



HOLY
BIBLE



JANUARY

2019

1 THESSALONIANS-
PHILEMON

MONTHLY PRAYER SHEET

"...The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective." James 5:16

Reach out...

How I will do it...

How it went...

Other requests...

Answered

How it was answered...

MONTHLY COMMITMENT SHEET

Name: _____

This sheet is designed to help you make personal commitments each month that will help you grow in your walk with God. Fill it out by determining

1. What will push you
2. What you think you can achieve

If you need help filling out your commitments, seek out someone you trust who can help you. Share your commitments with those who will help keep you accountable to your personal commitment.

Personal Devotions:

How did I do with my commitment last month? _____

I will commit to read the OnTrack Bible passage and devotional thought _____ day(s) each week this month.

Church Attendance:

How did I do last month with my attendance? _____

I will attend Youth/Growth Group _____ time(s) this month.

I will attend the Sunday AM service _____ time(s) this month.

I will attend the Sunday PM service _____ time(s) this month.

I will attend _____ time(s) this month.

I will attend _____ time(s) this month.

Scripture Memory:

How did I do with Scripture memory last month? _____

I will memorize _____ key verse(s) from the daily OnTrack Devotions this month.

Outreach:

How did I do last month with sharing Christ? _____

I will share Christ with _____ person/people this month.

I will serve my local church this month by _____

Other Activities:

List any other opportunities such as events, prayer group, etc., that you will participate in this month. _____

How often in a week do you pray? When you do pray, how much time do you spend talking with God? If we were going to describe your prayer life, what words would we use? As you have been reading through the New Testament these past few months, have you noticed how much time Paul spent in prayer talking with God? In today's reading, we see another example of Paul's prayer life. Paul wrote to this church that he prayed for them continually. He told them in his letter that he did not just mention them in prayer when he thanked God for his food, or when he prayed in public at a worship service. He prayed for them all the time. Could you say the same thing to anyone? Is there anything you are praying about continually? Do you spend enough time in prayer each day? Why not begin this new year by making a plan that grows your prayer life? Don't settle for having a "meal time only" kind of prayer life. As you begin to faithfully pray, you will see the amount of time increasing and God answering your prayers. If you need help creating a plan to improve your prayer life, ask someone who can help you. It will change your life and the lives of those you pray for.

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING

1 THESSALONIANS 1

1 THESSALONIANS 2:1-6

MOTIVATION

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

Why didn't Paul give up when faced with great opposition and criticism? What was it that kept him going through it all? Although he had faced suffering, insults, and "strong opposition" in Phillipi, Paul tells us that they continued to share the gospel. Most would have given up, or at least toned it down to avoid some of the opposition, but Paul kept right on going. Why? The answer begins in verse 3. It was because their efforts were not based on error or wrong motives. They were not motivated by trying to win the approval of men or appearing to be spiritual. They shared because they were men who had been "entrusted" with the gospel. They could not keep such valuable information to themselves, no matter what sharing it might cost them. To them, they had no choice but to keep on sharing the gospel. How well do you stand up to opposition at school or work? Do you realize you have been entrusted with the greatest message on earth? Is your only motivation to please God? If you answered yes to both of these questions, then you will be a person who can stand against opposition.

EXTRA READING

1 THESSALONIANS 2

How concerned are you about the people in your world? How concerned are you about how your friends are doing spiritually? Paul gave us an example in this passage of the kind of concern we should have for others. How do you measure up to it? He told this church that he had longed to see them and find out how they were doing. When he found himself unable to go personally, he sent Timothy. He couldn't endure not knowing what was going on in their lives. When he received a good report about their well being, he was comforted even though he personally was being persecuted and in great distress. His burden was lifted and his reaction was "now we really live because you are standing firm...." That is remarkable concern! Do people you know affect you in this way? Are you so concerned with their walk with God that you are constantly thinking of them? Do you wonder if they are faithfully having devotions? Do you wonder if they are overcoming temptation? Does their spiritual walk encourage your heart in the midst of your own troubles? If not, what can you do to begin to care for people like Paul demonstrates in today's reading?

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING

1 THESSALONIANS 3

1 THESSALONIANS 4:1-8

SEXUAL PURITY

SAY WHAT?

What verses in the Bible can you quote when you are tempted to have sex outside of marriage?

SO WHAT?

Make a list of Biblical characters and people you know whose lives were impacted by violating God's commands in this area.

NOW WHAT?

What specific plan can you create to ensure you remain sexually pure? Who can help you?

THEN WHAT?

What personal commitment should you make in light of this passage?

Why is it wrong to have sex outside of marriage? If someone asked you that question, what would you tell him? Could you take him to a specific passage in the Bible? Sadly, many Christians know what the Bible specifically says in this area, but do not know where, or are not able to give specific Biblical answers. Instead we give answers like it causes diseases or unwanted pregnancies. While those are legitimate reasons, they are not the reason a Christian should say no to sex outside of marriage. We should not have sex outside of marriage because God's Word tells us it is wrong. In this passage, Paul writes that we must avoid sexual immorality and learn to control our bodies. He further says to avoid it because, in God's eyes, it "wrongs" and "takes advantage" of the other person. We are to be sexually pure because God has called us to live holy lives, not because we fear STDs or pregnancy. This passage tells us that if we fail in this area, we are rejecting God. Sex outside of marriage is wrong because God's Word says it is sin. Underline verses 7 & 8 to remind yourself of this truth.

EXTRA READING

1 THESSALONIANS 4

Should we as Christians cry and become distraught over the death of a loved one? Some might use a passage like today's reading to support a position that Christians should not grieve when people die. A closer look at this section reveals that interpretation to be wrong. In reality, while Paul did say not to grieve when someone we love dies, he added an important clause, "like those who have no hope." We grieve, but not like those in the world who are without Christ. We know that someday we will be reunited with those we love who have trusted Christ by faith. For the unsaved, death means separation forever, not temporarily. There is no hope in death for them, and their sorrow reflects their lack of hope. While we sorrow at death because separation is painful, it is for a short time. Our sorrow needs to reflect the hope we have that one day we will be reunited with those who have died in Christ. So, when death comes, it's okay as a Christian to feel the grief and sorrow that it brings, but not like the unsaved who have no hope. Ask God to help you reflect your hope when someone you care about dies.

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING

1 THESSALONIANS 4

PROVERBS 22

The book of Proverbs was designed to help us in "attaining wisdom and discipline; in understanding words of insight; in acquiring a disciplined and prudent life, doing what is right and just and fair; in giving prudence to the simple, knowledge and discretion to the young." As you read through this chapter, write down the verses that are most significant to you in your present circumstances.

VERSE | WHAT TRUTH IT COMMUNICATES | HOW IT IMPACTS MY LIFE

To whom was Paul referring in verses 12-13? Who was it that had worked hard among you and was over you "in the Lord?" As we read, it becomes clear that he was referring to pastors. Paul wanted this church to be sure they responded properly to those who worked hard on their behalf spiritually. What is the response that Paul wanted them to have? They should treat them with respect and hold them in highest regard in love. Pastors are special people who do a special job. God wants to make sure people in the church treat them correctly. How do you treat your pastor? Do you pray for and respect your youth pastor and the other pastors in your church? Do you hold them in high regard, always assuming the best of them? Do you support and encourage them by letting them know how much you appreciate their labor of love among you? When was the last time you told them how much you appreciated their efforts on your behalf? Why not do that today? You can do that not only by writing a simple note of thanks but, more importantly, by living a consistent, godly life. After all, this is what they have devoted their lives to help you do. Their reward is your faithfulness.

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING

1 THESSALONIANS 5

2 THESSALONIANS 1:1-4

TRIALS

SAY WHAT?

What trials or persecution have you endured in your life?

SO WHAT?

What positive qualities have they produced?

NOW WHAT?

What plan can you create to respond better when trials or persecution come into your life?

THEN WHAT?

What personal commitment can you make in light of this passage?

Can you think of positive results in people's lives due to trials or persecution? What positive characteristics are a part of your life because of the trials or persecution you have faced? Paul saw great characteristics in the church of the Thessalonians resulting from the trials they had undergone. He thanked God that, first of all, they had grown in their faith. Trials had helped them to trust God more and, as a result, they had grown to depend on Him in every area of their lives. Secondly, he thanked God that their trials produced in them a greater love for each other. It must have been exciting to be part of a church in which faith in God and love for others was continually growing. Perseverance produces many positive benefits in our lives, as well as in the lives of others. Realizing perseverance only comes through trials ought to affect our view of them. How do you view your present trial or difficulties? Don't complain about the difficulties you are facing. Allow God to use them to grow you. Use today's questions to get started.

EXTRA READING

2 THESSALONIANS 1

Why do people go to hell? Is God the one who chooses for some to spend eternity there? According to this passage, Paul confirms to the Thessalonians that people go to hell because they have refused to love the truth and to accept salvation. He lets them know that they have had the opportunity to hear and understand the message but have refused to love and believe it. An individual makes his own decision concerning his eternal destination. God doesn't do that for him. Even more sobering is the next statement. In verse 11, Paul tells us that after someone rejects salvation often enough, Satan is there to deceive him. He will believe the lie and, as a result, never be saved. It is a very serious decision to reject God's offer of salvation. Have you put it off or refused it? Could you be on your way to hell because of the choice you have made? Have you ever, by faith, trusted Christ for your salvation? Rejecting God over and over after hearing and understanding the gospel has disastrous consequences. Who do you know that needs to hear what this passage teaches?

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING

2 THESSALONIANS 2

2 THESSALONIANS 2:13-17

CHOSEN

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

We read yesterday that a person goes to hell because he has chosen to reject the truth and refused salvation. Does that mean that those who are saved will go to heaven because they have chosen to accept the truth? The answer to that question is no, which can cause confusion about how salvation works in our lives. According to these verses, we go to heaven because God has chosen us. He called us to the Gospel. The Holy Spirit sanctified us so that we might share in the glory of Christ. It was not because of anything we had or could have done, but because of what God did that we are saved. This may not appear to make sense, but it is what the Bible teaches. People go to hell because of the choice they make. People go to heaven because of the choice God makes. While it may seem unfair, it is what the Bible teaches. If there is anything unfair about it, it is not that people go to hell (we all deserve that), but that some get to go to heaven. Knowing that God has chosen to extend grace to you should cause you to desire to serve Him with gratitude all the days of your life. Does it?

EXTRA READING

2 THESSALONIANS 2

What does the word idle mean in this passage? How do we respond to idle people? The word translated in the NIV as "idle" is a military term which means "out of rank." It is a Christian who is acting "out of rank." In other words, it is a Christian who is not acting as he should. In this context, the specific behavior Paul had in mind was not working for a living or being lazy. What should our response be to a brother who is idle or being lazy? Paul tells us to keep away from him. That does not mean to withdraw with an air of superiority, but to be aloof, which demonstrates to him that we do not condone his work ethic. Paul explains that we should do this so that he feels ashamed. As we do, it will encourage him to do what is right. We must keep in mind that he is a brother in Christ and not our enemy. The goal is to demonstrate love and concern so that he will be won back to righteous living. We must always remember that our work ethic matters to God--so much so that we are to take a harsh view of those who do not work hard. How do you think God views the way you work? Are you setting the right kind of example?

SAY WHAT?

List the different places you demonstrate your work ethic.

SO WHAT?

How would people describe your work ethic in those places? Why?

NOW WHAT?

How can you become an even harder worker?

THEN WHAT?

What commitment can you make in light of this passage?

EXTRA READING

2 THESSALONIANS 3

1 TIMOTHY 1:12-17

SO THAT

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

How do you feel when you think about what it means to be saved? Too often, people seem to be apathetic about their salvation, especially those saved as children. It is almost as if it all seems to be fairly routine to them. What they sometimes miss is the incredible reality of what happened and why it happened. Paul had never gotten over the fact that Jesus Christ had saved him. He stressed that, in spite of his behavior and past, God had, by His grace, changed his life. In verse 16, he explained why God had saved him. It was so his life would be an example to others of what Jesus Christ could do. Even though he was once a "violent man," he was changed by Christ. His own salvation gave hope to other violent men. What difference has believing in Jesus Christ made in your life? How is your life different from those who do not know Christ? Is there someone you know who needs to see and hear the ways in which Christ changed your life? Your life is an example of what God can do. Can the unsaved see it? Circle the words "so that in me" in your Bible to remind you of your mission. Then ask God to use you.

EXTRA READING

1 TIMOTHY 1

The book of Proverbs was designed to help us in "attaining wisdom and discipline; in understanding words of insight; in acquiring a disciplined and prudent life, doing what is right and just and fair; in giving prudence to the simple, knowledge and discretion to the young." As you read through this chapter, write down the verses that are most significant to you in your present circumstances.

VERSE | WHAT TRUTH IT COMMUNICATES | HOW IT IMPACTS MY LIFE

1 TIMOTHY 2:8-15

MODESTY

SAY WHAT?

If asked, what words would people use to describe you?

SO WHAT?

What words would you want them to use?

NOW WHAT?

How can you ensure that people notice you for your service to God and not your physical appearance or accomplishments?

THEN WHAT?

What personal commitment should you make in light of this passage?

Do you think Paul is saying it is wrong for women to wear jewelry or braid their hair? There are some people who think that is what Paul is saying. A closer look at this chapter, however, clearly shows that those who think that he is teaching against jewelry or braided hair are missing his point. The principle Paul wanted us to grasp is modesty. Modesty, in this context, does not simply have to do with not dressing sensually, but also includes dressing so that you do not bring attention to your physical appearance. He uses these examples to illustrate the types of dress that can bring attention to your body if you are not careful. Instead, according to verse 10, women should be noticed for their good deeds. His point was that women should not be known or noticed for how they look, but for the kind of people they are. What are you noticed for? When people talk about you, what do they say? For a girl who wants to please God, her priority should not be her looks, but her service to God and others. It may not be what the world tells you, but it is what God wants, which is all that really matters.

EXTRA READING

1 TIMOTHY 2

In today's reading, Paul lists for Timothy some important requirements for anyone who wants to be a pastor or deacon. It includes requirements for pastors, verses 1-7, and deacons, verses 8-10 and verses 12-13. He even gives requirements for the wives of these men in verse 11. It is a standard that not many people are able to meet. Why is this kind of standard so important? The answer is found in verse 15. The local church is the body of Christ and the pillar and foundation of the truth. It is the means God has chosen to take the gospel to the world. There is simply too much at stake to allow unqualified people to hold the positions of deacon or pastor in our churches. Before holding a leadership position, we need to understand these requirements and be accountable among ourselves to meet the requirements given in this section of Scripture. If you feel God may be leading you to be a pastor or deacon, it's important to begin working towards meeting these qualifications and be certain that anyone you choose to marry meets them as well. Our churches ministries are too significant for us to not have qualified people in leadership.

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING

1 TIMOTHY 3

1 TIMOTHY 4:6-16

AN EXAMPLE

SAY WHAT?

How would you rate yourself in the five areas mentioned?

SO WHAT?

In what ways have you allowed or not allowed people to look down on you in those five areas?

NOW WHAT?

In what ways can you change in order to be an example in these areas?

THEN WHAT?

What personal commitment can you make in light of this passage?

How much difference can a student make in this world? Do you have to be an adult to be able to really touch the lives of people? How old do you need to be before people are impacted by your life? Paul gave Timothy an important command in today's reading that answers those questions. It is found in a verse that would be great for you to memorize. Paul told Timothy, in verse 12, to not allow people to look down on him because he was young. In other words, do not give people a reason to look down on you or make you feel unimportant or insignificant in terms of your ability to impact your world. Instead, you should strive to be an example. You should set the example in your speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity. Maybe the reason so few teens positively influence others is that they do not set an example for people in these areas. How would you rate yourself in these five areas? If you are going to influence others, you have to be someone they respect. You have to be an example in your speech, your life, your conduct, your love, your faith and your purity. Are you?

EXTRA READING

1 TIMOTHY 4

In today's reading, Paul gives Timothy some specific instructions on taking care of the widows in the church. It is obvious from this passage that the care of widows is very important to God. The job of the church is to determine which widows are really in need and should then be put on a list to be cared for by the church, and which ones should not be put on the list. According to this passage, the first responsibility to care for a widow falls to her children and/or grandchildren. The men of her family are the first to assume the responsibility and, if there are no sons or grandsons, her daughters should care for her. God views it as repayment for the care the mother once gave to her children. The church then cares for widows who have no family or whose family is not fulfilling its Biblical responsibility. God views the care of widows so highly that He says if a man does not care for his widowed mother or grandmother, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever. The responsibility to eventually care for our parents or grandparents is clearly ours. Make the commitment that you will fulfill that future responsibility towards your parents one day, if it becomes necessary.

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING

1 TIMOTHY 5

1 TIMOTHY 5:17-25

DOUBLE HONOR

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

How are the pastors of your church treated? Do they get the respect and concern that they deserve? Paul let Timothy know that a pastor deserves special treatment in two specific areas. It is important for us to know what they are so that we do our part to see that they are followed in our churches. First, Paul wrote that a pastor who is leading his church well is worthy of "double honor." That is, he is worthy of double pay or a double salary, especially if his job is preaching and teaching. In a typical church, it is often communicated that a pastor should receive less because he is in the ministry. That is not what God's Word says. Secondly, he is to be protected from accusations against him. In fact, unless it comes from two or three witnesses, we should never consider an accusation. That means we cannot even entertain the idea that it might be true. On the other hand, if he is found to be in sin, he is to be rebuked publicly so that others will take warning. While the pastorate is a position of honor and should be viewed as such, it is also a position of great responsibility. How do you view your pastors? In what way can you encourage them today?

EXTRA READING

1 TIMOTHY 5

What is your goal in life? How will you determine what career you choose? There are some important principles in today's reading that you need to keep in mind when considering these questions. Did you notice what they are? Paul wanted Timothy to be sure to warn his people, as their pastor, concerning the dangers of materialism. People who make gaining wealth their priority are walking down a dangerous path. In fact, they will end up in ruin and destruction. Paul says that people who want to get rich fall into temptations, traps, and foolish and harmful desires. Those desires will ultimately lead them into ruin and destruction. Why? Because the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. To choose money as your priority is to choose to destroy your life! God's way is to learn that godliness with contentment is "great" gain! Pursuing money leads to destruction and pursuing God leads to great gain. It is devastating to pursue something you think will give you what you want, only to find out it ruins your life. Make godliness your priority, not gaining money. Demonstrate it by the choices you make for your future!

SAY WHAT?

What are some of your goals in life?

SO WHAT?

How can you tell if materialism is part of your goals?

NOW WHAT?

How can you combat the love of money?

THEN WHAT?

What personal commitment can you make in light of this passage?

EXTRA READING

1 TIMOTHY 6

PROVERBS 24

The book of Proverbs was designed to help us in "attaining wisdom and discipline; in understanding words of insight; in acquiring a disciplined and prudent life, doing what is right and just and fair; in giving prudence to the simple, knowledge and discretion to the young." As you read through this chapter, write down the verses that are most significant to you in your present circumstances.

VERSE | WHAT TRUTH IT COMMUNICATES | HOW IT IMPACTS MY LIFE

Did you notice the contrast between verses 11-16 and verses 9-10. In verses 9-10, we see a person who has made his goal the gaining of wealth. This person has made it the priority of his life. However, in verses 11-16, we see a person who has made obtaining godliness his goal. Paul follows up his instructions to Timothy about money with a discussion about what he ought to pursue instead. Paul tells Timothy to flee from the love of money and instead pursue six things. Number them in your Bible. The decisions you make should be determined by your goal to be more godly and not to make more money. Many Christians work in order to make money to buy a car or some other wanted item and do not pursue godliness at all. What an empty life that kind of pursuit brings. In reality, your priority will be either godliness or money. If we examine your life and the choices you are making, what would we conclude about your priorities? How do you demonstrate that you are pursuing the qualities Paul lists in verse 11? What needs to change to have your priorities reflect a pursuit of godliness?

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING

1 TIMOTHY 6

2 TIMOTHY 1:8-18

BRINGING JOY

SAY WHAT?

List the people who have contributed spiritually to your life.

SO WHAT?

In what ways does your life encourage or discourage them?

NOW WHAT?

What can you do to continue or begin to encourage them?

THEN WHAT?

What personal commitment should you make in light of this passage?

In what way does your life affect others? When a person remembers you or thinks of you, what comes to his mind? It surely must have encouraged Timothy's heart to know that he had positively influenced the life of the Apostle Paul. When Paul wrote this letter to Timothy, his life was difficult, and he already had endured much. He was in chains for his faith and, according to verse 15, had dear friends desert him. He must have been extremely discouraged at times. It would be likely that Paul had invested significant time in the lives of those who deserted him. Their rejection must have broken his heart. Timothy was different. Whenever Paul stopped to think of Timothy, he was filled with joy because of Timothy's faith. In the midst of great discouragement, Timothy brought Paul joy. Is your life such that those who think about you are filled with joy because of your walk with God? Or, do you bring them sorrow and cause for concern because of the choices you are making? We need to strive to live the kind of life that encourages those who are close to us and love us. What traits in your life bring joy to those who love you? What needs to change?

EXTRA READING

2 TIMOTHY 1

Of all the statements in verses 11-13, which one does not follow the pattern of the others? Why is this question even important? Of the four statements given, only one has nothing to do with how we respond or act. In the first one, we learn that if we die with Christ, which means dying to ourselves and receiving Jesus Christ by faith, we will live. If we endure, then we will reign with Him. If we, however, disown Christ, then He will disown us. But what happens if we are faithless? Had Paul followed the same pattern as in the previous statements, he would have written, "If we are faithless, God will not be faithful." However, he changed the pattern and said that when we have no faith, when we doubt and do not trust, God will still be faithful. His faithfulness to us has nothing to do with the extent of our faithfulness to Him. Does it bring you joy to know that even when you have no faith, God is still faithful to you? Isn't it amazing to know that the difficult times that sometimes foster doubt and lack of confidence in God's provision don't affect His faithfulness to us? What a great God we serve!

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING

2 TIMOTHY 2

2 TIMOTHY 2:22-26

FLEEING

SAY WHAT?

What are some of the evil desires Paul might have had in mind when he wrote this to Timothy?

SO WHAT?

How can you better "flee" them?

NOW WHAT?

Give examples of some specific situations you might face in which you would need to apply this principle.

THEN WHAT?

What personal commitment can you make after reading these verses?

In today's reading, we find one of the most important principles in Scripture. Did you see it? It is found in verse 22. Paul wrote to Timothy that he needed to "flee the evil desires of youth." That is a command that literally means to stay as far away from sin and temptation as he could. There is no provision here to see how far one can go without actually sinning or try to discover how spiritually strong one is. He is to flee, run away from, anything that might encourage him to sin. It is not about where the line of sin is, but how far away from the line I can get. Too often, we allow ourselves to be in situations where we do not flee evil desires. In fact, we put ourselves in situations that encourage them. We watch TV programs or go places that don't motivate us to run from evil desires. We must concentrate our efforts on staying as far away as possible from evil desires and thoughts. How should this verse affect your week? As you make plans remember to flee evil desires. It is not about when you cross the line, but how far away from it you can get. Has that been your mindset lately? It should be.

EXTRA READING

2 TIMOTHY 2

How important to you is reading your Bible every day? Do you plan your day around your Bible reading, or do you "fit it in?" According to today's reading, it should be the most important thing you can do each day. It should be the one activity you determine never to miss. Paul reminds Timothy that the Bible has been inspired by God. Therefore, it is God's message to us. It contains no errors and provides absolutely everything we need. It is profitable for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness. Because it is God-inspired, it is naturally profitable in all those areas. We need no other outside source. In fact, it is what causes the man of God to become "thoroughly" equipped for "every" good work. If Timothy committed himself to study and know it, then the Bible would cause him to become a man who was equipped to do anything well. Can you think of anything you do in the course of a day that can accomplish this for you? How can you guarantee that Bible study will be the most important priority of your day? How can you ignore the Bible when it provides every answer to every issue that comes up in life?

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING

2 TIMOTHY 3

2 TIMOTHY 4:1-8

BE PREPARED

SAY WHAT?

What spiritual questions would you be prepared to answer?

SO WHAT?

What spiritual questions would you not be prepared to answer?

NOW WHAT?

What plan can you create to be prepared to answer those questions?

THEN WHAT?

What personal commitment should you make in light of this passage?

Would you be ready if someone came up to you today and asked you how to become a Christian? What if someone came up to you and asked how to gain victory over a temptation he was facing? Would you be ready to give him an answer? In today's reading, Paul gave Timothy an important charge, one we should all strive to achieve. He wrote, in verse 2, for Timothy to be ready both in season and out of season to give people answers for the hope Timothy had. Most of us would be ready in season, when we are expecting questions. But Timothy needed to also be ready out of season, when he faced the unexpected. In order to be ready out of season, he would have to make studying the Scriptures his priority and assume that he would need to have answers off the top of his head. What would it take for you to be ready to share your faith with someone? A daily study to prepare yourself for the opportunities God may bring into your life would be a good goal. You never know when your opportunity will come. If God gives you an opportunity, make sure you are ready!

EXTRA READING

2 TIMOTHY 4

The book of Proverbs was designed to help us in "attaining wisdom and discipline; in understanding words of insight; in acquiring a disciplined and prudent life, doing what is right and just and fair; in giving prudence to the simple, knowledge and discretion to the young." As you read through this chapter, write down the verses that are most significant to you in your present circumstances.

VERSE | WHAT TRUTH IT COMMUNICATES | HOW IT IMPACTS MY LIFE

TITUS 1:1-9

PASTORS' KIDS

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

When searching for a pastor, what should a church look for? What qualities ought to be evident in his life? Paul answers that question in this passage. Paul gave Titus a crucial job. He was left by Paul in Crete to appoint elders, who were pastors, in every town. That is, of course, a huge responsibility. To be sure that he would appoint the right men, Paul left him specific instructions as to what qualifications these men should have in order to become a pastor. It is interesting that not only were there requirements for the pastor, but also requirements for his children. Paul told Titus to not only examine their personal lives, but also to examine the lives of their children. The children had to be believers, not disobedient or wild. Being a godly father is so important to being a pastor. If you are a pastor's child, your life can have an impact on whether your dad's ministry is a success or a failure. For those who are not children of pastors, the message for you is to pray for and encourage those who are, not criticize or judge. It is true that all children can help or hurt their parents' ministry. But for a pastor's child, it can also disqualify him from ministry.

EXTRA READING

TITUS 1

What do the words "so that" mean? Do they hold any significance for understanding this passage? These two words are significant in this chapter because they show Titus why Paul wanted him to teach specific things to certain groups of people. Titus taught certain truths to the older women "so that" no one would malign the word of God(vs5). He was to teach with integrity, seriousness, and soundness "so that" those who wanted to oppose him would have nothing to say(vs8). The third one ought to shake our apathy a bit. Titus taught the slaves truth "so that" the doctrines of God our Savior would be attractive. They probably had no idea the kind of impact they would have on people by just living the way Paul described. Their behavior could make the teaching about the Savior attractive. What impact does your behavior have on those who observe your life? Are the teachings about Jesus Christ attractive to them because of the way you live? What an awesome opportunity it is to influence those who see you! Why not circle "so that" each time it is used in your Bible, to remind you of why you need to obey.

SAY WHAT?

What kinds of behavior make the message of Jesus Christ attractive?

SO WHAT?

What kinds of behavior make the message of Jesus Christ unattractive?

NOW WHAT?

What can you do to make sure your behavior makes the teaching of Christ attractive?

THEN WHAT?

What personal commitment can you make in light of this passage?

EXTRA READING

TITUS 2

TITUS 3:1-8

OUR SALVATION

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

Today we read one of the greatest descriptions of salvation in the Bible. It is a section we need to be familiar with whenever God gives us an opportunity to share our faith, or when we just need a simple reminder of what Jesus Christ has done in our lives. Paul begins, in verse 3, by describing what we were like before we trusted Christ. It is not very flattering, is it? In verses 4-6, he reminds us how we have been saved. Our salvation is the work of God in our lives and not something we can do for ourselves. Then, in verse 7, we are given the "so that" which concludes this thought. This happened so that we might have the hope of eternal life. And what should our response be to such truth? It should be to devote ourselves to doing good (vs8). Paul stressed these truths to Titus so he could remind his churches how incredible their salvation was. It would also serve to motivate them to do good. When we stop and consider what Christ has done for us, how can we do anything less? Reread this section and ask yourself what good you are doing in response to what God has done for you. Make sure your understanding of your salvation impacts the way you live!

EXTRA READING

TITUS 3

Although the theme of this book is forgiveness, and it contains much concerning the steps of forgiveness, there is also an awesome truth included about prayer. Did you see it? Paul began this personal letter with tender words to someone he loved very much. The first thoughts on his page were a reminder to Philemon that he thanked God whenever he prayed for him. Why? Paul had heard about his faith in the Lord and his love for the saints. Then Paul wrote down what he asked God for when he prayed. He asked God to make him active in sharing his faith. He wanted God to enable Philemon to see the opportunities to share what Christ had done in his life. He wanted him to be active in building relationships with the unsaved, that they might come to know Christ. What would happen in your youth group or church if you began to pray this prayer for each other? Think of the influence your church could have in your town if you were "active" in sharing your faith and building relationships with the unsaved. Why not choose three people to pray this for today. Write their names down and faithfully begin praying. Watch what God does!

SAY WHAT?

Who are the people you can pray this for today?

SO WHAT?

What might the impact be in their lives?

NOW WHAT?

What plan can you create to remain faithful in praying these things for them?

THEN WHAT?

What personal commitment should you make in light of this passage?

EXTRA READING


PHILEMON





ANCHOR

CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY



THIS HOPE WE HAVE AS
AN ANCHOR OF THE
SOUL, A HOPE BOTH
SURE AND STEADFAST
AND ONE WHICH
ENTERS WITHIN THE
VEIL, WHERE JESUS HAS
ENTERED AS A FORERUN-
NER FOR US...

HEBREWS 6:19-20

**AMPLIFYING THE MISSION OF THE LOCAL
CHURCH WORLDWIDE THROUGH FAITH-
INFUSED BIBLICAL TRAINING AND EDUCATION.**

DEGREE PROGRAMS:

CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP

CAMP MINISTRY

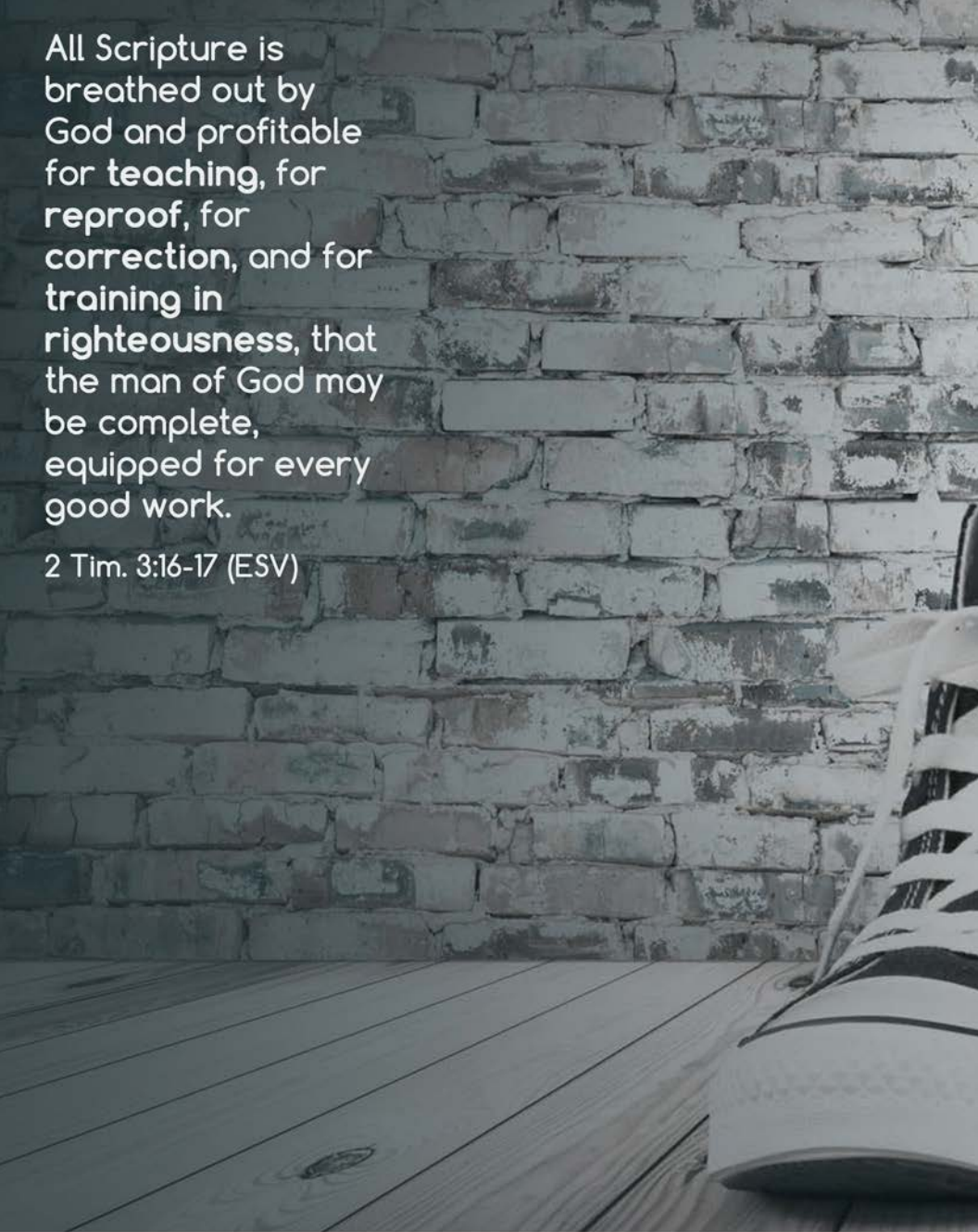
INTERCULTURAL MINISTRY

FAMILY MINISTRY

URBAN MINISTRY

YOUTH MINISTRY


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The background of the image is a textured stone wall with a wooden floor in the foreground. A white sneaker with black stripes is partially visible on the right side. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

All Scripture is
breathed out by
God and profitable
for teaching, for
reproof, for
correction, and for
training in
righteousness, that
the man of God may
be complete,
equipped for every
good work.

2 Tim. 3:16-17 (ESV)

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