



BACKGROUND PASSAGE(S): Philippians 1:1-5; 13; 3:11-13; 4:22; Acts 16; 28; John 15:9-11.

KEY VERSE(s): – Philippians 1:3-5 - I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy, for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now,

To Whom is Paul writing, from where is he writing and with what purpose is he writing this letter?

What does Paul mean by claiming that he and Timothy are bondservants of Jesus Christ?

Did Paul's life reflect him being a bondservant of Jesus, if so, how?

Do you consider yourself to be bondservant of Jesus, if so, in what ways does your life reflect it? Now, in humility we may not want to express openly how our life reflects being a bondservant of Jesus – but as we examine the life of Paul – others are examining ours. So, how might others respond in answering the question concerning your life as being a bondservant of Jesus? (***These specific questions are for personal reflection – if someone wants to share a characteristic of another believer that is deemed to be that of a bondservant of Jesus, feel free to do so.***)

What was Paul's attitude while he was in prison, what was he focused on, and why are these things important for us to understand as we live our lives?

What are some things that we can learn from how Paul dealt with life's circumstances? (As he was unjustly thrown in jail.)

What is it that Paul is actually thanking God for in verses 3-5?

Why is this important, and how will it impact what Paul will be writing about throughout this letter?

Prayer - thankfulness – joy – fellowship in the gospel. Why are these things important to us as believers – how can they impact the church body?

What is your "take-away" from this week's study and how can it be applied to your daily walk with Christ?

Perhaps the most common error people make when studying the Bible is to read meaning into the verses as opposed to discovering meaning from proper context. Here is a basic method to use when studying a verse or passage that will help you avoid this. Always begin each time of Bible study with prayer, asking God to help you understand what you are reading correctly.

1) Observation

What does the passage say?

Read the passage then look back to see what the passage is saying. Look for repeated words, key phrases, and cross-references. Think about questions that you have after reading. Allow your curiosity to lead you further in understanding.

Who? What? When? Where? Why? How? What else do you notice?

What other questions arise from the passage?

2) Interpretation

What does the passage mean?

After observing what was said in the text, interpretation seeks to understand what God, through the book's author, is seeking to communicate through this text. Context is crucial to determining the meaning. Outside resources like Bible dictionaries and commentaries can help at this point.

What is the context? Why is the author bringing this up?

What is God saying through this passage?

What is the main point of this passage?

3) Application

How do I need to respond?

It's easy to read through passages, especially those familiar to us, without taking time to stop and think about how we can practically apply the truths we studied.

How should I live my life in light of this passage?

How does this truth compel me to be transformed?

What does it look like to put this into practice?

"But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does."

-James 1:22-25 (NKJV)