

**LESSONS THIS QUARTER**

- 1) 05 Sep 2021 .....Philippians 1:1-11..... Joy in Prayer
- 2) 12 Sep .....Philippians 1:12-30..... Joy in Adversity
- 3) 19 Sep .....Philippians 2:1-30..... Joy through Humility
- 4) 26 Sep .....Philippians 3:1-21..... Joy in Knowing Jesus
- 5) 03 Oct .....Philippians 4:1-9..... Joy through Peace
- 6) 10 Oct .....Philippians 4:10-23..... Joy and Contentment
- 7) 17 Oct .....Colossians 1:1-23..... The Gospel's Power
- 8) 24 Oct .....Colossians 1:24-29 | 2:1-3..... The Gospel's Goal
- 9) 31 Oct .....Colossians 2:4-15..... The Gospel's Forgiveness
- 10) 07 Nov .....Colossians 2:16-23..... The Gospel's Freedom
- 11) 14 Nov .....Colossians 3:1-17..... The Gospel Lived
- 12) 21 Nov .....Colossians 3:18-25 | 4:1-6..... The Gospel and Relationships
- 13) 28 Nov .....Philemon 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><b>Leg #1 – Unity [imagine a 3-legged stool]</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Big benefit for the Christian is found in UNITY</li> <li>• Being a hermit or a monk brings no rewards</li> <li>• We must "strive" together to achieve unity within our church and family to achieve God's results</li> </ul>
2:3-4	<p><b>Leg #2 - Humility</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider others as more important!                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ But what if they are nerds, weird, or look funny?</li> <li>♦ What if they are wicked, foolish, or selfish?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
2:5-7	<p><b>Leg #3 – Christ-likeness</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v5. This "attitude" or mindfulness" is not an emotional feeling, but a transformed mind</li> <li>• These 3-legs, so to speak, are all needed for us to have a strong testimony and to accomplish much for God's Kingdom</li> </ul>
2:8	<p><b>God Knows Our Pains in Life, and Through Christ, God Experienced Our Pains</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If Humility is our greatest focus, then our greatest stumbling block to Humility is our Pride</li> <li>• Lose our pride or lose everything worth keeping</li> </ul>
2:9-11	<p><b>Jesus is and will be Highly Exalted by All</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Everyone will ultimately acknowledge Christ, though not everyone will be saved</li> </ul>
2:12-13	<p><b>God Looks to Bless Obedient Children</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v12. The Philippians were obedient whether they were being watched or not                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ They would even obey the speed limit even if police were not around – Would we? Do we?</li> <li>♦ Great blessings from obeying God's laws and obeying the good laws of the land include answered prayers .. <b>Prov 28:9; 1Peter 3:7</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>• How should we work out our salvation with fear and trembling?                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Paul didn't say 'work FOR our salvation', but 'work OUT our salvation'</li> <li>♦ This simply means whatsoever we do in thought, in words, &amp; in deeds, we do it whole-heartedly for God..... <b>Col 3:23</b></li> <li>♦ Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling ..... <b>Ps 2:11</b></li> <li>♦ Never forget our God is a consuming fire, worthy of our utmost respect..... <b>Heb 12:29</b></li> <li>♦ ...and 'cursed is he who does God's work slothfully ..... <b>Jer 48:10</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Christianity is not for wimps – So, count the cost</li> <li>• 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</li> </ul>



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

**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?

