Cor 9:2 where it is used in a positive way for how the Corinthian’s zeal for Christ provoked many to serve Him with more fervor • To positively impact the next generation, Fathers should encourage and motivate their kids to love and good works and not to negatively provoke or discourage them through harsh criticism |
| 3:22, 4:1 | <p>Slaves – Obey Your Masters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No exceptions or loopholes are given here either • The Apostle Peter commands slaves to be submissive not only to the good and gentle masters, but also to the harsh ones. 1Peter 2:18 • However, Paul highlights the need to obey with the right motivation and attitude – do it for God • So, from an employer perspective we should be submissive to unruly bosses – EXCEPT where God’s commands would be violated Acts 4:19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Examples (what biblical principles would be violated if you obeyed or disobeyed the following): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Boss tells you to get COVID vaccinated or lose your job. What do you do? 2. Boss tells you to take the Mark of the Beast or lose your job. What do you do? • 4:1. Masters/Employers (who are Christians) need to be fair and just (impartial) in their dealings, |
| 3:23-25 | <p>Serve the Lord Heartily or Enthusiastically</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We should not be in God’s service for personal gain – though we will inherit the riches of Christ • “Enthusiastically”, literally, “out of the soul” • This “out of the soul” conveys going beyond what we normally would do – In other words, go 2 miles instead of 1 mile, turn the other cheek, give your shirt and your coat Mat 5:38-42 • vv24-25. God will reward both do-gooders and workers of evil – IMPARTIALLY! No favoritism |



Taking Ephesians 5:22 out of context was bad enough, but using a bell to summon his wife was both stupid and dangerous.

| Passage | Comments |
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| Col 4:2-4 | <p>Devote yourself to Prayer (cf Rom 12:12)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paul addresses praying 43x in his 13 letters, and he credits prayer as the means to accomplish God's will to get the Gospel out to the world v2. "Stay alert" means "to refrain from sleep" - Recall Jesus challenging His disciples in the Garden of Gethsemane to 'watch and pray – the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak' Mark 14:38 v3-4. Paul asked for prayer on his behalf so God would do great things (open doors to speak boldly and clearly) – How much more should we pray? |
| 4:5 | <p>Make the Most of Your Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Time and reputation are commodities that can be used wisely or wasted as we promote the Gospel |
| 4:6 | <p>Salty Speech Brings Healing and Thirst to Listen</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be prepared to intelligently respond to queries "...the tongue of the wise brings healing" Pr 12:18b |
| 4:7-8 | <p>Tychicus – another faithful Go-To-Guy for Paul</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tychicus was a lovable type of a guy ('beloved') He was also a faithful worker who wouldn't quit ...and a comforter of hurting people Can you see a need for people like him today? |
| 4:9 | <p>Onesimus – Once an Unwilling Slave</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paul took a bitter runaway slave and made him a faithful and useful slave for Christ and man Onesimus will be discussed further next week in the book of Philemon. Philemon (a Christian slave owner) was Onesimus' master |
| 4:10-11 | <p>Jews for Jesus – Aristarchus, Marcus, and Justus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aristarchus was another saint highlighted as a fellow prisoner with Paul. Other fellow prisoners: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Andronicus and Junias (wife?) Rom 16:7 Epaphras Philemon 1:23 They may not have been incarcerated with Paul, but they may have spent a lot of time visiting Paul while he was in bonds, or they spent more time than many others working with Paul as he was a prisoner Marcus (Mark), nephew of Barnabas went from Zero to Hero with the Apostle Paul 2Tim 4:11 Justus (his Greek name) – proved himself, along with Aristarchus and Mark to be an encourager |
| 4:12-13 | <p>Epaphras</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fellow prisoner, faithful minister of Christ with Paul Epaphras labored at Colosse, his hometown. He also agonized in prayer for the Colossians, with zeal for their welfare Col 1:7; Phm 23 |
| 4:14 | <p>Luke and Demas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Luke is just noted as a 'beloved physician'. He would also go down in history as a fellow laborer, fellow prisoner, exceptional historian, and an excellent writer Demas – a rising meteor who crashed and burned <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Philemon 1:24 Demas is listed alongside Mark, Aristarchus, and Luke as Paul's fellow laborer, but in 2Timothy 4:10 Paul says Demas forsook him "having loved this present world" Even the Apostles were not immune from being duped by false brethren. Recall Judas dupped the other 11 Apostles and "those who went out from us" in 1John duped the Apostle John, because "they were not of us" (1John 2:19) |

| Passage | Comments |
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| 4:15-16 | <p>Nympha (bride) or Nymphas (bridegroom)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greet the saints in Laodicea and the saints in Nymphas' house (most translations render the name as Nymphas (masculine/male), others as a female - Nympha) Nymphas (or Nympha) must've been a wealthy individual to have a house big enough to be used as a church House churches were common in the New Testament, and several are mentioned: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mary's (mother of Mark) Acts 12:12 Lydia's Acts 16:40 Aquila's & Priscilla's Rom 16:4-5; 1Cor 16:19 Nymphas' (or Nympha's) Col 4:15 Philemon's Philemon 1:2 Application. Stay in close contact with other like-minded churches |
| 4:17 | <p>Archippus – Reprove or Encourage?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One interpretation of this verse has Paul reproofing Archippus (possible pastor) for being delinquent in his duties to resolve church conflicts However, Archippus is mentioned in Philemon 1:2 in a positive light as being a "fellow soldier" with Paul. Since Philemon and Archippus both had Colosse in common, Archippus is probably the same individual Paul had in mind when he wrote Colossians and Philemon Therefore, this passage is not a reproof but a passage for the church people to encourage Archippus in his duties... "and say to Archippus 'do your job...we've got your back'" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This seems similar to the people telling Ezra to do his job to remove unfaithful ones from their midst 'and we will be with you' Ezra 10:1-4 Application. Pastors/Elders often have dirty jobs to do (e.g., church discipline), and these dirty jobs are made easier when these men receive encouragement and backing from their congregation |
| 4:18 | <p>Remember My Bonds'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paul's salutation or signature was on the original autograph possibly to help prevent forgeries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recall 2Thessalonians 2:2 where Paul alluded to a forged letter that was causing issues We must always be challenged to remember good things and good people – else, once they are out of sight they are often out of mind |

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

- We need to be like Tychicus and the others mentioned here (Onesimus, Aristarchus, Marcus, Justus, Epaphras, Luke, Nymphas, and Archippus) who were trustworthy, enjoyable to be around, prayer warriors, hardworking, faithful, bold, encouraging, and able to bring comfort to hurting people

NEXT WEEK: Philemon 1-25. Paul is used by God to help save a runaway slave (Onesimus) and then has the slave return to his master (Philemon) for reconciliation – and it works!

