

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 2:12-30 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
- 8) 24 Apr..... John 20:1-18 Believing the Truth [Easter Message]
- 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

- 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 are right as well
 - It is humbling to think that Southern Baptists became Southern Baptists by holding onto false teachings on slavery. Thank God that problem has been corrected
- So who has hold on the right doctrine? The easy answer is anyone who stays true to the Word of God
- In this lesson, Paul highlights the doctrinal problems the Colossians struggled with & the fix they need to implement

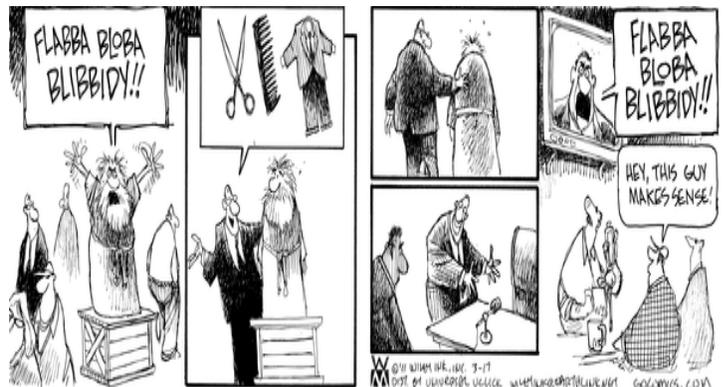
Passage	Comments
Col 2:8	<p>Be Not Deceived – Guard Against False Doctrine</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paul lists several elements to avoid <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Captivating philosophies (e.g., ‘ear-tickling stories) 1Tim 6:20; 2Tim 4:3 2. Empty deception (frivolous speculations) 3. Traditions of men (e.g., reciting the rosary) 4. Worldly elementary principles (e.g., “if it feels good do it,” and “live and let live”) 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	<p>Do Not Forsake Christ</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 buried with Christ through baptism and raised up with Him in newness of life through faith, with all of our sins forgiven!
2:16-17	<p>Be Not Judged by Others - Reject False Teachers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • However, we are to judge bad behavior and bad teachings within the church 1Cor 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 traditions Rom 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

Passage	Comments
2:18-19	<p>Be Not Disqualified and Lose Your Reward</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If we ignore sound doctrine and chase after false teachings we rob ourselves of heavenly rewards • Remember – Sound doctrine is able to 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 dead saints to intercede for them) 3. Dwelling on visions (misplaced focus) 4. Puffed up (selfish pride) 5. Not holding on to Christ
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 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)

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 Christ
- **Remember** – “*In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, charity*” – St. Augustine

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



Any false teachings can be made to appear very respectable and appealing (Satan appears as an angel of light...2Cor 11:14)