

CHURCH

What new thing did you learn from this week's reading?

What stood out the most to you from the reading?

Take a moment to read & reflect upon favorite passages from this week's part of the story?

THE STORY CONTINUES

Acts 21-28; Ephesians; Philippians 2-3; Philemon; 1 Timothy 3; 2 Timothy 4

Three horizontal gray bars stacked vertically, intended for reflection or writing.

LIFE AND LETTERS OF PAUL

30/33		Jesus' Death and Resurrection
59		JOURNEY TO ROME (Acts 27.1-28.14)
60-62		2 Year House Arrest in Rome (Acts 28.30)
	60-62	Prison Epistles: Philemon Colossians <u>Ephesians</u> <u>Philippians</u>
63		Release from Prison ; Further Work
	63-67	Pastoral Epistles: 1 Timothy Titus 2 Timothy
63-67		Martyrdom in Rome

EPHESIANS

Paul didn't write Ephesians to deal with any crisis in particular. Rather, he wrote to house churches in Ephesus and the region about God's great plan for his people. More specifically, he focuses on our new life in Christ, the new community we now share with other believers, and our new responsibility to live as God's people. Ephesians is both majestic and intensely practical. God's grace offered in Christ rescues us from our sinful trajectory and transforms our lifestyle and our relationships. Because of all that God has done for us in Christ, we should live a life worthy of this calling from God.

Duvall, J. Scott; Hays, J. Daniel. *Living God's Word*, 2nd Ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Academic. Kindle Edition. Pg 279.

PHILIPPIANS

Paul writes Philippians to a church he planted on his second missionary journey, a church that supported him financially more than any other church. When they heard he was in prison, they sent a gift to support him (Phil. 2:25; 4:18). He now writes this letter to thank the church for being generous (1:4–5; 4:10–19), to update them on his circumstances (1:12–26; 4:10–19), to prepare them for an upcoming visit (2:19–24), to warn them against false teachers (3:1–4, 18–19), and to exhort them to unity (2:1–11; 4:2–5). Philippians reminds us of the importance of giving generously, of rejoicing rather than worrying, of pursuing Christ's example of humility in order to maintain unity in the church, and of trusting in Christ's righteousness rather than our own.

Duvall, J. Scott; Hays, J. Daniel. *Living God's Word*, 2nd Ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Academic. Kindle Edition. Pg 279.

1-2 TIMOTHY

In 1 Timothy, Paul writes to correct false teaching within the leadership of the Ephesian church and to teach believers how to conduct themselves as the church (see Acts 20:30; 1 Tim. 1:3–7; 6:3–5). The focus of 1 Timothy is on teaching the truth...2 Timothy is Paul's personal and final farewell to Timothy, his longtime, loyal friend and partner in ministry, urging him to stay faithful and endure hardship, always relying on God's grace.

Duvall, J. Scott; Hays, J. Daniel. *Living God's Word*, 2nd Ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Academic. Kindle Edition. Pg 281.

PHILEMON

The short letter of Philemon tells how a Jewish Christian apostle (Paul), a wealthy Gentile slave owner (Philemon), and a slave (Onesimus) are united together by their common faith in Christ. Philemon is a slave owner who has become a Christian through Paul's ministry. Onesimus is a slave who comes in contact with Paul and becomes a believer. Paul writes to persuade Philemon to welcome back Onesimus as a brother in Christ, without putting him to death or punishing him—the normal treatment for runaway slaves in the Roman world. The letter reminds us that our connection to Christ also unites us to people of different social, racial, and economic situations, and we should treat them as fellow believers in spite of what the world says.

Duvall, J. Scott; Hays, J. Daniel. *Living God's Word*, 2nd Ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Academic. Kindle Edition. Pg 278-79.

HOMework

Memorize

- Revelation 12.11

Biblical Text

- Revelation

Read

- Duvall/ Hays – *Living God's Word*, Chapter 20

Complete

- Choose one writing assignment from Duvall/ Hays – *Living God's Word*, pg 322.
- Personal Reflection Question: How does reading Revelation as a discipleship book change the way we read Revelation?

Optional Read

- Cruciform Onesimus? Considering How a Slave Would Respond to Paul's Call for a Cross-Shaped Lifestyle by Nijay Gupta