LESSONS THIS QUARTER
1) 06 Mar. Phil 1:1-11 Link Up with Others
2) 13 Mar. Phil 1:12-26 Lift Up the Gospel
3) 20 Mar. Phil 1:27-2:11 Live Up to the Gospel
4) 27 Mar. Phil 2:1-30 Light Up the World
5) 03 Apr. Phil 3:1-21 Look Up to Heaven
6) 10 Apr. Phil 4:1-23 Never Let Up
7) 17 Apr. Col 1:1-20 Knowing the Truth
9) 01 May Col 1:21-2:7 Expressing the Truth
10) 08 May Col 2:8-23 Keeping the Truth
11) 15 May Col 3:1-17 Be Focused
12) 22 May Col 3:18-4:18 Be Faithful
13) 29 May Philemon 1-25 Be Forgiving

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)
- “Every church is just one generation away from apostasy”
  - Paul quickly hits the Colossians hard & fast with sound doctrine and started to mix in heathen rituals
  - He took an active interest in it even while being in prison
  - 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

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<td>Col 1:1-2</td>
<td>Paul’s Apostleship Extends to All Churches</td>
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  - Paul had to state his apostolic authority since he was basically unknown to these believers |
  - Timothy is mentioned as a common “brother” and possibly to show the Colossians that Paul was not alone in his assessment of their situation |
  - v2. Paul calls the Colossians “saints and faithful brethren” which helps set a positive tone for the letter. This was good etiquette, & it was truthful |
  - Would we be more attentive to hear someone out if they thought of us as “good looking” or as “scab face”? |

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<td>1:3-8</td>
<td>The Gospel is Contagious</td>
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  - v3. Paul thanked God for these saints every time he prayed. He did the same for the Christians in Rome, Corinth, Philippi, & Thessalonica |
  - 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 |
  - 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? |
  - 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 |
  - 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; and a faithful servant who hung tough |

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<td>Spiritual Knowledge + Action ➔ Fruitfulness</td>
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  - vv9-11. Paul’s prayer life continuously upheld believers. He made time to pray fervently & intelligently for Christians to mature speedily |

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!