INTRODUCTION

- Japan just suffered their worst earthquake and tsunami ever recorded in history. How can we help?
  - Designate your giving to Japan Tsunami Relief, and the church will forward such funds for proper distribution to SBC/International Mission Board
  - Pray for recovery efforts, relief, comfort & God’s mercy
- Japan may have lost 10,000 lives, but remember that the 2004 Indonesian tsunami claimed more than 230,000 lives
- Christians were also killed – it rains on the just & unjust
- SBC provided more than $16M for 2004 tsunami relief
- Such catastrophes do not take God by surprise. In fact, God “feels” our pains through the sufferings of Christ
  - 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

**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 2:1-30 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
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

**Passage**  **Comments**

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| Phil 1:27 | **If We Are God’s Kids We Should Act Like It!**
  - Paul seemed unsure whether he would be released like Peter or be beheaded like James ....... Acts 12
  - Either case, he expected the Philippian’s to be united in spirit and in purpose for the gospel
  - “Striving” in Greek is where we get “Athlete” and like an athlete, it takes strong effort and determination to win – and we must win together
  - Why do we give up so easy on must-win fights, such as saving unity in a marriage or in a church? |
| 1:28 | **Show No Fear!**
  - Have you ever told your kids if they kept crying you would give them something to cry about?
  - God told Jeremiah to prepare for a struggle, and not to be fearful of his opponents or God would give him something to be fearful about ....Jer 1:17
  - Same here, we should not fear our opponents of the Gospel – Whoever shows fear first, looses |
| 1:29-30 | **We are not Called to be Rich, but to Suffer**
  - “Struggle” or “conflict” in Greek is where we get our word for “agonie”
  - Why would anyone want to be a Christian if we are called to suffer? That is why we must count the cost!
  - Do we suffer a little now for great gain later or do we live for the moment now and lose it all later?
  - Remember – the eye hasn’t seen, nor has the ear heard or the mind comprehend what God has prepared for those who love Him ........... 1Cor 2:9 |

**Leg #1 – Unity**

- 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

**Leg #2 – Humility**

- Consider others as more important!
- But what if they are nerds, weird, or look funny?
- What if they are wicked, foolish, or selfish?

**Leg #3 – Christ-likeness**

- 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

**CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS:**

- God “feels” our pains through the sufferings of Christ
- We should likewise feel the pain of others, since we too know what it’s like to suffer pain and loss
- If we have Humility and Unity in our family life and in our church life, we have God’s peace that passes all understanding, and we can endure all suffering sent our way

**NEXT WEEK: Phil 2:12-30.** We need to work out our faith with fear and trembling

**“Should we blame this on the church or the state?”**