

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 06 Mar..... Phil 1:1-11Link Up with Others
- 2) 13 Mar..... Phil 1:12-26 Lift Up the Gospel
- 3) 20 Mar..... Phil 1:27-2:11Live Up to the Gospel
- 4) 27 Mar..... Phil 2:12-30Light Up the World
- 5) 03 Apr..... Phil 3:1-21Look Up to Heaven
- 6) 10 Apr..... Phil 4:1-23 Never Let Up
- 7) 17 Apr..... Col 1:1-20Knowing the Truth
- 8) 24 Apr.....John 20:1-18.....Believing the Truth [Easter Message]
- 9) **01 May..... Col 1:21-2:7Expressing 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 3:18-4:18Be Faithful
- 13) 29 May.....Philemon 1-25Be Forgiving

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 knows someone is 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! • 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 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”?
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 “<i>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</i>” • 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! • vv26-27. Why was the Gospel to the Gentiles a hidden mystery for 1000s of years? Only God knows the full story, and we’ll know more later

Passage	Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Gospel includes a suffering Messiah, concept of the Trinity, resurrection from the dead, 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?
2:1-3	<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 • Many strive & struggle for more money, leisure, and possessions. Instead we should chase Christ
2:4-5	<p>How Gullible are We? How Disciplined are We?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v4. The Colossians seemed to have been duped into accepting some false teachings (legalism) • v5. The remedy from being deceived by ourselves (1Cor 3:18) and by others (Eph 5:6) is to be vigilant or disciplined in seeking Christ (by bible study, prayer, church attendance, & service)
2:6-7	<p>How Grateful Are We?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 that mean?

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 2:8-23. 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.



"Don't get me wrong, pal. 'Live and let live' is a lovely philosophy, but I can tell you from personal experience, it makes for a lousy business model."