

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

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

INTRODUCTION

- After reading the Old Testament, the New Testament and having more than 4000 years of hindsight, 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
Phil 2:12-13	<p>God Looks to Bless Obedient Children</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v12. The Philippians were obedient whether they were being watched or not <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ They would even obey the speed limit even if police were not around – Would we? Do we? ♦ Great blessings from obeying God's laws and obeying the good laws of the land include answered prayers..... Prov 28:9; 1Peter 3:7 • How should we work out our salvation with fear and trembling? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Paul didn't say 'work FOR our salvation', but 'work OUT our salvation' ♦ This simply means whatsoever we do in thought, in words, & in deeds, we do it wholeheartedly for God Col 3:23 ♦ Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling Ps 2:11 ♦ Never forget our God is a consuming fire, worthy of our utmost respectHeb 12:29 ♦ ...and 'cursed is he who does the work of God with slackness'Jer 48:10 • Christianity is not for wimps – Count the cost • 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
2:14-16	<p>Our Goal is to be Blameless & Above Reproach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The world is watching our every move • What is the difference between "grumbling and disputing" and "contending for the faith"? - Aren't they the same in most churches? • Paul wants us to be "shining lights" or positive role models to a perverse & wicked generation • So, we need to be on guard over petty "disputes and arguments over words, from which come envy, strife, reviling, evil suspicions"1Tim 6:4
2:17-18	<p>Are We Bright Stars or Cannon Fodder?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paul was being sacrificed, & he took it joyfully – and he encouraged others to do likewise

Passage	Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Even Christ "who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame" - and we were His joy in His suffering ...Heb 12:2 • Can we be joyful of others though we may be suffering on their behalf (e.g. parents for kids)
2:19-24	<p>Timothy – the Go-To Guy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v21. Paul gave some disparaging remarks about ALL those around him who sought after their own interests, and not those of Christ Jesus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Paul's faithful sidekicks included Titus, Luke, Mark, Timothy, Epaphroditus (below), Aquila & Priscilla, Phoebe, Apollos & many others ♦ He must've alluded to the false teachers in 1:15 • Are we go-to guys & gals like Timothy? Would we put ourselves through bodily mutilation like he did for the cause of Christ?..... Act 16:1-3
2:25-30	<p>Epaphroditus – the Do-or-Die Guy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Epaphroditus came from the Philippian church to give Paul some financial help and to provide short term missionary support for Paul • He probably drank the water and came down with a near-deadly case of diphtheria, typhoid, or other such debilitating sickness • Paul's miracle-working days seem to be over. He can only thank God for showing mercy to Epaph. • v25. Paul considered Epaph 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 • v29. "Hold men like him in high esteem" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ How can we do this to the Epaphroditus-type people in our midst? ...cf Rom 16:1-2 (Phoebe)

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS:

- 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. We need to press toward the goal for the price of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus

Friends by Franko



And just what do I have to do to make sure I've got the biggest mansion on the block up yonder, Pastor?