

RCC Women's
Ministry



Knowing Christ

LESSONS FROM PAUL'S
LIFE & MINISTRY

Colossians & 2 Timothy

August - November 2023



Knowing Christ

LESSONS FROM PAUL'S LIFE & MINISTRY

"We proclaim Christ! We warn everyone we meet, and we teach everyone we can, all that we know about Him, so that, if possible, we may bring every man up to his full maturity in Christ Jesus. This is what I am working at all the time, with all the strength that God gives me."

-The Apostle Paul
Colossians 1:28-29

Complete In Christ

COLOSSIANS

Tuesday Evening:

August 29: Intro

September 12: Lesson 18

September 26: Lesson 19

October 10: Lesson 20

October 24: Lesson 21

Poured Out For Christ

2 TIMOTHY

Tuesday Evening:

November 14: Lesson 22

November 28: Lesson 23

Knowing Christ

LESSONS FROM PAUL'S LIFE & MINISTRY

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-The Apostle Paul
Colossians 1:28-29

Complete In Christ

COLOSSIANS

Friday Morning:

September 1: Intro
September 8: Lesson 18
September 1: Lesson 19
September 15: Lesson 20
September 29: Lesson 21

Poured Out For Christ

2 TIMOTHY

Friday Morning:

October 13 Lesson 22
October 27: Lesson 23

COMPLETE IN CHRIST**Colossians 1:1-29**

Inductive Discovery Lesson 18

During the sixties of Paul's day, people were hungry for spirituality. Some looked for it in nature, believing the simpler they lived the more spiritual they would become. Some thought that philosophy was the path to spirituality. Others looked to the stars and interpretations of dreams. Throughout the Roman Empire, pagan beliefs dominated, Judaism fought to hold its own, and the Church was still finding its voice.

About the time that Paul wrote this letter to the Colossians, a new strain of *spirituality* was trying to filter its way into the young church. It was a toxic combination of secret rituals and faulty knowledge that was eventually called gnosticism. Epaphras feared some of his spiritual family might be pulled into the notion that trusting Christ for salvation and walking by faith in Him was not enough. So he headed to Rome, seeking help from Paul.

When Paul opened his door to find Epaphras standing there, he was overjoyed. *Come in my friend, come in! How are you? What news do you bring from home?* Epaphras sat down with his old friend and mentor and poured out his heart. The church he had helped to plant was strong and fruitful, but some were bringing in new ideas and causing problems. Paul listened as Epaphras did his best to describe the discussions in Colossae that were spinning a tangled web of philosophy, mysticism and legalism. He told Paul how men who claimed to be *in the know* were subtly watering down the gospel truth. Paul didn't personally know the Colossians, but he was stirred by what Epaphras shared and the two probably spent a long time together in prayer that day. Then Paul sat down to write a loving letter of encouragement and instruction to his unseen friends.


Tracing Paul's Steps: *The Church in Colossae*

- During Paul's stay in Ephesus (3rd missionary trip) a man from Colossae named Epaphras is converted and discipled by Paul. He returns home to preach the gospel and a church is planted. This church met in Philemon's home. (Acts 19, Colossians 1:7, Philemon 2)
- About 7 years later (approx. 60 AD) while living under house arrest in Rome, Paul has a visit from Ephahras. He reports good things about his church, but warns Paul that a dangerous teaching is beginning to sprout up in the region. Paul writes this letter to encourage the believers and combat the false doctrine. (Colossians 4:12-13)
- During this same period of time, Paul has an unexpected visitor named Onesimus. He is a runaway slave, hiding in Rome from his master Philemon. Paul leads him to faith in Jesus and now faces the delicate task of sending him back to Colossae. Paul writes a letter to Philemon, asking him to treat his repentant servant gently. (Philemon)

Working Text for Colossians 1:1-29
English Standard Version (ESV)

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, **2** To the saints and faithful brothers in Christ at Colossae: Grace to you and peace from God our Father.

3 We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, **4** since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, **5** because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel, **6** which has come to you, as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and growing—as it also does among you, since the day you heard it and understood the grace of God in truth, **7** just as you learned it from Epaphras our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf **8** and has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

9 And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, **10** so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God. **11** May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy, **12** giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. **13** He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, **14** in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. **16** For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. **17** And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. **18** And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. **19** For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, **20** and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

21 And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, **22** he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, **23** if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.

24 Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church, **25** of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, **26** the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints. **27** To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. **28** Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. **29** For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.



OBSERVATION

Read the section and record what you see. **Use the first column to keep track of what you specifically find in the Bible passage.** (Who? What? When? Where?) Briefly describe, *in your own words*, what it says.

Use the second column to record information you gather from other sources such as a dictionary, concordance, maps, etc. You can also use this section to jot down **your thoughts, impressions or questions that come to mind.** *Do your best to follow Paul’s train of thought.* Does he emphasize a particular topic? Are his words urgent? Encouraging? Commanding? What issues or problems does he address? What questions does he ask?

Colossians 1:1-14

Facts from the passage:

My Research and Personal Observations:

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Lined writing area for recording research and personal observations, consisting of 20 horizontal dashed lines.

Colossians 1:15-23
Facts from the passage:

My Research and Personal Observations:

Colossians 1:24-29
Facts from the passage:

My Research and Personal Observations:

Key Words and Phrases

Key words and phrases help us understand the main point the writer wants to make. How do we recognize key words and phrases? Here are some simple things to look for.

- When you see a word or phrase repeated, you can be sure Paul is using it to make his point.
- If you are unfamiliar with a word or its meaning, it becomes a key word *for you*. Take time to learn the definition so you will understand how it is being used in the sentence.

List any key words and phrases you found in Colossians 1:1-29.

Write the definition of the following words or phrases. Use a regular dictionary or a concordance with a Greek Dictionary if you have one.

“the **truth** of the gospel” (vs. 5) _____

“the **knowledge** of God” (vs.10) _____

“**grounded** and **steadfast**” (vs.23) _____



INTERPRETATION — *What does it mean?*

Look for a spiritual lesson. Be careful not to read into the Bible an idea that is not there. Examine each verse in light of the verses around it. To help you find a spiritual lesson, ask questions such as: “Is there a command to obey? Is there a promise to claim? Is there a condition to that promise? Is there a warning to heed? Is there an example to follow or avoid?” **State the lesson in one simple sentence.**

APPLICATION — *How does it apply to me?*

We don’t study the Bible just to gather information—we want to spiritually grow. Our heart needs to be open to change. The only way to move truth off the pages of your Bible and into your life is to **put it into action.**

To apply a spiritual lesson, we must examine ourselves and take deliberate steps to do something with what we have learned. Ask yourself: Is this a new insight for me, or does it reinforce what I already know? What does it challenge me to do? Does it point out error in my attitude or actions? What changes does it require? Think of how the lesson relates to you and what specific course of action you will take. **Write your application in the form of a question to make it personal.**

Colossians 1:1-14

Lesson: _____

Application: _____
_____?

Colossians 1:15-23

Lesson: _____

Application: _____
_____?

Colossians 1:24-29

Lesson: _____

Application: _____
_____?

Summary

Write a simple sentence that summarizes what the passage is about. _____

Give a title to the chapter that will help you personally to remember it.



Take a Closer Look

He rescued us from the domain of darkness,
and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son,
in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Colossians 1:13-14 NAS

Memorize God's Word

Choose the translation you prefer to memorize from and re-write the verse here.

Meditate on God's Word

Look up. What does this verse teach you about God? (For example, look for signs of His character, His attributes, His works, His promises.)

Look around. What does this verse teach you about the world and people in general?

Look within. What does this verse teach you about yourself?

Look ahead. Does this verse give you reason to hope? Briefly share your thoughts.

Look alive! Given the opportunity, how would you express the truth found in this verse to someone who needs to hear it?

Make God's Word Your Prayer

As you memorize and meditate on this verse, pray it back to the Lord. Let the Holy Spirit examine your heart, increase your understanding, and help you to pray. Ask Him for faith and strength to *act* on the truth of God's Word.



Something to Think About . . .

Redemption and forgiveness go together.
Christ has not only set us free and transferred us to a new kingdom,
but He canceled every debt so that we cannot be enslaved again.¹
Warren Wiersbe

God's Word Bearing Fruit

For you, personally, what has been the most important lesson from this study?
How will you put what God has shown you into practice?

¹ Warren Wiersbe, *Bible Exposition Commentary*, pg. 115

Message Notes:

A large rectangular area with horizontal lines, resembling a notepad or a message template. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the area. The area is framed by a dark, irregular border that looks like a torn piece of paper. The background of the area is a light gray color.



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Lessons from Paul's Life and Ministry

COMPLETE IN CHRIST

Colossians 2:1-23

Inductive Discovery Lesson 19

What do we know about the church in Colossae? We know they were a small community of believers, most from a Gentile background. They first heard the gospel from Epaphras, a local man who was converted and disciplined through Paul's ministry at Ephesus. After five years or so, the congregation was still small enough to meet in the home of one man (Philemon 2). From Paul's description in chapter one, we know they were loving, devoted and spiritually fruitful. Safe to say, they were young in faith and hungry to learn. Now doesn't that sound like a church you'd want to be part of?

It warmed Paul's heart to hear about this open-hearted band of believers. He surely planned to meet them someday, if ever he was free to leave Rome. Epaphras knew his old friend and mentor loved the Colossians as much as he did—he saw it in his face, heard it in his prayers. We can imagine the relief he felt when Paul decided to write to them. Paul had a way of seeing things clearly for what they were. He wasn't confused by persuasive speech or sidetracked by subtle errors. *If you don't know what you stand for, you'll fall for anything.* The Colossians needed to hear this...and so do we.

Background

History gives us more details about the Colossians. We know they lived in a tired little town past its prime. Back in the day, it had been a strategic military outpost and a gateway to the rich Lycus Valley. Over time, new cities came up and trade routes changed. Colossae now sat off the beaten path. They couldn't compete with their larger, more progressive neighbors in Laodicea and Hierapolis. If you were looking for health, pleasure, or relaxation, the spas of Hierapolis was the place to go. Laodicea had a famous medical center and a prosperous wool industry. It was the political and financial capital of the whole region. Colossae's population dwindled. Their economy was in decline. Times were tough and families struggled to make ends meet.

Just a few years after Paul wrote this letter, an earthquake leveled Colossae. If not for the seemingly insignificant church there, history would have shrugged its shoulders and moved on. But God inspired the apostle Paul to write a letter that remains vitally relevant today.

Working Text for Colossians 2:1-23
New Living Translation (NLT)

1 I want you to know how much I have agonized for you and for the church at Laodicea, and for many other friends who have never known me personally. **2** My goal is that they will be encouraged and knit together by strong ties of love. I want them to have full confidence because they have complete understanding of God's secret plan, which is Christ Himself. **3** In Him lie hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. **4** I am telling you this so that no one will be able to deceive you with persuasive arguments. **5** For though I am far away from you, my heart is with you. And I am very happy because you are living as you should and because of your strong faith in Christ.

6 And now, just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to live in obedience to Him. **7** Let your roots grow down into Him and draw up nourishment from Him, so you will grow in faith, strong and vigorous in the truth you were taught. Let your lives overflow with thanksgiving for all He has done.

8 Don't let anyone lead you astray with empty philosophy and high-sounding nonsense that come from human thinking and from the evil powers of this world, and not from Christ. **9** For in Christ the fullness of God lives in a human body, **10** and you are complete through your union with Christ. He is the Lord over every ruler and authority in the universe. **11** When you came to Christ, you were "circumcised," but not by a physical procedure. It was a spiritual procedure—the cutting away of your sinful nature. **12** For you were buried with Christ when you were baptized. And with Him you were raised to a new life because you trusted the mighty power of God, who raised Christ from the dead. **13** You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ. He forgave all our sins. **14** He canceled the record that contained the charges against us. He took it and destroyed it by nailing it to Christ's cross. **15** In this way, God disarmed the evil rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross of Christ.

16 So don't let anyone condemn you for what you eat or drink, or for not celebrating certain holy days or new-moon ceremonies or Sabbaths. **17** For these rules were only shadows of the real thing, Christ Himself. **18** Don't let anyone condemn you by insisting on self-denial. And don't let anyone say you must worship angels, even though they say they have had visions about this. These people claim to be so humble, but their sinful minds have made them proud. **19** But they are not connected to Christ, the head of the body. For we are joined together in His body by His strong sinews, and we grow only as we get our nourishment and strength from God.

20 You have died with Christ, and He has set you free from the evil powers of this world. So why do you keep on following rules of the world, such as, **21** "Don't handle, don't eat, don't touch." **22** Such rules are mere human teaching about things that are gone as soon as we use them. **23** These rules may seem wise because they require strong devotion, humility, and severe bodily discipline. But they have no effect when it comes to conquering a person's evil thoughts and desires.



OBSERVATION

Read the section and record what you see. **Use the first column to keep track of what you specifically find in the Bible passage.** (Who? What? When? Where?) Briefly describe, *in your own words*, what it says.

Use the second column to record information you gather from other sources such as a dictionary, concordance, maps, etc. You can also use this section to jot down **your thoughts, impressions or questions that come to mind.** *Do your best to follow Paul's train of thought.* Does he emphasize a particular topic? Are his words urgent? Encouraging? Commanding? What issues or problems does he address? What questions does he ask?

Colossians 2:1-7

Facts from the passage:

My Research and Personal Observations:

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Colossians 2:8-15

Facts from the passage:

My Research and Personal Observations:

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Colossians 2:8-15 (continued)

Facts from the passage:

My Research and Personal Observations:

Colossians 2:16-23

Facts from the passage:

My Research and Personal Observations:

Key Words and Phrases

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- When you see a word or phrase repeated, you can be sure Paul is using it to make his point.
- If you are unfamiliar with a word or its meaning, it becomes a key word *for you*. Take time to learn the definition so you will understand how it is being used in the sentence.

List any key words and phrases you found in Colossians 2:1-23.

Write the definition of the following words or phrases. Use a regular dictionary or a concordance with a Greek Dictionary if you have one.

“full assurance of **understanding**” (vs. 2) _____

“treasures of **wisdom** and **knowledge**” (vs.3) _____

“**philosophy** and **empty deceit**” (vs.8) _____



INTERPRETATION — *What does it mean?*

Look for a spiritual lesson. Be careful not to read into the Bible an idea that is not there. Examine each verse in light of the verses around it. To help you find a spiritual lesson, ask questions such as: “Is there a command to obey? Is there a promise to claim? Is there a condition to that promise? Is there a warning to heed? Is there an example to follow or avoid?” **State the lesson in one simple sentence.**

APPLICATION — *How does it apply to me?*

We don’t study the Bible just to gather information—we want to spiritually grow. Our heart needs to be open to change. The only way to move truth off the pages of your Bible and into your life is to **put it into action.**

To apply a spiritual lesson, we must examine ourselves and take deliberate steps to do something with what we have learned. Ask yourself: Is this a new insight for me, or does it reinforce what I already know? What does it challenge me to do? Does it point out error in my attitude or actions? What changes does it require? Think of how the lesson relates to you and what specific course of action you will take. **Write your application in the form of a question to make it personal.**

Colossians 2:1-7

Lesson: _____

Application: _____
_____?

Colossians 2:8-15

Lesson: _____

Application: _____
_____?

Colossians 2:16-23

Lesson: _____

Application: _____
_____?

Summary

Write a simple sentence that summarizes what the passage is about. _____

Give a title to the chapter that will help you personally to remember it.



Take a Closer Look

**As you therefore have 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.**

Colossians 2:6-7 NKJ

Memorize God's Word

Choose the translation you prefer to memorize from and re-write the verse here.

Meditate on God's Word

Look up. What does this verse teach you about God? (For example, look for signs of His character, His attributes, His works, His promises.)

Look around. What does this verse teach you about the world and people in general?

Look within. What does this verse teach you about yourself?

Look ahead. Does this verse give you reason to hope? Briefly share your thoughts.

Look alive! Given the opportunity, how would you express the truth found in this verse to someone who needs to hear it?

Make God's Word Your Prayer

As you memorize and meditate on this verse, pray it back to the Lord. Let the Holy Spirit examine your heart, increase your understanding, and help you to pray. Ask Him for faith and strength to *act* on the truth of God's Word.



Something to Think About . . .

When we stop going forward, we stall; when we stall, we can fall.
Steady progress is possible when we are grounded and rooted.¹

God's Word Bearing Fruit

For you, personally, what has been the most important lesson from this study?
How will you put what God has shown you into practice?

¹ Holman N.T. Commentary, *Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians & Colossians*, pg. 304

Message Notes:

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Lessons from Paul's Life and Ministry

COMPLETE IN CHRIST

Colossians 3:1-25 – 4:1

Inductive Discovery Lesson 20

Since we have the Bible, “the soundest and saltiest work ever written, why do we tend so easily to become confused about spiritual things?”¹ The short answer is that we’re no different than the Colossians. They were ordinary people listening to the prevailing “wisdom” of their day. They needed sound instruction to counteract the distorted reasoning of men who thought they could be spiritual apart from the Spirit.

Paul just finished warning the Colossians not to confuse philosophy or man-made religion for genuine spirituality. All that rule-keeping may look good on the outside, but it can’t change who you are within. In this chapter, Paul reminds believers they have more to live for than just this life. *Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.* Some take this verse to mean that being spiritual requires you to isolate yourself from this life and concentrate on the next. But keep reading! In the rest of this letter, Paul explains *how* to live our earthly life with a heavenly point of view.

¹ A.W. Tozer, *The Size of the Soul*

Working Text for Colossians 3:1-25 – 4:1

New International Version (NIV)

1 Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. **2** Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. **3** For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. **4** When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

5 Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. **6** Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. **7** You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. **8** But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. **9** Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices **10** and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. **11** Here there is no Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.

12 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. **13** Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. **14** And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. **15** Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. **16** Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. **17** And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

18 Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. **19** Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them. **20** Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. **21** Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.

22 Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to win their favor, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord. **23** Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, **24** since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. **25** Anyone who does wrong will be repaid for his wrong, and there is no favoritism. **4:1** Masters, provide your slaves with what is right and fair, because you know that you also have a Master in heaven.



OBSERVATION

Read the section and record what you see. **Use the first column to keep track of what you specifically find in the Bible passage.** (Who? What? When? Where?) Briefly describe, *in your own words*, what it says.

Use the second column to record information you gather from other sources such as a dictionary, concordance, maps, etc. You can also use this section to jot down **your thoughts, impressions or questions that come to mind.** *Do your best to follow Paul's train of thought.* Does he emphasize a particular topic? Are his words urgent? Encouraging? Commanding? What issues or problems does he address? What questions does he ask?

Colossians 3:1-11

Facts from the passage:

My Research and Personal Observations:

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Colossians 3:12-21
Facts from the passage:

My Research and Personal Observations:

Colossians 3:22 – 4:1
Facts from the passage:

My Research and Personal Observations:

Key Words and Phrases

Key words and phrases help us understand the main point the writer wants to make. How do we recognize key words and phrases? Here are some simple things to look for.

- When you see a word or phrase repeated, you can be sure Paul is using it to make his point.
- If you are unfamiliar with a word or its meaning, it becomes a key word *for you*. Take time to learn the definition so you will understand how it is being used in the sentence.

List any key words and phrases you found in Colossians 3:1-24 – 4:1.

Write the definition of the following words or phrases. Use a regular dictionary or a concordance with a Greek Dictionary if you have one.

“**set** your mind” (vs. 2) _____

“Let the peace of Christ **rule**” (vs.15) _____

“Let the word of Christ **dwell**” (vs.16) _____



INTERPRETATION — *What does it mean?*

Look for a spiritual lesson. Be careful not to read into the Bible an idea that is not there. Examine each verse in light of the verses around it. To help you find a spiritual lesson, ask questions such as: “Is there a command to obey? Is there a promise to claim? Is there a condition to that promise? Is there a warning to heed? Is there an example to follow or avoid?” **State the lesson in one simple sentence.**

APPLICATION — *How does it apply to me?*

We don’t study the Bible just to gather information—we want to spiritually grow. Our heart needs to be open to change. The only way to move truth off the pages of your Bible and into your life is to **put it into action.**

To apply a spiritual lesson, we must examine ourselves and take deliberate steps to do something with what we have learned. Ask yourself: Is this a new insight for me, or does it reinforce what I already know? What does it challenge me to do? Does it point out error in my attitude or actions? What changes does it require? Think of how the lesson relates to you and what specific course of action you will take. **Write your application in the form of a question to make it personal.**

Colossians 3:1-11

Lesson: _____

Application: _____
_____?

Colossians 3:12-21

Lesson: _____

Application: _____
_____?

Colossians 3:22 – 4:1

Lesson: _____

Application: _____
_____?

Summary

Write a simple sentence that summarizes what the passage is about. _____

Give a title to the chapter that will help you personally to remember it.



Take a Closer Look

**Whatever you do, in word or deed,
do all in the name of the Lord Jesus,
giving thanks to God the Father through Him.
Colossians 3:17**

Memorize God's Word

Choose the translation you prefer to memorize from and re-write the verse here.

Meditate on God's Word

Look up. What does this verse teach you about God? (For example, look for signs of His character, His attributes, His works, His promises.)

Look around. What does this verse teach you about the world and people in general?

Look within. What does this verse teach you about yourself?

Look ahead. Does this verse give you reason to hope? Briefly share your thoughts.

Look alive! Given the opportunity, how would you express the truth found in this verse to someone who needs to hear it?

Make God's Word Your Prayer

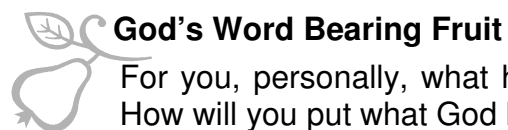
As you memorize and meditate on this verse, pray it back to the Lord. Let the Holy Spirit examine your heart, increase your understanding, and help you to pray. Ask Him for faith and strength to *act* on the truth of God's Word.



Something to Think About . . .

If you sit down at set of sun
And count the acts that you have done,
And find one self-denying deed, one word
That eased the heart of she who heard—
One glance most kind,
That fell like sunshine where it went—
Then you may count that day well spent.

- George Eliot -



God's Word Bearing Fruit

For you, personally, what has been the most important lesson from this study?
How will you put what God has shown you into practice?

Message Notes:

A large rectangular area with horizontal lines, resembling a notepad or message template. The area is filled with a light gray background and contains approximately 25 horizontal lines. The edges of the area are irregular and dark, suggesting a torn or hand-drawn border.



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Lessons from Paul's Life and Ministry

COMPLETE IN CHRIST

Colossians 4:2-18

Inductive Discovery Lesson 21

Paul began this letter by telling the Colossians he prayed for them. He even told them what he prayed. *I ask God to give you insight and understanding to know His will. I pray you will honor the Lord by the way you live. I pray you will be fruitful in good works, growing in strength and patience. I pray you will always be thankful for your salvation, never forgetting that Jesus rescued you from a life of darkness. I pray you will keep walking by faith, never drifting away from the hope you've been given!* Thank you Paul! Thank you for spending time on your knees for us. Now what can we pray for you?

Pray that God will give me opportunities to preach—and that I will proclaim the Word as clearly as I should. This from a gifted communicator who had been preaching for more than 30 years! What does that say about Paul's attitude toward prayer? He didn't rely on passion, and conviction, and skilled knowledge (though he had all that) to share the gospel—he needed strength from God so he asked for it.

Paul knew from years of first-hand experience that prayer is essential for life. Faith that stops praying stops growing. So he finishes this letter with some plain-spoken advice. ***“Devote yourselves to prayer...”*** Put all your heart and energy into it!

Working Text for Colossians 4:2-18
English Standard Version (ESV)

2 Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. **3** At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison— **4** that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak.

5 Conduct yourselves wisely toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. **6** Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

7 Tychicus will tell you all about my activities. He is a beloved brother and faithful minister and fellow servant in the Lord. **8** I have sent him to you for this very purpose, that you may know how we are and that he may encourage your hearts, **9** and with him Onesimus, our faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you. They will tell you of everything that has taken place here.

10 Aristarchus my fellow prisoner greets you, and Mark the cousin of Barnabas (concerning whom you have received instructions—if he comes to you, welcome him), **11** and Jesus who is called Justus. These are the only men of the circumcision among my fellow workers for the kingdom of God, and they have been a comfort to me. **12** Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ Jesus, greets you, always struggling on your behalf in his prayers, that you may stand mature and fully assured in all the will of God. **13** For I bear him witness that he has worked hard for you and for those in Laodicea and in Hierapolis. **14** Luke the beloved physician greets you, as does Demas. **15** Give my greetings to the brothers at Laodicea, and to Nympha and the church in her

house. **16** And when this letter has been read among you, have it also read in the church of the Laodiceans; and see that you also read the letter from Laodicea.

17 And say to Archippus, “See that you fulfill the ministry that you have received in the Lord.”

18 I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. Remember my chains. Grace be with you.



OBSERVATION

Read the section and record what you see. Use the first column to keep track of what you specifically find in the Bible passage. (Who? What? When? Where?) Briefly describe, in your own words, what it says.

Use the second column to record information you gather from other sources such as a dictionary, concordance, maps, etc. You can also use this section to jot down your thoughts, impressions or questions that come to mind. Do your best to follow Paul's train of thought. Does he emphasize a particular topic? Are his words urgent? Encouraging? Commanding? What issues or problems does he address? What questions does he ask?

Colossians 4:2-4

Facts from the passage:

My Research and Personal Observations:

Colossians 4:5-6

Facts from the passage:

My Research and Personal Observations:

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Colossians 4:5-6 (continued)

Facts from the passage:

My Research and Personal Observations:

Colossians 4:7-18

Facts from the passage:

My Research and Personal Observations:

Key Words and Phrases

Key words and phrases help us understand the main point the writer wants to make. How do we recognize key words and phrases? Here are some simple things to look for.

- When you see a word or phrase repeated, you can be sure Paul is using it to make his point.
- If you are unfamiliar with a word or its meaning, it becomes a key word *for you*. Take time to learn the definition so you will understand how it is being used in the sentence.

List any key words and phrases you found in Colossians 4:2-18.

Write the definition of the following words or phrases. Use a regular dictionary or a concordance with a Greek Dictionary if you have one.

“continue **earnestly** in prayer” (vs. 2) _____

“being **vigilant** in it with thanksgiving” (vs.2) _____

“Let your **speech** always be with grace” (vs.6) _____



INTERPRETATION — *What does it mean?*

Look for a spiritual lesson. Be careful not to read into the Bible an idea that is not there. Examine each verse in light of the verses around it. To help you find a spiritual lesson, ask questions such as: “Is there a command to obey? Is there a promise to claim? Is there a condition to that promise? Is there a warning to heed? Is there an example to follow or avoid?” **State the lesson in one simple sentence.**

APPLICATION — *How does it apply to me?*

We don’t study the Bible just to gather information—we want to spiritually grow. Our heart needs to be open to change. The only way to move truth off the pages of your Bible and into your life is to **put it into action.**

To apply a spiritual lesson, we must examine ourselves and take deliberate steps to do something with what we have learned. Ask yourself: Is this a new insight for me, or does it reinforce what I already know? What does it challenge me to do? Does it point out error in my attitude or actions? What changes does it require? Think of how the lesson relates to you and what specific course of action you will take. **Write your application in the form of a question to make it personal.**

Colossians 4:2-4

Lesson: _____

Application: _____
_____?

Colossians 4:5-6

Lesson: _____

Application: _____
_____?

Colossians 4:7-18

Lesson: _____

Application: _____
_____?

Summary

Write a simple sentence that summarizes what the passage is about. _____

Give a title to the chapter that will help you personally to remember it.



Take a Closer Look

Let your speech always be with grace,
as though seasoned with salt,
so that you will know how you should respond to each person.
Colossians 4:6 NAS

Memorize God's Word

Choose the translation you prefer to memorize from and re-write the verse here.

Meditate on God's Word

Look up. What does this verse teach you about God? (For example, look for signs of His character, His attributes, His works, His promises.)

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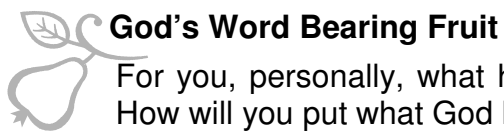
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Something to Think About . . .

Words are born in the heart, not in the head.

Oswald Chambers



God's Word Bearing Fruit

For you, personally, what has been the most important lesson from this study?
How will you put what God has shown you into practice?

Message Notes:

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Lessons from Paul's Life and Ministry

POURED OUT FOR CHRIST

2 Timothy 1-2

Inductive Discovery Lesson 22

The Rome Paul returned to in the summer of 66 was a tortured city. Never an easy place to be a Christian, these days it was downright dangerous. After the great fire of 64, Christians became Nero's scapegoats, his gruesome arena entertainment, his tar-drenched garden lights. The only safe place for believers to gather was beneath the streets in bone-filled catacombs under cover of night.

Paul may have been arrested somewhere in Asia and hauled back to Rome. Or maybe he chose to return, in spite of certain danger, to encourage the underground church. Either way, Paul found himself back in Rome chained like a criminal. This was no "respectable" house arrest. He had no privileges, not even the barest comforts that might allow a place to be called home. This time it was the dreaded Mamertine, an ancient cistern now used as a prison. Paul was on death row—no bed, meager rations, stale air, crowded conditions. Prisoners were dropped by rope or ladder into the damp, rat-infested hole that passed for a room in this subterranean jail. Luke stayed nearby, faithful friend to the end.

Come as soon as you can, Paul wrote to Timothy. But knowing he likely would not see his spiritual son again this side of heaven, Paul wrote his last will and testimony.

Tracing Paul's Steps: *The Final Years*

- After two years of house arrest in Rome, Paul is released. (Acts 28:30)
- Though details are hazy, Paul likely set out to visit the churches in Asia, Macedonia and Greece. He may have gone to Spain as he had planned to do before his arrest. (Romans 15:28)
- At some point, Paul returned to Ephesus; the church seriously needed guidance so he urged Timothy to remain there while he went on to Macedonia. (1 Timothy 1:3)
- Paul visited the island of Crete and left Titus with instructions to "set in order what remains." (Titus 1:5)
- Paul may have been arrested while in Asia (perhaps Troas where he left some personal items) and brought back to Rome. (2 Timothy 4:13-14)

Working Text for 2 Timothy 1-2

New King James Version (NKJ)

Chapter 1

1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, according to the promise of life which is in Christ Jesus, **2** To Timothy, a beloved son: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

3 I thank God, whom I serve with a pure conscience, as my forefathers did, as without ceasing I remember you in my prayers night and day, **4** greatly desiring to see you, being mindful of your tears, that I may be filled with joy, **5** when I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also. **6** Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. **7** For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

8 Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God, **9** who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began, **10** but has now been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, **11** to which I was appointed a preacher, an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles. **12** For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day. **13** Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. **14** That good thing which was committed to you, keep by the Holy Spirit who dwells in us.

15 This you know, that all those in Asia have turned away from me, among whom are Phygellus and Hermogenes. **16** The Lord grant mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, for he often refreshed me, and was not ashamed of my chain; **17** but when he arrived in Rome, he sought me out very zealously and found me. **18** The Lord grant to him that he may find mercy from the Lord in that Day—and you know very well how many ways he ministered to me at Ephesus.

Chapter 2

1 You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. **2** And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be

able to teach others also. **3** You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. **4** No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier. **5** And also if anyone competes in athletics, he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. **6** The hardworking farmer must be first to partake of the crops. **7** Consider what I say, and may the Lord give you understanding in all things.

8 Remember that Jesus Christ, of the seed of David, was raised from the dead according to my gospel, **9** for which I suffer trouble as an evildoer, even to the point of chains; but the word of God is not chained. **10** Therefore I endure all things for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory. **11** This is a faithful saying: For if we died with Him, We shall also live with Him. **12** If we endure, We shall also reign with Him. If we deny Him, He also will deny us. **13** If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself.

14 Remind them of these things, charging them before the Lord not to strive about words to no profit, to the ruin of the hearers. **15** Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. **16** But shun profane and idle babblings, for they will increase to more ungodliness. **17** And their message will spread like cancer. Hymenaeus and Philetus are of this sort, **18** who have strayed concerning the truth, saying that the resurrection is already past; and they overthrow the faith of some. **19** Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: "The Lord knows those who are His," and, "Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity."

20 But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honor and some for dishonor. **21** Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work. **22** Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart. **23** But avoid foolish and ignorant disputes, knowing that they generate strife. **24** And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, **25** in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, **26** and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.



OBSERVATION

Read the section and record what you see. **Use the first column to keep track of what you specifically find in the Bible passage.** (Who? What? When? Where?) Briefly describe, *in your own words*, what it says.

Use the second column to record information you gather from other sources such as a dictionary, concordance, maps, etc. You can also use this section to jot down **your thoughts, impressions or questions that come to mind.** *Do your best to follow Paul's train of thought.* Does he emphasize a particular topic? Are his words urgent? Encouraging? Commanding? What issues or problems does he address? What questions does he ask?

2 Timothy 1:1-7

Facts from the passage:

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2 Timothy 1:8-18

Facts from the passage:

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2 Timothy 2:14-26

Facts from the passage:

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Key Words and Phrases

Key words and phrases help us understand the main point the writer wants to make. How do we recognize key words and phrases? Here are some simple things to look for.

- When you see a word or phrase repeated, you can be sure Paul is using it to make his point.
- If you are unfamiliar with a word or its meaning, it becomes a key word *for you*. Take time to learn the definition so you will understand how it is being used in the sentence.

List any key words and phrases you found in 2 Timothy 1-2.

Write the definition of the following words or phrases. Use a regular dictionary or a concordance with a Greek Dictionary if you have one.

Ch. 1

“power” (vs. 7) _____

“love” (vs. 7) _____

“discipline” (vs. 7) _____

Ch. 2

“endure” (vs.3,10,12) _____

“be diligent” (vs.15) _____



INTERPRETATION — *What does it mean?*

Look for a spiritual lesson. Be careful not to read into the Bible an idea that is not there. Examine each verse in light of the verses around it. To help you find a spiritual lesson, ask questions such as: “Is there a command to obey? Is there a promise to claim? Is there a condition to that promise? Is there a warning to heed? Is there an example to follow or avoid?” **State the lesson in one simple sentence.**

APPLICATION — *How does it apply to me?*

We don’t study the Bible just to gather information—we want to spiritually grow. Our heart needs to be open to change. The only way to move truth off the pages of your Bible and into your life is to **put it into action.**

To apply a spiritual lesson, we must examine ourselves and take deliberate steps to do something with what we have learned. Ask yourself: Is this a new insight for me, or does it reinforce what I already know? What does it challenge me to do? Does it point out error in my attitude or actions? What changes does it require? Think of how the lesson relates to you and what specific course of action you will take. **Write your application in the form of a question to make it personal.**

2 Timothy 1:1-7

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

?

2 Timothy 1:8-18

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

?

2 Timothy 2:1-13

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

?

2 Timothy 2:14-26

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

?

Summary

Write a simple sentence that summarizes what the passage is about. _____

Give a title to the chapter that will help you personally to remember it.



Take a Closer Look

**Be diligent to present yourself approved to God,
a worker who does not need to be ashamed,
rightly dividing the word of truth.**

2 Timothy 2:15 NKJ

Memorize God's Word

Choose the translation you prefer to memorize from and re-write the verse here.

Meditate on God's Word

Look up. What does this verse teach you about God? (For example, look for signs of His character, His attributes, His works, His promises.)

Look around. What does this verse teach you about the world and people in general?

Look within. What does this verse teach you about yourself?

Look ahead. Does this verse give you reason to hope? Briefly share your thoughts.

Look alive! Given the opportunity, how would you express the truth found in this verse to someone who needs to hear it?

Make God's Word Your Prayer

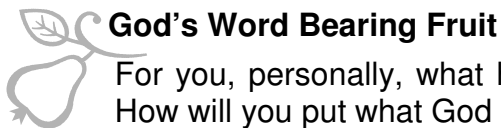
As you memorize and meditate on this verse, pray it back to the Lord. Let the Holy Spirit examine your heart, increase your understanding, and help you to pray. Ask Him for faith and strength to *act* on the truth of God's Word.



Something to Think About . . .

It is important that we search the Scriptures daily, and more important still that we approach them with faith and humility, bowing our hearts to their instructions and commands.

- A.W. Tozer -



God's Word Bearing Fruit

For you, personally, what has been the most important lesson from this study?
How will you put what God has shown you into practice?

Message Notes:

A large rectangular area with a light gray background and horizontal lines, resembling a notepad or a message box. The area is framed by a thick, irregular, dark gray border that looks like torn paper. The text "Message Notes:" is positioned at the top left of this area.



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Think, as you read these final chapters, how precious this letter was to Timothy. Paul was a father, a mentor, a hero in Timothy's eyes. Timothy joined Paul's ministry team when he was a new convert, but Paul saw a missionary in the making. It was a turning point for a quiet young man with limited life experience—he could not have foreseen all that God had planned for him. Reading Paul's letter stirred memories. Timothy could truly look back, through all the trials and challenges, and testify how faithful God had always been! Paul's words stirred up a new sense of urgency too. *Difficult days are ahead Timothy. Be strong. Stay true to your convictions.* For all his adult life, Timothy had watched and learned from Paul...how to preach, how to pray, how to take it on the chin and keep going. Timothy didn't have Paul's natural boldness or his skillful way with words, but he knew his mission was to preach the gospel. So he took Paul's inspired words to heart. To the end of his days, Timothy carried that tear-stained letter with him and read it often. It gave him courage and kept him focused. It prepared him to be wise about this world.

Think, as you read these final chapters, how precious this letter is for us. Words written long ago that ring loud and clear today. Are you listening?



Tracing Paul's Steps: *The Final Days*

- Paul was imprisoned a second time in Rome, ca. 67 AD; probably in the notorious Mamertine Prison. (2 Timothy 1:9)
- At Paul's preliminary hearing, no one came to his support. Some scholars believe Paul may have faced trumped-up charges of conspiracy and arson since Christians were blamed for the great fire of 64—but this is only speculation. (2 Timothy 4:16)
- Aware that his days were numbered, Paul wrote to Timothy in Ephesus. The letter was most likely delivered by Tychicus. (2 Timothy 4:6, 12)
- According to tradition, Paul was condemned on charges of treason against the emperor. As a Roman citizen, he was privately beheaded rather than publicly crucified or thrown into the arena with wild animals.
- The day before his execution, Paul was marched three miles out of the city by a road called the Ostian Way. He was put in a tiny cell overnight near a place of tombs. Was Luke allowed to stay with him? Did Paul spend his last hours in prayer and even singing? At dawn, the executioner stood ready. Paul was stripped to the waist and tied, kneeling upright, to a low pillar that left his neck free. He was beaten with rods; and then, with one sharp swing of the axe, Paul left this earthly life. Absent from the body, he was at last in the presence of his Lord.

Working Text for 2 Timothy 3-4
English Standard Version (ESV)

Chapter 3

1 But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. 2 For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3 heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, 4 treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5 having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people. 6 For among them are those who creep into households and capture weak women, burdened with sins and led astray by various passions, 7 always learning and never able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth. 8 Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these men also oppose the truth, men corrupted in mind and disqualified regarding the faith. 9 But they will not get very far, for their folly will be plain to all, as was that of those two men.

10 You, however, have followed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, 11 my persecutions and sufferings that happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra—which persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. 12 Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, 13 while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. 14 But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it 15 and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. 16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.

Chapter 4

1 I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: 2 preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. 3 For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, 4 and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. 5 As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

6 For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. **7** I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. **8** Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved His appearing.

9 Do your best to come to me soon. **10** For Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia. **11** Luke alone is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is very useful to me for ministry. **12** Tychicus I have sent to Ephesus. **13** When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, also the books, and above all the parchments. **14** Alexander the coppersmith did me great harm; the Lord will repay him according to his deeds. **15** Beware of him yourself, for he strongly opposed our message. **16** At my first defense no one came to stand by me, but all deserted me. May it not be charged against them! **17** But the Lord stood by me and strengthened me, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. **18** The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into His heavenly kingdom. To Him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

19 Greet Prisca and Aquila, and the household of Onesiphorus. **20** Erastus remained at Corinth, and I left Trophimus, who was ill, at Miletus. **21** Do your best to come before winter. Eubulus sends greetings to you, as do Pudens and Linus and Claudia and all the brothers. **22** The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you.

2 Timothy 3:10-17

Facts from the passage:

My Research and Personal Observations:

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2 Timothy 4:1-8

Facts from the passage:

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2 Timothy 4:9-22

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Key words and phrases help us understand the main point the writer wants to make. How do we recognize key words and phrases? Here are some simple things to look for.

- When you see a word or phrase repeated, you can be sure Paul is using it to make his point.
- If you are unfamiliar with a word or its meaning, it becomes a key word *for you*. Take time to learn the definition so you will understand how it is being used in the sentence.

List any key words and phrases you found in 2 Timothy 3-4.

Write the definition of the following words or phrases. Use a regular dictionary or a concordance with a Greek Dictionary if you have one.

Chapter 3:16

“for **teaching**” _____

“for **reproof**” _____

“for **correction**” _____

“for **training in righteousness**” _____



INTERPRETATION — *What does it mean?*

Look for a spiritual lesson. Be careful not to read into the Bible an idea that is not there. Examine each verse in light of the verses around it. To help you find a spiritual lesson, ask questions such as: “Is there a command to obey? Is there a promise to claim? Is there a condition to that promise? Is there a warning to heed? Is there an example to follow or avoid?” **State the lesson in one simple sentence.**

APPLICATION — *How does it apply to me?*

We don’t study the Bible just to gather information—we want to spiritually grow. Our heart needs to be open to change. The only way to move truth off the pages of your Bible and into your life is to **put it into action.**

To apply a spiritual lesson, we must examine ourselves and take deliberate steps to do something with what we have learned. Ask yourself: Is this a new insight for me, or does it reinforce what I already know? What does it challenge me to do? Does it point out error in my attitude or actions? What changes does it require? Think of how the lesson relates to you and what specific course of action you will take. **Write your application in the form of a question to make it personal.**

2 Timothy 3:1-9

Lesson: _____

Application: _____
_____?

2 Timothy 3:10-17

Lesson: _____

Application: _____
_____?

2 Timothy 4:1-8

Lesson: _____

Application: _____
_____?

2 Timothy 4:9-22

Lesson: _____

Application: _____
_____?

Summary

Write a simple sentence that summarizes what the passage is about. _____

Give a title to the chapter that will help you personally to remember it.



Take a Closer Look

**All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching,
for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;
so that the man of God may be adequate,
equipped for every good work.**

2 Timothy 3:16-17 NAS

Memorize God's Word

Choose the translation you prefer to memorize from and re-write the verse here.

Meditate on God's Word

Look up. What does this verse teach you about God? (For example, look for signs of His character, His attributes, His works, His promises.)

Look around. What does this verse teach you about the world and people in general?

Look within. What does this verse teach you about yourself?

Look ahead. Does this verse give you reason to hope? Briefly share your thoughts.

Look alive! Given the opportunity, how would you express the truth found in this verse to someone who needs to hear it?

Make God's Word Your Prayer

As you memorize and meditate on this verse, pray it back to the Lord. Let the Holy Spirit examine your heart, increase your understanding, and help you to pray. Ask Him for faith and strength to *act* on the truth of God's Word.



Something to Think About . . .

"Preach the Word; be ready in season and out of season..."

When your moment comes, stand and deliver.
God will give you courage as you tell others of His Son.
There is no greater honor on earth.

- Charles Swindoll -



God's Word Bearing Fruit

For you, personally, what has been the most important lesson from this study?
How will you put what God has shown you into practice?

Message Notes:

A large rectangular area with a light gray background and horizontal lines, resembling a notepad or a message template. The area is framed by a thick, irregular, dark gray border that looks like torn paper. The text "Message Notes:" is positioned at the top left of this area.



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