

Week 2 Study Guide

The late Howard Hendricks, affectionately known by those who were taught by him as Prof, he was the Pastor's Prof, his heart beat was to train and equip men of God to shepherd their congregations as true under-shepherds of Christ and equip God's people to study God's word. In the book that he co-authored, *Living by the Book*, you find an analytical look at how to study the Bible for yourself. I can't recommend this book enough, it's been almost a decade since I read it, but one thing that has stuck with me for all these years is in-depth observation. Observing the same small portion of scripture for 7 days. This week I want us each to walk through this.

Last week we took separate sections of Acts 16 each day to Observe, Interpret and Apply (using the SPECS acronym). This week we will take the same verses each day as we start our study time and make observations.

Sins to Avoid

Promises to Keep

Examples to Follow

Commands to Obey

Scriptures to Memorize

On the following page you will find Philippians 1:1-7 triple spaced (plenty of room to mark-up) 😊. I recommend you use a different color pen each day, start with prayer, then work your way through making new observations each day!

Instructions for week 2:

Day 1: Watch Video, print study guide, read through Phil. 1:1-7 making personal observations – asking the Lord to guide your time in His word.

Day 2: Start with praying and reading through Phil.1:1-7 making observations, interpretations (based off your observations) and applications. Complete Day 2 of Study Guide.

Day 3: Begin with prayer, work your way through Phil. 1:1-7 again...trust me, walk through this – it's incredible how packed God's word is...how alive it is! Complete Day 3 of Study Guide.

Day 4: After prayer, walk through Phil. 1:1-7. Are you seeing it yet? How God the Holy Spirit reveals new things to your heart each time? Move on to Day 4 of the Study Guide. Remember to thank God for His amazing word today!

Day 5: Today is the final day of observing Phil. 1:1-7. Walk through slowly, truly meditate on this passage, allow it to saturate your soul. If you were able to use different colors throughout the week, notice how many blessings you gained by revisiting this each day and truly allowing it to marinate 😊 in your heart! Praise be to God for His infinitely living and active word!

Philippians 1:1-7

Paul and Timothy, bond-servants of Christ Jesus,

To all the ^[a]saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, ^[b]including the overseers

and deacons: ²Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

³I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, ⁴always offering prayer with joy in my

every prayer for you all, ⁵in view of your ^[c]participation in the gospel from the first day

until now. ⁶*For I am* confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you

will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus. ⁷^[d]For it is only right for me to feel this way

about you all, because I have you in my heart, since both in my ^[e]imprisonment and in

the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers of grace with me.

Plenty of space here for your Interpretations and Applications!

Day 2 -So Much in a Salutation...

It's fairly well known that during the Hellenistic era (Paul's time) letters were written following a typical format. Very similar to us today. We all learned in school how to address a letter, whether writing a formal letter, or business letter, or a casual note to a friend; there's a certain way we format it. Paul's letter to the Philippian church is no exception. However, there is quite a bit we can glean from the salutation of this letter, namely Philippians 1:1-2. Let's take day two of this week to stroll through this opening and glean sweet treasures!

The traditional Hellenistic salutation, or greeting, followed a pattern: the name of the sender, the name of the addressee and a brief greeting. Let's re-visit the text:

Phil. 1:1-2

Paul and Timothy, bondservants of Christ Jesus, to all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, including the overseers and deacons: 2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Sender(s):

Timothy didn't co-write this Epistle, so why did Paul include him in the greeting?

Paul is known for his humble service, and this greeting is just another example...he was not concerned with getting the credit or receiving the glory...he wasn't concerned that sharing the "lime-light" with Timothy would somehow take away from him. Only that Christ be glorified. Christ is glorified when we seek out the best interest of others, seek out how to best bring Him glory through our service often times this means sharing the "credit" or receiving no credit at all. But remember, nothing goes unnoticed by our Father!

Humble service is fleeting in our culture of self-respect, self-esteem and self-promotion. The concept of "looking out for number 1" is lost on no one, while Christ's example of dying to self, humbling oneself is mocked. In a society where brotherly love is looked upon as an antiquated, sentimental notion of years gone by and our elderly are typified as those to be pitied, or worse, ignored, and their vast vaults of wisdom are lost to a generation overcome with pride and their self-esteem that society has been feeding them since they were young. Unfortunately, we indubitably are tainted by this "me-first" plague, our sin-nature feeds off of it - revealing itself in so many ways...

- Frustration when your husband comes in late from work missing dinner that you had worked hard to prepare.

- Idleness when there is no accountability (I am not condemning rest, or enjoying a good movie, or two!) Idleness is more about ignoring your responsibilities.
- Gossip – tearing someone else down to feel better about yourself
- Judgment – looking for the faults of others, a “holier than thou” attitude. Sisters, anytime we look at someone else’s sin and don’t find ourselves broken for them, and on our knees for them, we need to repent! Admonishing one another always comes from a humble and broken heart!
- Anger – maybe irritated that our kids are little sinners – this is always a tender source of sanctification for me!
- This list could go on...

But, if we are walking in the light, if we are seeking the Lord and His righteousness, He is faithful, as we saw through His word last week, to reveal the sinfulness of our flesh that we might be conformed evermore into the image of His Son!

Key word:

Bondservants: completely controlled by someone or something, a slave.

Spend some time meditating on what it means to be a bondservant of Christ. Remembering that this isn’t something meant only for the Apostles, because Paul includes Timothy here, and as we learned last week...Paul commands that we emulate him. (passages to consider: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20; Romans 12)

A few thoughts about a slave...

- A slave knows who his master is
- A slave knows what his master expects of him
- A slave obeys his master as if he has no will of his own
- A slave is bought with a price

Can those in my life easily see that I consider myself a slave of Christ? (Reflect back on Romans 12):

We all have areas we need to improve; praise be to God He isn’t finished with us yet! Amen? Prayerfully reflect on practical ways you can, by the power of the Holy Spirit live life as a true bondservant of Jesus Christ. Record that below as an altar of sorts to return to at another time and rejoice in how the Lord has grown you!

Could Paul's perspective, considering himself a bondservant, a slave of Jesus Christ be a clue to his unyielding joy?

How?

Greeting

1. From where does our Grace and Peace come?

2. How does that reassurance, the reminder that God is the source of our peace, how does this ease your heart through this crazy time?

As we close out day 2, I must confess that I struggled greatly this week through this text. There is so much here!! I spent days praying over what portion to teach on, not wanting to pass up any of the precious gems here! I pray that this feeble attempt at pulling out from the text will spur you on to dig deeper! ☺

Day 3 – Joy in Choosing what you Remember

Phil. 1:3-5

³I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, ⁴always offering prayer with joy in my every prayer for you all, ⁵in view of your participation in the gospel from the first day until now.

Is there anyone who you think of and immediately your heart fills with joy? This is the way Paul felt towards the Philippian church. Do you remember studying the planting of the church last week? (Review Acts 16) It wasn't all sunshine and roses...list a few of the obstacles Paul and the missionary team encountered during their time in Philippi:

Do we see Paul recount those things here? He could have easily recounted the various trials and suffering he walked through in order to bring the Gospel to their city. He could have had a: “remember all I did for you, you owe me” attitude.

That's what bitterness does...it causes us to sink into the mighty world of “me”. We choose what we focus on, we choose what we dwell on and in so doing we choose our perspective.

As Paul will remind the Philippian believers in chapter 4, verse 8:

“⁸Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things.”

Let us remember this as we walk through this COVID-19 craziness...we choose what we dwell on, therefore choosing our perspective. If we are dwelling on the sufficiency of Christ and His Sovereignty over this pandemic, we will have peace!

Participation – notice that the Philippian church was actively participating in the work of the Gospel, we know from other places through this letter that they were major financial supporters of Paul's work. However, this goes deeper. The word, participation here implies an active role in ministry...they were actively serving the Lord.

I know it may seem challenging right now as we are all somewhat home-bound, but how are you serving during this time? How are you using your spiritual gifts to serve the Lord? If you're struggling to find a way to serve, pray about it. God has us home for a reason. It may look different for each of us, but we need to be seeking Him so we can serve Him well!

Day 4

Phil. 1:6

¶ *For I am* confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.

Take time today to prayerfully reflect with a thankful heart on your own personal sanctification, how God is perfecting you...over the past months, years?

How are you seeing growth in...

Your obedience?

Your service to the Lord?

Your giving to the work of the Lord?

Your love for the brethren?

Your joy?

Your peace in the midst of chaos?

Your patience with people and circumstances?

Your kindness toward others?

Your goodness?

Your faithfulness?

Your gentleness?

Your self-control?

Hebrews 12:14 serves as a stark reminder to us that growth will be present in the life of a believer:

“Pursue peace with all men, and the sanctification without which no one will see the Lord.”

So while change must be present in the life of a believer, we can find great comfort in the fact that we aren't perfecting ourselves - we find it promised here in Philippians 1:6, Paul could be confident that the work God started in them would be perfected...it is a progress, but it is a progress promised by our Almighty, Infinite God!

Galatians 5:22-23

²²But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

Be encouraged, how we live our lives is evidence of the sanctification God is doing in us – we will be perfected in the day of Christ Jesus, but until then, the Holy Spirit walks us through, growing us, sanctifying us by His grace - how blessed we are that He doesn't leave us where we are, that He gives us the Holy Spirit to walk with us always – without Him, we are nothing!

John 15:5

“I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.”

Day 5

Phil. 1:7

For it is only right for me to feel this way about you all, because I have you in my heart, since both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers of grace with me.

Keyword:

Feel: this is not referring to a warm or sincere emotion but is denoting an opinion or to have an understanding about something or someone, in this case the Philippian believers.

Heart: again, this is not referring to emotion, but mind, conscience

So, Paul is saying in essence: it is right that I have this opinion about you because I know you. Your faith is proven through your works.

This ideal isn't limited to the teachings of Paul, we read in James 2:17-20,

“Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, *being* by itself.

But someone may *well* say, “You have faith and I have works; show me your faith without the works, and I will show you my faith by my works.” You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder. But are you willing to recognize, you foolish fellow, that faith without works is useless?”

So, as we reflect on where the Lord, by His grace, has carried us thus far in our walk, may we also reflect on how we are “walking out” our faith. How well is our faith displayed through our works?

Take some time as we close week 2, to prayerfully consider what it is God has called you to, evaluate how you are doing first, spiritually. Are you pursuing your relationship with Christ with all of your heart, soul, mind and strength? (Luke 10:27) Are you living this out daily?