

HOW TO STUDY A BIBLE PASSAGE
40 Days In The Word - Part 4
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The key to Bible Study is asking good questions:

1. Observation: What does it say?
2. Interpretation: What does it mean?
3. Correlation: What other verses explain it?
4. Application: What will I do about it?

*I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, that I also may be cheered when I receive news about you. ²⁰ I have no one else like him, who will show genuine concern for your welfare. ²¹ For everyone looks out for their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ.²² But you know that Timothy has proved himself, because as a son with his father he has served with me in the work of the gospel. ²³ I hope, therefore, to send him as soon as I see how things go with me. ²⁴ And I am confident in the Lord that I myself will come soon. ²⁵ But I think it is necessary to send back to you Epaphroditus, my brother, co-worker and fellow soldier, who is also your messenger, whom you sent to take care of my needs. ²⁶ For he longs for all of you and is distressed because you heard he was ill. ²⁷ Indeed he was ill, and almost died. But God had mercy on him, and not on him only but also on me, to spare me sorrow upon sorrow. ²⁸ Therefore I am all the more eager to send him, so that when you see him again you may be glad and I may have less anxiety. ²⁹ So then, welcome him in the Lord with great joy, and honor people like him, ³⁰ because he almost died for the work of Christ. He risked his life to make up for the help you yourselves could not give me. **Philippians 2:19-30 (NIV)***

*“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the servant of God^[a] may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. **2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NIV)***

*“For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.” **Romans 15:4 (NIV)***

- **OBSERVATION: What does it SAY?**
 - Paul intended to send two men to Philippi
“I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy...” vs. 19

"I think it is necessary to send Epaphroditus back to you" vs. 25

o Paul endorse them as role models who deserve honor

vs. 20 (Timothy) *"I have no one else like him!"*

vs. 29 (Epaphroditus) *"Welcome him... HONOR men like him"*

o What does it mean to be like these men? What are they like?

From observation we can see 5 characteristics (listed on outline)

vs. 20-21 *"takes a genuine interest"*

vs. 22 *"has proved himself"*

vs. 25 *"my brother, fellow worker, fellow soldier"*

vs. 26 *"longs for all of you and is distressed"*

vs.27-30 *"almost died for the work of Christ, risking his life"*

- **INTERPRETATION: What does it MEAN?**

VS. 20-21 *"I have no one else like him, who will show genuine concern for your welfare. ²¹ For everyone looks out for their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ."*

(TEV) *"genuinely cares for you ... others only care about themselves"*

(Ph) *"...they are all wrapped up in their own affairs..."*

So How to identify a selfish man before it's too late:

- 1) Does he only talk about himself ?
- 2) Does he ever open the door for you?
- 3) Has he ever brought you a meal because he knew you were too busy to eat?
- 4) Does he go out of his way to make sure you feel safe?
- 5) Does he ever ask for your opinion?
- 6) Does he ask you for sex?
- 7) Will he cancel his plans if you're sick so he can take care of you?
- 8) Is he obsessed with his appearance
- 9) Will he do something he doesn't like to do just to spend time with you?
- 9) Does he pick up his messes?

1. A GODLY MAN IS CARING

VS. 22 *"But you know that Timothy has proved himself, because as a son with his father he has served with me in the work of the gospel."*

2. A GODLY MAN IS CONSISTENT

3. A GODLY MAN IS COOPERATIVE

VS. 25 *“But I think it is necessary to send back to you Epaphroditus, my brother, co-worker and fellow soldier, who is also your messenger, whom you sent to take care of my needs.”*

The Christian Life is:

- **A Family**
- **A Fellowship**
- **A Fight**

We’re more effective when we work together

4. A GODLY MAN IS CONSIDERATE

VS. 26 *“For he longs for all of you and is distressed because you heard he was ill.”*

1 Peter 3:7 (NIV) *“Husbands be considerate as you live with your wives”*

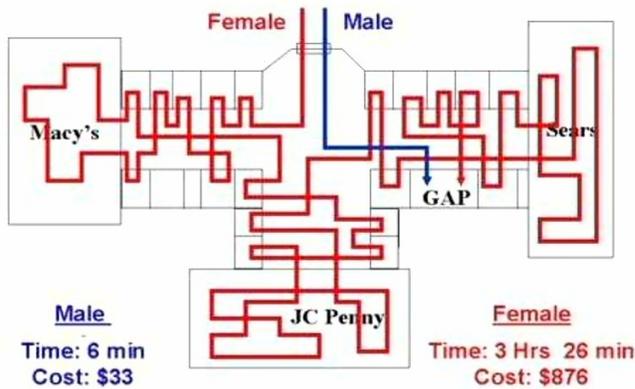
We are not, by nature, naturally considerate of differences (men/women)

Pic 1: 1. Physiological Differences between men & women



2. How men and women make decisions

Mission: Go to Gap, Buy a Pair of Pants



3. Chances of a man winning an argument

Chances of a Man Winning an Argument



5. A GODLY MAN IS COURAGEOUS AND FEARLESS!

VS.27+30 "Indeed he was ill, and almost died...he almost died for the work of Christ, RISKING HIS LIFE to make up for the help you couldn't give me."

Q: Is your commitment to Christ deep enough to cause you to risk anything?

- **CORRELATION: What other verses explain it?**

1. Anything else about the people mentioned?

2. Anything about the qualities mentioned?

- **APPLICATION: What will I DO about it?**

o So far, you've learned 3 ways to think/meditate on the Bible
Pronounce ... Picture it ... Probe (S.P.A.C.E.P.E.T.S)

Personal – must apply it to myself

Practical & Possible – something I can DO

Provable – set a deadline!

Suggestions for possible application:

1. Think of ways to honor people this week who model these qualities.
2. Ask which of these 5 qualities will I work on this week?

This week's memory verse: *"I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you."* Psalm 119:11