

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

1)	02 Sept	Galatians 1:1-24	True Gospel
2)	09 Sept	Galatians 2:1-21	True Grace
3)	16 Sept	Galatians 3:1-22	True Life
4)	23 Sept	Galatians 3:23-29; 4:1-7	True Heirs
5)	30 Sept	Galatians 4:8-31	True Freedom
6)	07 Oct	Galatians 5:1-26	True Fruit
7)	14 Oct	Galatians 6:1-18	True Compassion
8)	21 Oct	James 1:1-18	With Perseverance
9)	28 Oct	James 1:19-27	With Obedience
10)	04 Nov	James 2:1-26	With Works
11)	11 Nov	James 3:1-18	With Control
12)	18 Nov	James 4:1-17	With Submission
13)	25 Nov	James 5:1-20	With Anticipation

INTRODUCTION

- James 5 provides more proverbial sayings: Avoid trappings of earthly wealth – Be patient – Don't complain – Endure like Job – God is full of compassion & mercy – Don't swear – Pray if you are suffering – Confess your sins and pray to be healed – Turn sinners back to God.

Passage	Comments
James 5:1-6	<p>There Are Dangers to Being Wealthy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep wealth in perspective as a tool for the Kingdom: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Meet Needs of Family 1 Tim 5:8 Further the Gospel Phil 4:14-18 Care for the Poor Pr 19:17; Mat 19:21 Give More Pr 21:26b, Acts 20:35 v6. It is interesting that the "rich" (hopefully not within the church) put the righteous ones to death <ul style="list-style-type: none"> But doesn't Scripture say, "No evil/harm befalls the Righteous" (Prov 12:21). How do we reconcile this? Consider This. A proverb is just that, a proverb – it is a generality, not always a hard-fast dogma (e.g.'s: Job, Joseph, & Jesus who suffered horrendous evil, orchestrated by God, no less). BUT, from a heavenly perspective, no evil will do eternal harm to a righteous believer. God can even use evil situations to promote His saints Ps 23:4-5
5:7-11	<p>Principle to Live By → Be Patient</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> vv7-8. "...the coming of the Lord is near." The next big event on God's calendar is the return of Christ. Our goal till then is to be patiently active & hopeful. God works at His pace, not ours <ul style="list-style-type: none"> v11. Consider Job. Job did nothing wrong. He had to patiently wait for God to run him through the wringer to accomplish what only God could do v9. In the middle of this passage (vv7-11) we are commanded not to complain about others and reap judgment from the Lord. This is in line with Mat 7:1-3. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We can challenge sin (1Ths 5:21), we can question behaviors (Acts 14:15), we just need to avoid being a whiney-hiney when things don't go our way
5:12	<p>To Swear or Not to Swear – That Is the Question</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "But above all..." – This topic of swearing must be more important than the rich abusing the poor and believers complaining against believers WHY? Our words are critical. They can cause us joy or grief – so chose them carefully. "Who will dwell in God's House? ...those who speak the truth (and) those who keep their word even to their own hurt" Psalm 15:1-4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How forcible are right words! Job 6:25 Life & death are in the power of the tongue Pr 18:21 Our words reveal our heart Mat 15:11 Only Jesus has the Words of eternal Life Jn 6:68
5:13-16	<p>Are You Suffering? Pray</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This topic requires a 2-hour lesson plan of its own v13. Sickness could include all types of ailments – physical, mental, spiritual. It's OK to be joyful in the day of prosperity, but in the day of adversity it's time to pray & realize God has ordered such (cycle of adversity & prosperity) Ecc 7:14

Passage	Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> v14. The elders were called possibly because the sick person was too sick to travel to the elders vv15-16a. Have you sinned? Pray, confess, & forgive. It is amazing the illnesses caused by various sins: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Immorality consumes the flesh Ps 31:10; Pr 5:7-11 Immorality also provokes depression Pr 15:13 which weakens the heart Ps 40:12; Pr 12:25; 13:12 Depression also dries up the bones Pr 17:22 Envy/jealousy rots the bones Pr 14:30 v16b. Prayers of a Righteous Man Accomplishes Much. Who is "righteous" if all of our righteousness are nothing but filthy rags (Is 64:6)? From this context, a righteous person tames his tongue, keeps God first, treats others with love and respect, & is patient with others & while waiting on God <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How do we pray effectively? Be devoted to it (Rom 12:12) – Make time for it; Be specific, not vague; Have a heavenly kingdom focus, not an earthly temporal focus. How much TV do we watch each week? How much time do we devote to praying each week? When we devote ourselves to "effective" praying then God can use us to accomplish much for His kingdom v17. It is interesting Elijah was used as our example. Elijah performed several supernatural wonders. He called fire down from Heaven 3x, provided food and oil to a widow for 3 years, parted the Jordan River, and he raised the dead. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> BUT, the example here was not a supernatural wonder that broke any laws of nature. It was an example of a providential working that any of us can pray for. WOW!!!
Purpose of Anointing for today	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some hold this practice as obsolete for today Some hold this practice as a magical elixir Some hold this practice as combining godly prayer with practical use of medicine Some hold this practice as symbolic of God's active involvement in our lives
Application	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is biblical evidence that removing sin will restore health for some Isa 33:24; Matt 9:2-5; John 5:14 Nothing wrong with asking for Church elders or leaders – who should be wise, discerning, righteous, and effective prayer warriors, to corporately pray for sick saints and to assess if sickness is due to sinful behavior, godly testing, disciplining, chastening, or God-ordained happenstance Anointing of oil adds a moment of significance to one's faith, such as baptism and communion, through a formal process and a public consecration to God
5:19-20	<p>Bring Back Those Who Wander from the Truth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This topic needs its own 2-hour lesson as well. A parallel passage states, "If anyone sees his brother commit a sin that does not lead to death, he should pray and God will give him life..." [NIV] 1John 5:16,17 Should we chase down everyone who wanders away? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider this. We are commanded to avoid fools and those who cause dissension Prov 14:7; Rom 16:17

CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS

- What is more important – the healing of an ailment, which is temporary, or the forgiveness of sins which has eternal weight?

NEXT WEEK: Genesis 25. After a 3-year hiatus we finally pick Genesis back up and we see the rest of this book dealing with Joseph and his time in Egypt, which eventually establishes the nation of Israel.

