

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

- Christians spend more \$\$ on chewing gum each year than missions
- Do you think we may have work to do in this area of financial priorities?

Passage	Comments
Phil 4:10-16	<p>Mission Giving Reaps Dividends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv10, 14, 15, 16, 18. The Philippians met Paul's financial needs when they became known. We should follow this example for needy & worthy saints. • vv11-13. Paul learned to be content whether he had plenty of money & food or none. Can we? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ And Christ enabled and strengthened Paul to accomplish and endure all things. What about us? ♦ Didn't God promise to meet all needs if we seek His kingdom first? So why did Paul suffer needs? ♦ God also promised persecutions and we are told to rejoice and be glad cause our reward would be great in Heaven.....Mat 5:11,12
Should we take on debt to give more to missions	<p>The Poor Give to the Poorer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Macedonians willingly & cheerfully gave beyond their ability to help others, per God's grace ... 2Cor 8:1-5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ BEWARE: This does not mean taking on debt to give to the Lord's work. ♦ Real Life Illustration. One poor couple charged \$1000 on their credit card to give to missions – and it took years to pay it off. They are now divorced. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → This would be akin to the misfortune of Ananias & Sapphira, found in Acts 5, who gave \$\$ for show • So, how should we go beyond our means to help, and what does God's grace look like in such a situation? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Bake Sales? Garage Sales? Go-Fund-Me accounts? Bingo? Raffles? Other means? ♦ Consider this. Since God did not elaborate on what the Macedonians did, we have liberty to be creative, assuming we stay within other biblical guidelines.
4:17-19	<p>Credit to Our Account</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v17. The Philippians are probably still reaping fruit to their Heavenly account. Likewise, our fruit will follow us into eternity long after we die. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ For example, if you lead 2 people to Christ in 10 yrs, then each of them only leads 2 others to Christ within 10 years, you could be accredited with 100's of souls coming to Christ, if not thousands, if some of your spiritual children and grandchildren are overachievers • v19. As we supply the needs of other worthy saints, we reap bountifully. But is this an absolute or a generality? And will we reap now or in Heaven? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Recall the widow with 2 mites who gave all she had, but in all probability, she died in abject poverty. Yet Bill Gates would be envious of her Heavenly account.

Passage	Comments
A Word on Money	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You can't turn too many pages in the Bible without crossing a financial-related passage. Jesus spoke more about money than any other subject – except Love • Over 1000 passages in Scripture deal directly with wealth, 2nd only to Love. Proverbs alone has ~250 passages on stewardship. • Money is talked about more than Heaven or Hell • Two Thirds (2/3rds) of the Lord's parables are on Money. • There are Biblical guidelines to follow to ensure we do not put our God-given resources into a bag with holes (Ecc 10:19 – Money is the answer to everything – at least from a worldly perspective). • "How we handle money is a strong indicator of our level of spiritual maturity," Larry Burkett • YES, we are to be generous, even to a fault, but remember our God-given priorities and responsibilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ If we do not take care of family first, we could be labeled worse than an infidel..... 1Tim 5:8
Lifeguard Analogy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lifeguards are trained not to drown themselves to save a fool who opted to play in water over his head • They wait till the thrashing stops, else 2 people drown • This lifeguard analogy may not be a good one, but I hope you see the point. If we constantly give financial assistance to those who are struggling or thrashing and who are not willing to heed good biblical, financial advice, we will eventually hurt ourselves. Plus, the thrashers learn nothing of their foolish ways.
4:20-23	<p>Final Salutation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v22. One of the big benefits of Paul's imprisonment was that saints eventually ended up working in the "White House" – that is, Caesar's household, and by their sheer presence, were impacting the Roman Empire for Christ and the future of Christendom

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

- Not all saints (even missionaries) may be worthy of support if there is prodigal behavior or failure to follow known financial biblical principles
- BUT, if they are worthy, we need to bend over backwards, go the extra mile, as God's grace allows, to sacrificially give to the Lord's work
- **AND consider this about God's Grace.** God blesses our endeavors when we are obedient to His word.

NEXT WEEK: Col 1:1-23. We learn Jesus Christ not only created all things, but He sustains all things, and He wants us to be fruitful in every good work.

