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Jones Road church of  
Christ

John R. Gibson

# [THE PRISON EPISTLES]

A look at four letters written during Paul's first Roman imprisonment; Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon.



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## Lesson 1: Overview of the Prison Epistles; Introduction to Ephesians

“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.” Ephesians 2:8-10

1. Read Acts 18:18—20:3, 15-38; 28:1-31. (Acts 28 will help with the overview of all four prison epistles and the others readings will help with the background to Ephesians.)
2. Why was Paul arrested in Acts 21?
3. How long did Felix keep Paul imprisoned in Caesarea? Acts 24
4. Why did Paul choose to go to Rome and have his case heard by Caesar? Acts 25
5. What two men accompanied Paul on his journey to Rome? Acts 27:1, 2
6. Describe what we know about Paul’s living conditions while a prisoner at Rome.
7. The books of Titus and 1 and 2 Timothy indicate that Paul was released from this first imprisonment at Rome and allowed to resume his evangelistic travels before being arrested and sent to Rome a second time. While 2 Timothy was written during his second imprisonment, the term *prison epistles* is usually used of the four letters written during the first imprisonment, the one described in Acts 28.
8. Acts 28:30, 31 depicts Paul as able to preach and teach freely during his two years of imprisonment at Rome. The four letters we will be studying appear to have been written near the end of these two years at a time when Paul was expecting to be released soon (Philemon 22), probably ca. A.D. 62.
  - a. Ephesians and Colossians have many similarities and were both delivered by Tychicus.
  - b. Onesimus, a runaway slave, accompanied Tychicus on his journey. It would appear that Onesimus carried the letter called Philemon back to his master, a member of the church at Colosse.
  - c. Philippians was likely carried by Epaphroditus.
9. Summary of each epistle.
  - a. Ephesians is a positive presentation of the blessings enjoyed by Christ’s church. After describing the blessings in ch. 1-3, Paul exhorts the brethren to walk worthy of their calling and live as saints should.
  - b. Colossians has many similarities to Ephesians, but was written in answer to false teachers who were troubling the saints. The first two chapters stress the all-sufficiency of Christ. The last two chapters, as in the second portion of Ephesians, teach us how belonging to Christ should affect us on a daily basis.
  - c. Philemon is a personal letter from the apostle to a friend asking him to receive back his runaway slave Onesimus.
  - d. Philippians contains Paul’s “thank you note” for a gift the saints had sent to him at Rome. It also contains several exhortations to unity and encouragement to stand fast no matter what might happen.
10. On which of Paul’s journeys did he spend almost three years at Ephesus?

11. How successful was Paul's work at Ephesus? Acts 19:10, 17-20, 23-27
12. According to 1 Cor. 15:31, 32, what danger had Paul faced in Ephesus?
13. Overview of Ephesians. Please read the entire letter.
  - a. Ch. 1-3 As Christians you are the possessor of every spiritual blessing. See Eph. 1:3.
    - 1) Ch. 1 enumerates many of those blessings and concludes with Paul's prayer for them.
    - 2) Ch. 2 makes clear that salvation is because of God's love, mercy, and grace. He especially reminds the Gentiles of how much better it is to be in Christ than where they once were.
    - 3) Ch. 3 focuses on the revelation of a truth that had long been a mystery; i.e. the Gentiles would be made equal recipients of God's blessings in Christ. The chapter concludes with praise to God.
  - b. Ch. 4-6 Walk worthy of the great blessings discussed in ch. 1-3. See Eph. 4:1.
    - 1) Ch. 4 begins with an exhortation to unity. The middle of the chapter speaks of the gifts Christ has given for the building up of the body. The latter half of ch. 4 begins a lengthy section of practical instruction on Christian living.
    - 2) Ch. 5 continues the instruction on living as a Christian. The last twelve verses address the relationship between husbands and wives.
    - 3) Ch. 6 continues the discussion of relationships with parents and children, masters and slaves. Paul also exhorted the brethren to put on the armor of God and be ready to do battle against Satan.

## Lessons 2 and 3: Ephesians 1

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ....” Ephesians 1:3

1. What is an apostle?
2. How did Paul become an apostle?
3. Define *saints*.
4. Note on the word *blessed* in 1:3. From the Greek word *eulogētos*, this word had a literal meaning of “to speak well of” and could be translated *praised* or *give praise to*.
5. God’s grace is seen in that...
  - a. We have been given every \_\_\_\_\_ in the heavenly places in \_\_\_\_\_. 1:3
  - b. He \_\_\_\_\_ us in Him. 1:4
  - c. He \_\_\_\_\_ us to \_\_\_\_\_ as \_\_\_\_\_ by Jesus Christ. 1:5
  - d. He made us \_\_\_\_\_ in the Beloved. 1:6
  - e. He provided \_\_\_\_\_ through His blood, the \_\_\_\_\_ of sins. 1:7
  - f. In Him we have obtained an \_\_\_\_\_. 1:11
6. Eph. 1:4, 5, 11 speak of God’s predestination. John Calvin believed and taught that God’s predestination involved the creation of a “master list” of the saved and the lost before creation and the names on the list were unchangeable. He believed that before your birth God had decided if you would be saved or lost. Was Calvin’s view of predestination scripturally accurate? Explain and support your answer.
7. What is the significance of Paul’s switch from the first person “we” and “us” to the second person “you” in 1:13?
8. Define *sealed* in 1:13.
9. The Holy Spirit is the \_\_\_\_\_ of our inheritance.
10. Paul gave thanks after he heard what two things about the Ephesians?

11. Paul's prayer was that the Ephesians would know...
  - a. The \_\_\_\_\_ of His calling.
  - b. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the glory of His \_\_\_\_\_ in the saints.
  - c. The exceeding \_\_\_\_\_ of His \_\_\_\_\_ toward us who believe.
12. How did Paul illustrate the greatness of God's power in 1:19-21?
13. What is the church according to Eph. 1:22, 23?

## Lessons 4 and 5: Ephesians 2

“But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus....”  
Ephesians 2:4-6

1. Before the Ephesians had come to know Christ they were...
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_ in trespasses and sins.
  - b. Walking according to the \_\_\_\_\_ of this \_\_\_\_\_.
  - c. Conducting themselves in the \_\_\_\_\_ of the flesh.
  - d. Fulfilling the desires of the \_\_\_\_\_ and of the \_\_\_\_\_.
  - e. Children of \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Why did God choose to give His Son as the Savior? 2:4, 5
3. When are “dead sinners” made to live and sit with Christ in heavenly places? Cf. Col. 2:11-13.
4. According to Eph. 2:8, salvation requires the \_\_\_\_\_ of God and the \_\_\_\_\_ of man.
5. Does “not of works” mean baptism is unnecessary?
  - a. If so, how do you explain Mark 16:16 and Acts 2:38?
  - b. If baptism is necessary, what does Eph. 2:9 mean?
6. By God’s grace we have been created in Christ Jesus for \_\_\_\_\_.
7. Before Christ the Gentiles had no \_\_\_\_\_ and were without \_\_\_\_\_ in this world.
8. What was the middle wall of separation that was broken down by Christ?
9. Both Jew and Gentile are reconciled to \_\_\_\_\_ in one \_\_\_\_\_ through the cross.
10. The Gentiles were once strangers and foreigners, but by the cross had become \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ with the saints and members of the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.
11. Upon what foundation is God’s holy temple built?

12. The saints at Ephesus were said to have been built into a holy temple (2:21, 22). Read 1 Cor. 3:16; 6:19; 2 Cor. 6:16 and note that the emphasis of a temple is upon a dwelling for God's Spirit. In Ezekiel 8-11 the glory of God departed from the temple at Jerusalem when it became defiled by idolatry. God has honored us by making us a holy temple, but let's not think He will continue to dwell in an unholy temple. Blessings bring responsibilities. Grace is not a license to sin.

## Lesson 6: Ephesians 3

“Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.” Ephesians 3:20, 21

1. How did Paul come to understand the mystery of God’s plan?
2. How could the Ephesians come to understand Paul’s knowledge of the mystery of Christ?
3. Though the mystery had long been hidden, it was now made known by the revelation of the Spirit to the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
4. The long-hidden secret revealed in the first century was that the Gentiles were to be \_\_\_\_\_, of the same \_\_\_\_\_, and partakers of His \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ through the gospel.
5. What was the grace, or gift, given Paul in 3:8?
6. The church, consisting of both Jews and Gentiles, displayed to the \_\_\_\_\_ and powers in the heavenly places the manifold \_\_\_\_\_ of God.
7. Paul prayed that the Father might grant them...
  - a. To be \_\_\_\_\_ with might through His \_\_\_\_\_.
  - b. That \_\_\_\_\_ dwell in their hearts by \_\_\_\_\_.
  - c. To know the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ.
  - d. That they be filled with the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.
8. How does Paul describe the God to whom he offered his prayer in 3:19?



## Lesson 7: Ephesians 4:1-16

“...from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.” Ephesians 4:16

1. How did Paul describe himself in Eph. 4:1?
2. While we can never do enough to be able to boast (Eph. 2:8, 9), we are exhorted to walk \_\_\_\_\_ of our calling.
3. List and briefly explain the four qualities found in Eph. 4:2 that should characterize our walk.
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.
  - d.
4. We are to seek the unity of the Spirit in the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.
5. What is the one body of Eph. 4:4?
6. Define faith as it is used in Eph. 4:5.
7. What psalm did Paul quote in Eph. 4:8?
8. Why did Christ, the Eternal Word and Divine Creator, descend into the lower parts of the earth?
9. Where is Christ now?
10. Eph. 4:11 enumerates either four or five gifts Christ gave for the building up of His people.
  - a. What were the primary functions of the apostles?
  - b. How did prophets and evangelists differ in their functions?
  - c. The construction of “pastors and teachers” is thought by some to mean that Paul describes one worker with two terms.
  - d. The word pastor means shepherd and is translated that way in the ESV. What men are charged with shepherding the flock of God in Acts 20:28 and 1 Peter 5:1-4?

11. When these gifts function properly it results in the saints being \_\_\_\_\_ for the work of \_\_\_\_\_, and the body of Christ being \_\_\_\_\_.
12. Read Eph. 4:13, 14 carefully and note the things that go into the perfect or complete man.
  - a. We come to the \_\_\_\_\_ of the faith.
  - b. We have a true \_\_\_\_\_ of the Son of God.
  - c. We seek the \_\_\_\_\_ of the fullness of Christ.
  - d. We are no longer children who can be \_\_\_\_\_ to and fro by every wind of \_\_\_\_\_.
  - e. We speak the \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_.
13. How can we overcome and avoid the instability described in Eph. 4:14?
14. How is the body to edify (build up) itself?
15. List at least three things you can contribute to the edifying of the body.

## Lesson 8: Ephesians 4:17-32

“...that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.” Ephesians 4:22-24

1. In addition to the reading from Eph. 4, please read Col. 3:1-17 in preparation for this lesson.
2. Paul urged the Ephesian saints to avoid being like the Gentiles (of whom they had been a part). The Gentile way of life was described as being...
  - a. In the \_\_\_\_\_ of their mind, with a darkened \_\_\_\_\_.
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_ from the life of God, because of their \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of heart.
3. They were past feeling (callous) and given over to \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Those that have come to know Jesus Christ and His truth will put off what? What will they put on?
5. What special reason is given for honesty in Eph. 4? What reason is given in Col. 3?
6. List at least two sins often produced by anger.
7. How can we keep anger from leading to sin?
8. In Eph. 4:28 we are exhorted to work that we might be able to do what?
9. What types of speech would fit into the category of corrupt? See Eph. 4:29, 31; 5:3, 4; Col. 3:8
10. Give at least three examples of ways we can use our speech to edify (build up). Cf. Col. 4:6.
11. Define:
  - a. Bitterness.
  - b. Clamor.
  - c. Malice.
12. We are to be forgiving, for \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ forgave us.



## Lessons 9, 10: Ephesians 5:1-21

“See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.”  
Ephesians 5:15-17

1. Read Colossians 3:1-17.
2. Imitators of God:
  - a. List three characteristics of God we must imitate.
  - b. List three characteristics of God we either cannot or must not imitate.
3. Who is the model of the love we are to have for one another?
4. List and give a brief definition of the things named in Eph. 5:3-5 as not fitting (improper) for saints.
  
5. Why is covetousness equated with idolatry?
6. Do not be deceived by \_\_\_\_\_, for the \_\_\_\_\_ of God will come upon the sons of disobedience.
7. Learning to walk. Locate the seven verses in Ephesians that contain the word walk(ed) and describe how we are to walk before God.
  
8. How can we know what is acceptable to the Lord?
9. How are we who are light to deal with the unfruitful works of darkness?
10. Who is Paul referring to in Eph. 5:14 when he speaks of those who “sleep” and are “dead?”
11. Why was it important that the Ephesians walk circumspectly (carefully) and redeem the time?
12. Being drunk (under the influence of alcohol) leads to \_\_\_\_\_, but being filled with the Spirit leads to \_\_\_\_\_.
13. Instead of being filled with the Spirit, Col. 3:16 speaks of the same thing resulting from the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ dwelling in one.

14. Instead of “speaking to one another” in song, Col. 3:16 tells us that singing is a way to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ others.
15. What differences, if any, are there between psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs?
16. What part is the heart to play in our singing?
17. Some have argued that the word *psalm* meant a song to be sung to the accompaniment of an instrument. Explain why this is or is not a valid argument.
  
18. Another defense of instrumental music is based on the Greek word *psallo*, which is translated “making melody” in Eph. 5:19. The argument is that the word meant “to pluck” and refers to plucking the strings of a harp. Does the word *psallo* justify instrumental music in worship to God? Explain your answer.
  
19. How can we “give thanks always for all things?” In other words, how can we be thankful when bad things happen?
  
20. What are some ways all Christians are to submit to one another?

## Lessons 11, 12: Ephesians 5:22—6:9

“Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.” Ephesians 5:25-27

1. Along with the primary text from Ephesians, please read Col. 3:18—4:1 and 1 Pet. 2:18—3:7.
2. What are the two responsibilities assigned to wives in Eph. 5 and Col. 3?
3. 1 Peter 3:2 adds that her conduct should be \_\_\_\_\_, and accompanied by \_\_\_\_\_.
4. What title of respect did Sarah give Abraham?
5. How many times in Eph. 5 are husbands told to love their wives?
6. To what is the love of the husband for his wife compared in...
  - a. 5:25?
  - b. 5:28?
  - c. 5:33?
7. Colossians 3 warns husbands against being \_\_\_\_\_ toward their wives.
8. Husbands are to give \_\_\_\_\_ to their wives, as to the \_\_\_\_\_ vessel. 1 Pet. 3:7
9. Christ is \_\_\_\_\_ of the church, and \_\_\_\_\_ of the body.
10. Define sanctify.
11. Explain how the church was cleansed through the washing of water.
12. Read Eph. 5:25-27 carefully.
  - a. V. 27 looks at Christ’s intention for the church. He gave Himself for the lost, thus making possible our sanctification and cleansing, so that we might be glorious, holy, unblemished, and without spot or wrinkle.
  - b. Bringing it home: we may have been cleansed and sanctified, but are we the holy, unblemished people He intended us to be when He died for us?
13. Eph. 6:1 exhorts children to obey their parents in the Lord and Col. 3:20 says to obey in all things.
  - a. Do children ever have the God-approved right to disobey their parents? If so, under what circumstances?

- b. Are children allowed to disobey their parents if told to do something that “doesn’t make sense” to them?
14. What is meant by the first commandment with promise?
15. What, if any distinction is there between obeying and honoring one’s parents?
16. List some ways a father can provoke his child to wrath.
17. In Col. 3 Paul warned against this provocation lest the child become \_\_\_\_\_.
18. The positive instructions of Eph. 6:4 are variously given as “training and admonition” (NKJV), “nurture and admonition” (KJV), and “discipline and instruction” (NASB and ESV).
  - a. List at least three things fathers can do to effectively train or instruct their children.
  - b. List at least three essentials to effective discipline.
19. Bondservants (slaves—ESV) were to be obedient to their masters with \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
20. What is meant by eyeservice?
21. How many times did Paul exhort servants to obey their masters as if they were serving the Lord?
22. Whose example did Peter urge servants to imitate when forced to deal with abusive masters?
23. In Col. 4, what did Paul urge masters to do for their servants?
24. According to Eph. 6, why were masters to give up threatening?
25. How can we apply the instructions to masters and servants to ourselves as...
  - a. Employees?
  - b. Employers or supervisors?

## Lessons 13: Ephesians 6:10-24

“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.” Ephesians 6:10, 11

1. Paul exhorted the saints to be strong \_\_\_\_\_ and in the power of \_\_\_\_\_.
2. What does the word *wiles* (NKJV) mean?
3. “We do not wrestle against flesh and blood...” How can we reconcile this with Paul’s many conflicts with “flesh and blood” false teachers? See Acts 15:1, 2; 1 Tim. 1:18-20; 2 Tim. 2:16-18; 4:14.
4. Why is it important that we put on the whole armor of God? 6:13
5. List the various parts of the armor.
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.
  - d.
  - e.
  - f.
6. What are some things we can do to become more effective in our use of the sword of the Spirit?
7. V. 18 moves away from the imagery of the armor, but there is a direct connection. Even though we are equipped with the armor of God, we still need the help of God that comes through prayer and supplication. Define supplication.
8. What did Paul ask that they pray for on his behalf?
9. Why was Tychicus being sent to them? Find the other New Testament references to Tychicus. (He is mentioned in four other books).
10. Review. List two important lessons/applications from each chapter of Ephesians.



## Lessons 14, 15: Introduction to Philippians; Philippians 1

“Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel....” Philippians 1:27

1. Read Acts 16:6-40; 20:1-6; 2 Corinthians 8:1-5; Philippians 1.
2. On which of Paul’s preaching journeys did he first visit Philippi? (Locate Philippi on a map.)
3. Historical note: Philippi was a Roman “colony” and its citizens were granted all the privileges of Roman citizenship.
4. Who were the first converts in Philippi?
5. What service did Lydia provide for Paul and his companions?
6. Why were Paul and Silas beaten and imprisoned at Philippi?
7. What evangelist remained in Philippi when Paul and Silas left?
8. How did Paul describe the giving of the churches of Macedonia (which would have included Philippi, Thessalonica, and Berea)? 2 Cor. 8
9. Why the letter to the Philippians was written:
  - a. Paul wanted to thank the Philippians for their generosity. Phil. 4:10, 14-18
  - b. Provide reassurance about his condition. Phil. 1:12-14, 22-24; 2:24
  - c. Give a brief explanation of Epaphroditus’ return.
  - d. There seem to have been some concerns about unity within the church. Phil. 1:27; 2:1-4, 14; 4:2
  - e. False teachers were a danger. Phil. 3:1-6
10. To whom was this letter addressed?
11. List two other biblical names for bishops.
12. Paul was thankful for their \_\_\_\_\_ in the gospel from the first day until then.
13. The apostle was confident that the Lord had begun a \_\_\_\_\_ in them and would \_\_\_\_\_ it until the day of Jesus Christ.
14. Paul prayed that the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Philippians would abound more and more in \_\_\_\_\_ and discernment.

15. This would allow the saints to \_\_\_\_\_ the things that are excellent, be \_\_\_\_\_ and without \_\_\_\_\_, and be filled with the fruits of \_\_\_\_\_.
16. How had Paul's imprisonment brought about the furtherance of the gospel? (Note that the answer has two parts.)
17. What was Paul's reaction to some who thought their preaching might add affliction to him?
18. Paul was confident that Christ would be \_\_\_\_\_ in his body, whether by life or by death.
19. What did Paul see as the benefit of being...
  - a. Executed?
  - b. Released?
20. The word translated conduct in 1:27 is from the Greek word *politeuō*, a word which sometimes carried the meaning "behave like citizens." Knowing the special privileges and responsibilities that accompanied Roman citizenship, the Philippian saints would easily relate to this concept.
21. What things did Paul hope to hear about them that would demonstrate conduct worthy of the gospel of Christ?
22. What conflict had the Philippians seen in Paul? See Acts 16.

## Lessons 16 and 17: Philippians 2

“Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.” Philippians 2:12, 13

1. The second chapter continues the study of “conduct worthy of the gospel of Christ.” 1:27
2. What had the apostle urged them to do in 1:27?
3. The appeal to unity in ch. 2 is based on the saints having an appreciation of the...
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ.
  - b. Comfort of \_\_\_\_\_.
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_ of the Spirit.
  - d. \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
4. List the four ways Paul describes the unity God demands of His holy people. 2:2
5. Based on 2:3, 4, what attitudes are necessary for unity to exist within a local church? Cf. Eph. 4:1-3.
6. What is the “mind of Christ” we are to have?
7. How was the humble obedience of Jesus rewarded?
8. The Philippians were to work out their own salvation with \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
9. Think. How can the promise of 2:13 help encourage the obedience demanded in 2:12?
10. To shine as lights in the world it would be necessary to...
  - a. Do all things without \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
  - b. And become \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, children of God without \_\_\_\_\_.
11. How could the Philippians cause Paul’s running and laboring to be in vain?
12. Why was Paul sending Timothy back to Philippi? 2:19
13. What high praise did Paul bestow on Timothy?

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14. Why had Epaphroditus come to Paul? 2:25; 4:18
15. Why had Epaphroditus been distressed?
16. Why were men such as Epaphroditus to be held in high esteem?

## Lesson 18: Philippians 3:1—4:1

“Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 3:12-14

1. In 1:27 the saints were urged to *stand fast in one spirit*. The second chapter emphasized the one spirit with its exhortation to have the humble, serving mind of Christ. Now the third chapter emphasizes the need to stand fast against outside forces described as evil workers and enemies of the cross.
2. List the three descriptive terms used for those Paul urged the Philippians to beware of (look out for)?
3. Though circumcision was no longer required by God, why were some still preaching it? See Gal. 5:6; 6:11-13.
4. Find the passage where all Christians, both Jews and Gentiles, are said to have been circumcised with a circumcision done without hands.
5. List the different things Paul claimed as his “Jewish credentials.”
6. Though the things listed in #5 had once been important to Paul, he now counted them as \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
7. What kind of righteousness did Paul desire to have?
8. List the things Paul sought to know. 3:10
9. If all the dead will be raised (John 5:28, 29; Acts 17:30, 31), why did Paul speak of attaining to the resurrection of the dead as something one might miss out on? 3:11
10. Why was Paul so determined to press on and keep reaching forward?
11. Since Paul often related stories of past events, both before and after his conversion, what is meant by “forgetting those things which are behind?”

12. What kind of people were the saints to note (mark) for imitation?
13. Paul was caused to weep by what people?
14. The enemies of the cross:
  - a. Their end would be \_\_\_\_\_.
  - b. Their god was actually their \_\_\_\_\_.
  - c. They glory in their \_\_\_\_\_.
  - d. Their minds were set on \_\_\_\_\_.
15. In contrast to the worldly enemies of the cross, our \_\_\_\_\_ is in heaven.
16. What will the Savior do for our lowly bodies?
17. List the four descriptive terms Paul applied to the Philippians in 4:1.
18. Therefore, i.e. based on what has just been written, stand \_\_\_\_\_ in the Lord.

## Lesson 19: Philippians 4

“Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.”

Philippians 4:8

1. What did Paul implore Eudodia and Syntyche to do?
2. What is the Book of Life?
3. List the 12 verses in Philippians, a prison epistle, in which Paul uses the words *joy* and/or *rejoice*.
4. The Greek word rendered gentleness in 4:5 (NKJV), is given in some translations as forbearing spirit (NASB), forbearance (ASV), and reasonableness (ASV).
5. What is meant by “the Lord is at hand?” (Note on this verse: the ESV connects this to verse v. 6.)
6. What does it mean “to be anxious?”
7. Rather than being anxious, we should let our \_\_\_\_\_ be made known to God.
8. How can we have the peace of God? What will it do for us? 4:7
9. Read 4:8 carefully. Define the words used here and be prepared to discuss how this would apply to our choices of music, entertainment, literature, etc.
10. Why was the gift brought by Epaphroditus the first one Paul had received from the Philippians in a long time?
11. How was Paul able to content even in times when he was hungry and in need?
12. At what points in the past had the Philippians sent aid to Paul?
13. Though Paul was grateful for their gift, he was even more thankful for the \_\_\_\_\_ that abounded to their \_\_\_\_\_.
14. How did the apostle describe their gift in 4:18?
15. The Greek word for shared in 4:15 is *koinoneō*, a word that signified to enter into partnership or fellowship with someone. The ESV renders it as “entered into partnership.”
16. What group of saints was singled out as sending greetings to the saints at Philippi?



## Lesson 20: Introduction to Colossians; Colossians 1

“To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is **Christ in you, the hope of glory. Him we preach**, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.” Colossians 1:27, 28

1. City of Colosse.
  - a. Located in the Lycus Valley about 100 miles east of Ephesus, by the first century Colosse was somewhat overshadowed by the neighboring cities of Hierapolis and Laodicea.
  - b. Historically considered a Phrygian city, the Romans had made it part of the province of Asia.
  - c. Though it was a Gentile city and the church appears to have been predominantly Gentile, there was a significant Jewish population in the region.
  
2. Establishment of the church.
  - a. How long did Paul spend in Asia (Ephesus)?
  - b. Though it would appear that Paul had not personally preached in Colosse (Col. 2:1), the church probably began during the time he was preaching in Ephesus. Acts 19:10
  - c. Epaphras seems to have been the one who first took the gospel to Colosse. Col. 1:6, 7
  
3. The epistle to the Colossians.
  - a. Written about the same time as Ephesians, it was carried by \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ . Col. 4:7-9
  - b. Though there are many similarities to Ephesians, there is one major difference. False teachers were causing great problems for the Colossian saints.
  - c. There is much uncertainty about the exact nature of the “Colossian heresy.”
    - 1) Some believe it reflects an early form of Gnosticism, a philosophy popularized in the second century.
    - 2) Others believe it was primarily a Jewish heresy, but with a greater emphasis on philosophical and mystical elements than the Judaizers encountered in Acts 15; Galatians; Romans; et al.
    - 3) Whatever the exact nature of the problem might have been, the solution was to hold fast to the Head (Col. 2:19). Jesus was the answer to the Colossian heresy. Col. 2:8-10
  
4. Define the word saints.
  
5. Paul gave thanks because he had heard about the Colossians’ \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ and \_\_\_\_\_ for all the saints.

6. Where was the Colossians' hope laid up?
7. Epaphras is mentioned twice in Colossians and once in Philemon. List as many facts as you can about him.
8. Paul's prayer for the brethren (1:9-11). He desired that they...
  - a. Be filled with the \_\_\_\_\_ of His will.
  - b. Walk \_\_\_\_\_, being \_\_\_\_\_ in every good work and increasing in the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.
  - c. Be \_\_\_\_\_ with all might, according to His glorious power, for all \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
9. For what things was Paul thankful in 1:12, 13?
10. In Christ we have \_\_\_\_\_ through His blood, the \_\_\_\_\_ of sins.
11. Jesus is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the invisible God, the \_\_\_\_\_ over all creation.
12. How many times is the word *all* used in 1:15-18 to show the preeminence of Christ?
13. Through what did Jesus did make peace and reconcile all things to Himself?
14. The body of Christ's flesh through death (i.e. the cross) brought reconciliation, but what condition did Paul attach to their being presented to God above reproach?
15. Paul rejoiced in his sufferings for the sake of Christ's \_\_\_\_\_, which is the \_\_\_\_\_.
16. What is the Christian's hope of glory?
17. What did Paul hope to accomplish through his preaching of Christ as he warned and taught in all wisdom?

## Lesson 21: Colossians 2

“As you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving. Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ. For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.” Colossians 2:6-10

1. One of the “secrets” to Paul’s success was his great concern for people. V. 1 is his assurance to the Colossians and Laodiceans that even though he had never seen most of them he was as concerned about them as he was any other saints.
2. What did the apostle desire for their hearts?
3. Whatever the exact nature of the Colossian heresy, Christ was the answer.
  - a. What was hidden in Christ?
  - b. As they had \_\_\_\_\_ Christ Jesus the Lord, they were to \_\_\_\_\_ in Him.
  - c. They were to be rooted and built up in \_\_\_\_\_.
  - d. What dwelt in Christ?
  - e. The Colossians were \_\_\_\_\_ in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.
  - f. In Him they were \_\_\_\_\_ with the \_\_\_\_\_ made without hands.
  - g. They were buried with Him in \_\_\_\_\_.
4. What was Paul worried that some might do with persuasive words (plausible arguments—ESV)?
5. The Colossians were warned not to be cheated by what?
6. Read Gal. 5:1-6.
  - a. What would happen to those who were circumcised as a Mosaic ordinance? 5:2
  - b. They would also become debtors (obligated) to keep the \_\_\_\_\_.
  - c. Fleshly circumcision no longer mattered, but God desires \_\_\_\_\_ working through \_\_\_\_\_.
8. What other NT passage speaks of being buried in baptism?
9. The Christian is raised by faith in what?

10. Cf. Col. 2:13-17 and Eph. 2:14-18.
  - a. What was done with the handwriting of requirements that was against us?
  - b. The Law with its regulations of food, drink, holy days, etc. was a \_\_\_\_\_ of things to come, but the real \_\_\_\_\_ is of Christ.
11. While ch. 3 will deal with things Christians are to avoid, Col. 2:16-23 is a warning not to allow others to impose their own rigid laws on them.
12. The nourishment of the body takes place when all hold fast to the \_\_\_\_\_.

## Lesson 22: Colossians 3:1—4:1

“If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.”  
Colossians 3:1, 2

1. When were the Colossian saints “raised with Christ?”
2. According to 3:3, 4, why are we to seek the things above?
3. List at least three practical ways seeking the things above will affect our daily lives.
  
4. What does it mean to put to death your members which are on the earth?
5. List and give a brief definition for each of the sins listed in 3:5.
  
6. Because of such sins as those in 3:5, the \_\_\_\_\_ of God was coming.
7. What is the difference between wrath and anger?
8. What reason is given for not lying?
9. The new man is \_\_\_\_\_ in knowledge according to the \_\_\_\_\_ of Him who created him.
10. List and define the different things the elect of God are expected to put on.
  
11. Singing not only gives praise to God, but it can \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ fellow-saints.
12. What does it mean to do all things in the name of the Lord?

13. What instructions are given in this passage to...
  - a. Wives?
  - b. Husbands?
  - c. Children?
  - d. Fathers?
  - e. Bondservants?
  - f. Masters?
14. Bondservants were to heed these instructions because if they did well they would receive the \_\_\_\_\_ of the inheritance.
15. Why were masters to treat their servants properly?

## Lesson 23: Colossians 4

“Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time. Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.”  
Colossians 4:6

1. “Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving....” Col. 4:2 (NKJV).
  - a. Find two other NT passages that exhort devotion to prayer.
  - b. What does it mean to be vigilant in one’s prayers?
2. What did Paul ask the Colossians to pray for on his behalf?
3. Read 4:5 carefully. List some things that should characterize our relationships with “outsiders.”
4. What does it mean to have speech that is with grace and seasoned with salt?
5. Why was Tychicus being sent to the Colossians?
6. Paul urged the Colossians to receive Mark if he came to them. How did Paul feel about Mark at the time of Acts 15? Where does Paul describe Mark as useful to him?
7. Epaphras was said to have labored fervently (struggled) for the Colossians in his \_\_\_\_\_.
8. Epaphras was not only concerned for the Colossians, but also for the brethren in what two cities?
9. Find two other New Testament references to Demas.
10. Other than Colosse, where was this letter to be read?
11. What other New Testament book mentions Archippus?
12. What instructions did Paul give Archippus?
13. Why did Paul add a salutation with his own hand? Cf. 2 Thes. 3:17.



## Lesson 24: Philemon

“Yes, brother, let me have joy from you in the Lord; refresh my heart in the Lord. Having confidence in your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.”  
Philemon 1:20, 21

1. Written at the same time as Colossians, this is a “personal letter” from Paul to Philemon. Paul writes to Philemon to request that he receive back with kindness Onesimus, Philemon’s runaway slave.
2. Philemon:
  - a. Why was Paul thankful for Philemon?
  - b. What had he done for the hearts of the saints?
  - c. What was he asked to do for Onesimus?
  - d. What did Philemon “owe” Paul?
  - e. Paul wanted him to \_\_\_\_\_ his heart.
  - f. Paul was confident of Philemon’s \_\_\_\_\_.
  - g. Philemon was asked to prepare a \_\_\_\_\_ for Paul.
3. Onesimus:
  - a. Research: what did the name Onesimus signify?
  - b. When had Paul begotten (become a father to) him?
  - c. He was once \_\_\_\_\_ to Philemon, but was now \_\_\_\_\_ to both Paul and Philemon.
  - d. Why had Paul wanted to keep Onesimus with him?
  - e. Rather than be seen as just a slave, Onesimus could now be received as a \_\_\_\_\_ by Philemon.
4. Paul:
  - a. Rather than use his apostolic authority to command Philemon, he appealed to him on what basis? Vv. 8, 9
  - b. Onesimus had become as Paul’s own \_\_\_\_\_. V. 12
  - c. Why didn’t Paul keep Onesimus with him?

- d. What did Paul promise to do for any debt owed by Onesimus to Philemon?
  - e. Paul expressed confidence that the \_\_\_\_\_ of Philemon would help him make it safely to Colosse for a visit.
5. List at least three ways we can refresh the hearts of our fellow-saints.
6. **Give this some serious thought.** Do others have confidence in our obedience or do they justifiably worry about our level of commitment?