


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
- 7) 17 OctColossians 1:1-23..... The Gospel's Power
- 8) 24 OctColossians 1:24-29 | 2:1-3..... The Gospel's Goal
- 9) 31 OctColossians 2:4-15..... The Gospel's Forgiveness
- 10) 07 NovColossians 2:16-23..... The Gospel's Freedom
- 11) 14 NovColossians 3:1-17..... The Gospel Lived
- 12) 21 NovColossians 3:18-25 | 4:1-6..... The Gospel and Relationships
- 13) 28 NovPhilemon 1:1-25..... Restoration

INTRODUCTION

- God allows catastrophes (*Job 1*) & He 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 and God is righteous in all His dealings
- It is obvious to most that God's will for us is not our temporary comfort down here on Earth, but our eternal blessings in Heaven
- Paul exhorted the Philippians to work out their salvation through their daily living by connecting their belief to their behavior, and their confession to their conduct

Passage	Comments
2:1-2	<p>Leg #1 – Unity [imagine a 3-legged stool]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Big benefit for the Christian is found in UNITY • Being a hermit or a monk brings no rewards • We must "strive" together to achieve unity within our church and family to achieve God's results
2:3-4	<p>Leg #2 - Humility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider others as more important! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ But what if they are nerds, weird, or look funny? ♦ What if they are wicked, foolish, or selfish? 
2:5-7	<p>Leg #3 – Christ-likeness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v5. This "attitude" or mindfulness" is not an emotional feeling, but a transformed mind • These 3-legs, so to speak, are all needed for us to have a strong testimony and to accomplish much for God's Kingdom
2:8	<p>God Knows Our Pains in Life, and Through Christ, God Experienced Our Pains</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If Humility is our greatest focus, then our greatest stumbling block to Humility is our Pride • Lose our pride or lose everything worth keeping
2:9-11	<p>Jesus is and will be Highly Exalted by All</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Everyone will ultimately acknowledge Christ, though not everyone will be saved
2:12-13	<p>God Looks to Bless Obedient Children</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v12. The Philippians were obedient whether they were being watched or not <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ They would even obey the speed limit even if police were not around – Would we? Do we? ♦ Great blessings from obeying God's laws and obeying the good laws of the land include answered prayers .. <i>Prov 28:9; 1Peter 3:7</i> • How should we work out our salvation with fear and trembling? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Paul didn't say 'work FOR our salvation', but 'work OUT our salvation' ♦ This simply means whatsoever we do in thought, in words, & in deeds, we do it whole-heartedly for God..... <i>Col 3:23</i> ♦ Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling <i>Ps 2:11</i> ♦ Never forget our God is a consuming fire, worthy of our utmost respect..... <i>Heb 12:29</i> ♦ ...and 'cursed is he who does God's work slothfully <i>Jer 48:10</i> • Christianity is not for wimps – So, count the cost • v13. Fortunately, God is for us, not against us. He even enables us to accomplish His will, beginning with our desire to do so – Yet we are not robots

Passage	Comments
2:14-16	<p>Our Goal is to be Blameless & Above Reproach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The world is watching our every move • What is the difference between "grumbling and disputing" and "contending for the faith"? Aren't they the same in most churches? • Paul wants us to be "shining lights" or positive role models to a perverse & wicked generation • So, we need to be on guard over petty "disputes and arguments over words, from which come envy, strife, reviling, evil suspicions". How do we do this?..... <i>1Tim 6:4</i>
2:17-18	<p>Are We Bright Stars or Cannon Fodder?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paul was being sacrificed, & he took it joyfully – and he encouraged others to do likewise • Even Christ "who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame" <i>Heb 12:2</i> • Can we be joyful of others though we may be suffering on their behalf (e.g. parents for kids)
2:19-24	<p>Timothy – the Go-To Guy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v21. Paul gave some disparaging remarks about ALL those around him who sought after their own interests, and not those of Christ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ He must've alluded to the false teachers in 1:15 ♦ Paul had many faithful sidekicks, including Titus, Timothy, Luke, Mark, Epaphroditus (below), Aquila & Priscilla, Phoebe, & Apollos • Are we go-to guys & gals like Timothy? Would we put ourselves through bodily mutilation like he did for Christ? <i>Act 16:1-3</i>
2:25-30	<p>Epaphroditus – the Do-or-Die Guy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Epaphroditus came from the Philippian church to give Paul some financial help and to provide short term missionary support for Paul • He probably drank the water and came down with a near-deadly case of diphtheria, typhoid, or other such debilitating sickness • Paul's miracle-working days seem to be over. He can only thank God for showing mercy to Epaphroditus • v25. Paul considered Epaphroditus to be a brother, a fellow worker in the fields, a fellow soldier in the trenches, a minister to his needs, and a messenger to take Paul's letter back to Philippi • v29. "Hold men like him in high esteem" • Who are Epaphroditus-type people in our church, and how can we hold them in high esteem? cf <i>Rom 16:1-2</i> (Phoebe)

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

- God feels our pains through the sufferings of Christ. Likewise, we should feel the pain of others, especially if we have suffered pain and loss
- Wouldn't we be blessed to have friends like Paul, Timothy and Epaphroditus who would gladly give their all for us?
- Let's be like these guys – dependable, encouraging, trustworthy, bold, loving, brotherly, soldierly, minister of needs, hard workers, caring for others before ourselves

NEXT WEEK: Phil 3:1-21. How can we rejoice in God when the world is falling apart, or while our lives or livelihood might be in turmoil?

