

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

1) 06 Mar.....Phil 1:1-11.....**Link Up with Others**
 2) 13 Mar..... Phil 1:12-26..... Lift Up the Gospel
 3) 20 Mar..... Phil 1:27-2:11.....Live Up to the Gospel
 4) 27 Mar..... Phil 2:12-30.....Light Up the World
 5) 03 Apr..... Phil 3:1-21.....Look Up to Heaven
 6) 10 Apr..... Phil 4:1-23..... Never Let Up
 7) 17 Apr..... Col 1:1-20.....Knowing the Truth
 8) 24 Apr..... John 20:1-18.....Believing the Truth [Easter]
 9) 01 May..... Col 1:21-2:7.....Expressing the Truth
 10) 08 May..... Col 2:8-23..... Keeping the Truth
 11) 15 May..... Col 3:1-17..... Be Focused
 12) 22 May..... Col 3:18-4:18.....Be Faithful
 13) 29 May..... Philemon 1-25.....Be Forgiving

INTRODUCTION

- Philippi was a city of destinysee Acts 16
 - ♦ Philippi became the 1st European city to be evangelized
 - ♦ Paul received a vision to avoid Asia & go to Macedonia
 - ♦ Paul witnesses to Lydia in Philippi. She was a business woman from Thyatira see SIDE NOTE
 - ♦ Then Paul & Silas went to prison for casting out a demon
 - ♦ After that, Paul led his jailer and his family to Christ
- Paul wrote Philippians while imprisoned in Rome ~61 AD
- Paul had nothing bad to say to the Philippians. His letter was pure gratitude, thanksgiving, rejoicing, and encouraging

Passage	Comments
1:1-2	<p>Paul & Tim Salute the Saints, Elders & Deacons</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timothy met Paul & Silas on their 2nd missionary trip to Macedonia (Acts 16); and Timothy was asked by Paul on his 3rd miss. trip to come to Macedonia to assist him (Acts 19:22), so the Philippians (of Macedonia) knew Timothy • Paul does not highlight his Apostleship as he had to with the Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, and Colossians. Philippians were low maintenance • Can we say we are low maintenance Christians?
1:3-5	<p>Paul Thanked God Continually for the Philippians</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paul also continually prayed for the believers in Rome (Rom 1:9), in Ephesus (Eph 1:16), and in Colosse (Col 1:9) <p>Effective praying is a disciplined practice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are to be devoted to prayer..... Rom 12:12 • Effective praying takes planning and time • If we prayed like Paul would we have more persecution or less? More maturity or less? More things or less? More blessings for friends or less? • Paul never prayed for larger bank accounts – His prayers were almost always for maturing in Christ
1:6	<p>God will Accomplish What He Started</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will be found holy & blameless (Eph 1:4) and be conformed to the image of Christ (Rom 8:9) • If it takes discipline and persecution – so be it!
1:7-8	<p>Paul has Feelings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paul expressed “feelings” about the Philippians being true believers and he “longed” for them • Can we know we are saved?..... YES, 1John 5:13 • Can we really know others are saved?..... NO - we can only assume or feel based on their fruit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Examples: The Apostles were duped by Judas; Paul was duped by Demas (Col 4:14, 2Tim 4:10); John knew of false brethren (1John 2:19)

Passage	Comments
1:9-11	<p>Pray that our Love for God, for His People, His creation Grows In Knowledge & Discernment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wow! What more can we accomplish for God and for others by being smarter and wiser! • We are basically asking God to give us the ‘big picture’ and to play a bigger role in His will • Do we pray like this? For our family? For our friends? For one another? We should! • Praying like this accomplishes 3 major things: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We are able to approve/confirm excellent things, such as ‘test the spirits’; ‘prove all things’; ‘prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God’ 2. We become “sincere and blameless” which positions us to be blessed and be more useful 3. We become filled with the fruit of His righteousness – ‘the fervent prayers of a righteous man accomplishes much’ – Jms 5:16
<i>The Prayer Loop</i>	

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS:

- God is going to accomplish what He started in us, so don’t make things difficult by being obstinate or high maintenance – we only hurt ourselves and we lose rewards
- If we devote ourselves to pray like Paul, watch out world!

SIDE NOTE:

- Lydia, presumably took the Gospel back to her home town of Thyatira. Thyatira is known in Revelations as the church commended for their godly works, faith, love, & patience – but they tolerated “that woman Jezebel” Rev 3:18-29

NEXT WEEK: Phil 1:12-26. Paul’s imprisonment accomplished more for God’s Kingdom than being free

