

HOW TO STUDY AND APPLY GOD'S WORD

I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, that I also may be cheered when I receive news about you. ²⁰ I have no one else like him, who takes a genuine interest in your welfare. ²¹ For everyone else looks out for his own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. ²² But you know that Timothy has proved himself, because as a son with his father he has served with me in the work of the gospel. ²³ I hope, therefore, to send him as soon as I see how things go with me. ²⁴ And I am confident in the Lord that I myself will come soon. ²⁵ But I think it is necessary to send back to you Epaphroditus, my brother, fellow worker and fellow soldier, who is also your messenger, whom you sent to take care of my needs. ²⁶ For he longs for all of you and is distressed because you heard he was ill. ²⁷ Indeed he was ill, and almost died. But God had mercy on him, and not on him only but also on me, to spare me sorrow upon sorrow. ²⁸ Therefore I am all the more eager to send him, so that when you see him again you may be glad and I may have less anxiety. ²⁹ Welcome him in the Lord with great joy, and honor men like him, ³⁰ because he almost died for the work of Christ, risking his life to make up for the help you could not give me.

Philippians 2:19-30 (NIV)

All scripture is God-breathed and it is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 3:16 (NIV)

For everything in the past (The Bible) was written to teach us so that through the endurance and encouragement of scriptures we might have hope.

Romans 15:4 (NIV)

❖ First Step: OBSERVATION - the key question you ask is, "What does it SAY?"

1. Paul is going to send two men to Philippi: Timothy and Epaphroditus.

I hope to send Timothy to you soon... ²⁵ it is necessary to send back to you Epaphroditus...

Philippians 2:19a, 25a (NIV)

2. Paul endorsed these men as role models who deserve honor.

(About Timothy) I have no one else like him...

Philippians 2:20a (NIV)

(About Epaphroditus) Welcome him and honor men like him...

Philippians 2:29 (NIV)

3. What are these men like? What makes them special?

He (Timothy) takes a genuine interest in you...

Philippians 2:20b (NIV)

He (Timothy) has proved himself...

Philippians 2:22a (NIV)

He's (Epaphroditus) my brother, my fellow worker and my soldier...

Philippians 2:25 (NIV)

He (Epaphroditus) longs for all of you and is distressed...

Philippians 2:26 (NIV)

He (Epaphroditus) almost died for the work of Christ, risking his life...

Philippians 2:27 (NIV)

❖ Second Step: INTERPRETATION – the key question you ask is, “What does it MEAN?”

1. A Godly man is caring.

I have no one else like him, who takes a genuine interest in your welfare...

Philippians 2:20 (NIV)

2. A Godly man is consistent.

He has proved himself, because as a son with his father he has served with me in the work of the gospel...

Philippians 2:22 (NIV)

3. A Godly man is cooperative.

He's my brother, my fellow worker and my soldier...

Philippians 2:25 (NIV)

4. A Godly man is considerate.

For he longs for all of you and is distressed because you heard he was ill.

5. A Godly man is courageous.

Indeed he was ill, and almost died... ³⁰ he almost died for the cause of Christ, risking his life to make up for the help you couldn't give me.

Philippians 2:27, 30 (NIV)

❖ Third Step: CORRELATION – the question you ask is, “What do other VERSES say?”

1. Are there any other references to Timothy and Epaphroditus in the Bible?

(Timothy) To Timothy, my true son in the faith...

1 Timothy 1:2 (NIV)

(Epaphroditus) I am amply supplied now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent.

Philippians 4:18 (NIV)

2. Are there any other verses that speak of these men's mentioned characteristics?

Husbands, ... be considerate as you live with your wives.

1 Peter 3:7 (NIV)

❖ Fourth Step: APPLICATION – the question you ask is, “What am I going to DO about it?”

1. We only really believe the parts of the Bible that we are willing to do.

Do not merely listen to the word... do what it says.

James 1:22 (NIV)

2. What will you do with this passage? How will it change your actions?

Welcome him in the Lord with great joy, and honor men like him...

Philippians 2:29 (NIV)

I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.

Psalms 119:11 (NIV)