

The image shows an open book, likely a Bible, with the title 'STAND ALONE Messages' overlaid in a white rectangular box. The text 'STAND ALONE' is in a bold, sans-serif font, and 'Messages' is in a cursive script. The background is a soft-focus image of the book's pages, which appear to be from the Book of Psalms, as the word 'PSALMS' is visible on one of the pages.

STAND ALONE *Messages*

Read – Read the passage in its context several times. Read it slow enough to understand what God is saying through it.

- What ideas or words are emphasised, repeated or related in this passage?
- In your own words, what is the main idea of this passage? (Try to summarise these verses in 10 words or less)

Examine – Next, try to understand the specifics of what the passage is communicating.

- What do you notice about God? What has he done/is he doing in these verses?
- What do you learn about Jesus and his gospel from this passage?
- What does it reveal about people?
- How do you think the writer wanted his reader to respond to these words?

Apply - After seeking to understand God's Word in this passage, consider how he intends to use it in your heart and life today.

- Read Philippians 1:1-8. In this message, what struck you?
- Look at what Paul and the believers in Philippi share (identity, grace, confidence, affections). How have they become sharers through the Gospel? How might this affect how you relate to the church?
- Bob used the example of a scaffolding on the side of his house, which he has been unable to use to fix his house. He and possibly his neighbours are thinking "is this ever going to get done?". We might feel the same about our sanctification. Read verse 6 again. Who does Paul's confidence rest in and what is his hope? How might this encourage you today?