

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

- How can we rejoice in God when the world is falling apart, or even our lives or livelihood might be in turmoil?
- Paul's emphasis was on our right relationship with God and always remembering the Big Picture and the End Prize
 ➔ We Win and We Will be Transformed into Something Greater and more Glorious

Passage	Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would we give up our high paying job, big house, 401k (or 201k these days) to pursue whippings, beatings, imprisonment for preaching to ingrates? • Remember the reward at the end is blessings beyond our current comprehension
3:12-16	<p>Persecution can be Good – if it's Pursuing God</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Greek word for “press on” and “pursue” is the same word Jesus used in “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?” (Acts 9:4) and when Paul said “I persecuted this Way to the death” (Acts 22:4) • Paul’s rap sheet included rejecting Christ; consenting to Stephen’s stoning; and chaining and imprisoning God-fearing men & women - all crimes worthy of him having a millstone tied around his neck and being cast into the sea <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Most would be paralyzed with fear, regret and remorse after coming to Christ with such sins ♦ Paul chose to forget his sinful past as Christ did ♦ This doesn’t mean Paul was negligent in seeking forgiveness from those he harmed, but he focused on pursuing his future prize
3:17	<p>Imitate Me</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paul was not arrogant or egotistical. He was a leader, and as such good leaders lead by example
3:18-19	<p>Again, Watch Out for the Enemies of the Cross</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Know when to run, know when to stand • Why did Paul weep when he wrote this? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Was he weeping for his enemies’ destruction? ♦ Was he weeping for the damage his enemies would do to God’s people? ♦ Should we weep for our enemies? Consider Psalms 119:136 – Streams of tears flow from my eyes, for your law is not obeyed
3:20-21	<p>Stay Focused on the Big Picture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our true citizenship is not here on Earth – like the old song, ‘This world is not my home, I’m just passing through’ • Our frail bodies will one day be transformed into something glorious and eternal

Passage	Comments
Phil 3:1	<p>Rejoice in the Lord (7th of 10x in Philippians)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can we rejoice in God when we are shipwrecked, stoned, beaten, whipped? Paul did..... 2Cor 11:25 • Can we rejoice in God even when we lose our job, deplete our savings, empty our refrigerator, and lose our house? Habakkuk didHab 3:17,18 <p>Rote is a Great Teaching Tool</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paul says to write the same things over again is no burden and it is a safeguard for the Philippians • How is repeating the same message a safeguard? Doesn’t it get tiring to here it over & over again? ‘Remember to wear your seatbelt’ should never get old, and neither should ‘Rejoice in the Lord’
3:2	<p>Paul Resorts to Name Calling to Make a Point</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Paul warns the believers to always be on guard against “Dogs” – What kind of people are they? - possibly those who would constantly ‘nip’ at you with trivial stuff, or ‘bark’ constantly to draw your attention away from God’s work, or who would attack you just to attack 2. Watch out for “Evil Doers” – those who would blatantly harm you or entice you away from God 3. ...and watch out for “Mutilators” – in other words, those who would mix grace with works (they could even be inside the church)
3:3	<p>True Believers are Noted for their Behavior</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We worship God in the Spirit. This is not a “feel good” esoteric mood, but being righteous before God (be holy as He is holy) • We glory or rejoice in Christ. Whether we have nothing or everything, Christ is all we need • We put no confidence in the flesh. Our confidence is in God’s living Word
3:4-11	<p>Paul had it All Before Christ – or did he?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paul highlighted his blameless credentials – He was Top Dog, a Man among Men, a Hebrew of Hebrews, living right, and zealous toward God • BUT, in God’s eyes Paul was heading for Hell • When Paul saw the light his past became rubbish

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS:

- If we have it rough down here, rejoice in Christ your Savior
- If we have it good down here (and most Americans do), rejoice with what God has given us
- We are so blessed in America we have no excuse for not rejoicing and for not getting the job done – we must be about doing the Lord’s work with fervor while it is still day!

NEXT WEEK: Philippians 4. Rejoice always, be anxious for nothing, think on good things, be content, we can do all things through Christ, and God will supply all our needs

