

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

- 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’ll have time
 - ♦ **When** I have a secure lifestyle, **then** I’ll get serious
 - ♦ **When** my health improves, **then** I’ll be able to do it
- Paul’s strategy was the same as Jesus – ‘While it is still day I will be about the Lords 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 Jehoahaz 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, Mrk, Lk, Jo
9. Jesus (crucified)	Mt, Mrk, Lk, Jo
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. He was waiting to go before Caesar to appeal his case 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...’ - The incidences that got Paul into prison were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ A riot in Jerusalem; a 2-year imprisonment at Caesarea, his defense before Festus, his appeal to Caesar, threats against his life; and a sea voyage that resulted in a shipwreck ♦ How would these events advanced the gospel? ♦ These events put Paul on center stage ♦ 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 more bold in their faith <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ What Would We Do (WWWD)? Stay or Flee?

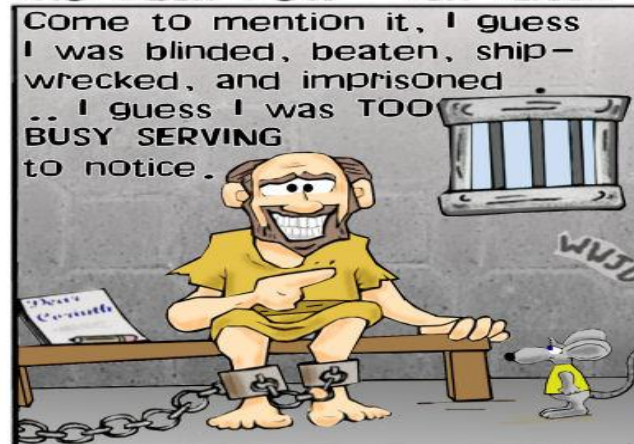
Passage	Comments
Historical Note	Roman practice was to chain a prisoner to a guard constantly – so Paul had a captive audience 24x7
1:15-18	<p>God can use Bad Preachers to Reach the Lost</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the end justify the means? • If they are not against us, they are for us..... Lk 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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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
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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ 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

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 what to do, what to take, 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 1:27-2:11. We are encouraged to humble ourselves and esteem others more highly

The Back Pew – Jeff Larson



The Apostle Paul, too wrapped up in his love for God to notice his own problems. THAT’S A NICE PROBLEM FOR LIFE.