

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

INTRODUCTION

- Many Christians have a “When-Then” strategy for sharing the gospel. “WHEN” this happens, “THEN” I will share
 - ♦ **When** my kids grow up, **then** I will have time
 - ♦ **When** I have a secure lifestyle, **then** I will get serious
 - ♦ **When** my health improves, **then** I will be able to do it
- Paul’s strategy was the same as Jesus – ‘While it is still day, I will be about the Lord’s work’ [John 9:4](#)

Notable Bible Characters who served Jail Time	Passage
1. Joseph in Egyptian jail	Gen 39
2. Samson (captured by the Philistines)	Judges 16
3. Prophet Micaiah, jailed by King Ahab	1 Kings 17
4. Judah’s King Jehoaahaz by Egyptian King Neco	2 Kings 23
5. Judah’s King Jehoiachin by king of Babylon	2 Kings 25
6. Hanani the seer by King Asa of Judah	2 Chron 16
7. Prophet Jeremiah	Jer 32
8. John the Baptist (beheaded)	Mt, Mk, Lk, Jn
9. Jesus (crucified)	Mt, Mk, Lk, Jn
10. 11 Apostles for witnessing	Acts 5
11. Countless men & women sent to jail by Saul	Acts 8
12. Apostle James (John’s brother), killed by Herod	Acts 12
13. Peter (angelic release)	Acts 12
14. Paul & Silas in Philippi (release by earthquake)	Acts 16
15. Paul in Jerusalem for 2 years then in Rome	Acts 26
16. John exiled to the isle of Patmos	Rev 1
17. Satan is cast into prison for 1000 years	Rev 20

Reminder – Paul wrote Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon from a Roman prison while waiting to appeal his case before Caesar [Acts 24-28](#)

Passage	Comments
Phil 1:12-14	<p>Imprisonment Accomplished More Than Freedom</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v12. ‘...my situation has advanced the gospel...’ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ The incidences which got Paul into prison were: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) A riot in Jerusalem; 2) a 2-year imprisonment at Caesarea; 3) his defense before Festus; 4) his appeal to Caesar; 5) threats against his life; 6) and a sea voyage resulting in a shipwreck ♦ These events put Paul on center stage ♦ How would these events advance the gospel? ♦ Word got around fast even without the Internet • v13. The ‘whole Praetorian Guard,’ composed of several thousand soldiers responsible for guarding the emperor (akin to U.S. Secret Service), became very knowledgeable of Paul and of the Gospel. What happened to Paul were not things of chance but of divine appointment • v14. As a result of Paul’s imprisonment Christians became bolder in their faith. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ What Would We Do (WWWD)? Stay, Hide, Fight, or Flee?
Historical Note	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roman practice was to chain a prisoner to a guard constantly – so Paul had a captive audience 24x7
1:15-18	<p>God can use Bad Preachers to Reach the Lost</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the end justify the means? • If they are not against us, they are for us Luke 9:50 • v17. To realize the full benefit of being in God’s will, we must convey the right message, with the right method, and with the right motive. Yet, God can use the wicked, who have the wrong motive, the wrong message, and the wrong method to accomplish His will • v18. Paul still had joy, though he was in a mess <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ How can one find real joy in a bad situation? ♦ Joy is not based on circumstances but our relationship

Passage	Comments
1:19-21	<p>Which is Better – To Live or to Die for Christ?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Those on the young side of life or who have not experienced horrendous affliction cannot fully appreciate Paul’s statement “to die is gain” • “This is for my salvation” or deliverance. Probable meaning is Paul expected to be “delivered” from prison – either by exoneration or by execution. He was eventually released
1:22-26	<p>Our Days Are Numbered</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Psalm 39:4 – Lord, help me count my days • Only God knows when our job here is done • Be ready to stay in the game till the last whistle
1:27	<p>If We Are God’s Kids, We Should Act Like It!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paul seemed unsure whether he would be released like Peter or be beheaded like James Acts 12 • Either case, he expected the Philippians to be united in spirit and purpose for the gospel • “Striving” in Greek is where we get “Athlete” and like an athlete, it takes strong dedicated effort and determination to win – and we must win together • Why do we give up so easy on must-win fights, such as saving unity in a marriage or in a church?
1:28	<p>Show No Fear!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have you ever told your kids if they kept crying you would give them something to cry about? • God told Jeremiah to prepare for a struggle, and not to be fearful of his opponents or God would give him something to be fearful about Jer 1:17 • Same here, we should not fear our opponents of the Gospel
1:29-30	<p>We are not Called to be Rich, but to Suffer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Struggle” or “conflict” in Greek is where we get “agony” • Why would anyone want to be a Christian if we are called to suffer? That is why we must count the cost! • Do we suffer a little now for great gain later or do we live for the moment now and lose it all later? • Remember – The eye hasn’t seen, the ear heard, nor has the mind comprehended what God has prepared for those who love Him 1Cor 2:9

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

- Are we ready to be persecuted, fired, or even jailed for witnessing or taking a stand for God? If not, what would it take, because the day is coming for us to stand up for God
- **Watch out for the pitfalls of Lifestyle Evangelism?**
 - ♦ Consider a trip to the doctor’s office to resolve some pain issue, and all the doctor told you to do was to observe him. What good is that advice? You need more substantive information, surgery, or possibly some medication. You need to know specifics: what to do, what to take, and what not to do
 - ♦ In like fashion, Lifestyle Evangelism is a weak approach to fix broken lives of people who need so much more

NEXT WEEK: Phil 2:1-30. God allows catastrophes (Job 1) & even initiates some Himself (Isa 45:7). Reasons can be punitive, preventive, corrective, directive, or for reasons only God knows why. When it’s all over, every knee will bow & confess Jesus Christ is Lord & God is righteous in all His dealings.

