

4. Application: What am I going to do about it?

Once we have asked and answered, What does it say?, What does it mean?, and What other verses explain it?, we ask, What will I do about it?

“Don’t deceive yourselves. Don’t merely listen to the word and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.” James 1:22

Using these four steps with a passage from Philippians:

Paul is in a prison in Rome because of his missionary work and telling people about Jesus. He has been persecuted for his faith in Christ and he’s due to appear before Caesar. However, he is hoping one day to be released and go back to all the churches that he started. But since he is not able to do that at the time, he is writing letters to those churches.

Philippians is the letter that he wrote to the church he started in a city called Philippi, which is in Greece. The Philippian church had taken up a love offering for him while he was in prison, and they had and sent it to him. So the book of Philippians is actually a thank you note. In the middle of this letter, here is what he says:

Read Philippians 2:19-30 ----

Observation: What does it say?

- We observe that Paul intends to send two men to Philippi – See verses 19 & 25.
- We observe that Paul endorsed these men as role models who deserve honor – See verses 20 & 29.

In verse 20 Paul says about Timothy, *“I have no one else like him.”* We might read that and just skip over it. But that is the greatest endorsement anyone could ever receive as a Christian. The Apostle Paul is one of most impactful Christians who ever lived and he is saying that he has nobody in the world like Timothy.

In verse 29 Paul says about Epaphroditus, *“Welcome him and honor men like him.”* He is saying whatever these guys are doing, they’re unusual, they’re unique, and they are worthy of honor. That naturally makes us ask the third observation question:

• So what are these guys like?

What are these guys actually doing in their lives that make them so special? Why are they worthy of honor? Why do they deserve to be praised? When we ask that question and read through the passage again, we observe that Paul says five things about these men.

In verse 20 and 21, he says about Timothy *“He takes a genuine interest in you.”*

In verse 22 he says about Timothy *“He has proved himself.”*

In verse 25 he says about Epaphroditus *“He’s my brother, my fellow worker and my fellow soldier.”*

In verse 26 he says about Epaphroditus -- *“He longs for all of you and he is distressed.”*

In verse 27-30 he says *“He almost died for the work of Christ, risking his life.”*

Interpretation: What does it mean?

In this passage we are seeing five characteristics of what it means to be a godly man, or a godly woman as this speaks to everyone’s life.

The first characteristic – Verse 21: Paul says about Timothy, *“I have no one else like him.”* Why is nobody else like him? Because *“He takes a genuine interest in your welfare and everybody else only looks out for their own interest.”*

1. A godly man (person) is caring.

A godly man (person) is compassionate, unselfish, and thinks about others. They’re not just thinking about themselves or being self-centered. When everybody else is only interested in their own agenda, or business, or the things that they’ve got to do, a godly person cares about others. And Paul says, that is worthy of honor.

The second characteristic – Verse 22: *“Timothy has proved himself, because as a son with his father, he has served with me in the work of the gospel.”* God’s Word Translation: *“You know what kind of person Timothy proved to be.”*

2. A godly man (person) is consistent.

Godly men (people) are dependable, faithful, keep their word, have conviction and character, are committed to God's standard, and are consistent in their values. This means they don't act one way with one group of people, and another way with another group of people.

The third characteristic – Verse 25: *"I send back to you Epaphroditus, my brother, and my fellow worker and my fellow soldier."* - Families, workers, and soldiers must work together, serve one another, and support each other if they are to function well.

3. A godly man (person) is cooperative.

When we see men or people in the church who say, I don't need anybody else; I'm a lone ranger; they are not living as God calls us to live as his people. (See Hebrews 10:24-25)

The fourth characteristic – Verse 26: Epaphroditus *"longs for all of you and is distressed because you heard he was ill."*

4. A godly man (person) is considerate.

This means that we think about other people and what THEY feel.

NOTE: We do not have time this morning to do the Correlation part of a Bible Study with this passage, but if we did we could look up the word "Considerate" in a concordance and see other verses where the Bible calls us to be concerned about the feelings of others. For example men who are married; 1 Peter 3:7 says, *"Husbands be considerate as you live with your wives."* Be considerate.....

The fifth characteristic – Verses 27 & 30: *"Indeed he was ill, and he almost died... he almost died for the work of Christ, risking his life to make up for the help that you couldn't give me."*

5. A godly man (person) is courageous.

He risked his life and almost died for the work of Christ. He was fearless and was courageous, but notice what he is courageous about. -- He is courageous NOT for his own benefit, but for the benefit of others and for the ministry of God's people in the church and in the world.

Correlation: What other verses explain it?

Application: What am I going to do about it?

MESSAGE NOTES

40 Days In The Word

The Making of A Bible Study: How To Study A Bible Passage Philippians 2:19-30

Introduction: There are many methods of studying the Bible and different people have their own way of doing that. In the message today we will simply see one of several ways to study God's Word. Our hope is that something said this morning will be helpful to you.

Four steps that can help us get more out of our Bible study:

1. Observation: What does it say?

We simply look at the Bible passage and write down what we observe. We're not trying to interpret it or figure out the meaning of it. We are simply asking – What does it say? What is happening? And we write it down.

2. Interpretation: What does it mean?

Maybe you are thinking to yourself, doesn't the Bible mean what it says? Well just like in our communication, there can be places in the scripture where there are metaphors, analogies, words or phrases that don't mean what we think they mean in our language or culture. So we need to figure out what it means.

Examples:

3. Correlation: What other verses explain it?

We can use an "Exhaustive Concordance" or a Bible Software program to look up other verses that help interpret what we are reading. We compare and correlate verses because sometimes the best commentary on the Bible is the Bible itself. We can use the Bible to explain the Bible.

For example, one of the principles of interpretation is that we try to interpret an unclear passage in light of a clear one. In other words, if we read something in the Bible and it doesn't make sense and we don't know what it means, we try to look for something else in the Bible that does make sense to explain it.