



ontrack devotions

JANUARY

2022

1 THESS. - PHILEMON

# MONTHLY PRAYER SHEET

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

Who I Will Reach

How I Will Do It

How It Went

Other Requests

Date 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.

## **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 church \_\_\_\_\_ time(s) this month.

I will attend small group \_\_\_\_\_ time(s) this month.

I will attend \_\_\_\_\_ time(s) this month.

(List any other activities you will participate in this month—Bible study, church events, etc.)

## **Bible Memory:**

How did I do with Bible memory last month? \_\_\_\_\_

I will memorize \_\_\_\_\_ verse(s) this month.

## **Outreach:**

How did I do last month with sharing Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_

I will share Jesus with \_\_\_\_\_ this month.

I will serve my local church this month by \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How often do you pray? If you were to describe your prayer life, what words would you use? As you have been reading through the New Testament these past few months, have you noticed how much time Paul spent in prayer? 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 with other people. 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? As you begin to pray faithfully, you will see God do amazing things. 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?

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Observation: What do I see?

### SO WHAT?

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Interpretation: What does it mean?

### NOW WHAT?

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Application: How does it apply to me?

### THEN WHAT?

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Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING  
1 THESSALONIANS 1

**PROVERBS 29**

The book of Proverbs was designed to help us in "gaining wisdom and instruction; for understanding words of insight; for receiving instruction in prudent behavior, doing what is right and just and fair; for giving prudence to those who are 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

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## MOTIVATION

Why didn't Paul give up when he faced great opposition and criticism? What was it that kept him going? Although he had faced suffering, insults, and opposition in Phillipi, Paul tells us that they continued to share the Gospel. Most people would have given up or at least toned it down to avoid some of the opposition. But, Paul kept on going. Why? The answer begins in verse 3. It was because their efforts were not based on error or impure motives. They were not motivated by the approval of men or appearing to be spiritual. They shared because they knew God wanted them to. 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. If you follow Jesus, how well do you stand up to opposition at school, in your family, or at work? Do you realize you have been entrusted with the greatest message on earth? Is your only motivation to please God? If you don't follow Jesus, what is stopping you from following Him? Who can you talk to about this today?

## 1 THESSALONIANS 2:1-8

**SAY WHAT?**


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Observation: What do I see?

**SO WHAT?**


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Interpretation: What does it mean?

**NOW WHAT?**


---

Application: How does it apply to me?

**THEN WHAT?**


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Implementation: What do I do?

## EXTRA READING

1 THESSALONIANS 2

## 1 THESSALONIANS 3:1-8

## CARING FOR PEOPLE

**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 concerned are you about the people in your world? How concerned are you about where your friends are in their spiritual journey? 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 "For now we really live because you are standing firm in the Lord." That is remarkable concern! Do people you know affect you in this way? Are you so concerned about their journey with God that you are constantly thinking of them? Do you wonder if they are faithfully reading their Bible? Do you wonder if they are overcoming temptation? Does their spiritual progress 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?

EXTRA READING  
1 THESSALONIANS 3

## SEXUAL PURITY

## 1 THESSALONIANS 4:1-12

Why is it wrong to have sex outside of marriage? Sadly, many people don't know what the Bible says about this issue. 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. But, because God is a gracious and loving God, there is always hope and forgiveness for our failure. Is this an area you struggle in? Do you need help to make sure you are following God's Word when it comes to sexual purity?

**SAY WHAT?**


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What other verses in the Bible talk about purity?

**SO WHAT?**


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

**NOW WHAT?**


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Write down two things you will start doing to ensure you remain sexually pure? Who can help you?

**THEN WHAT?**


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Who will you talk to today to help you with your plan?

## EXTRA READING

1 THESSALONIANS 4

## 1 THESSALONIANS 4:13-18

## GRIEF

**SAY WHAT?**

Observation: What do I see?

If you follow Jesus, is it ok to cry and be grieved over the death of a loved one? Some might use a passage like today's reading to support a position that we should not grieve when people die. A closer look at this section will show us that is 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."

**SO WHAT?**

Interpretation: What does it mean?

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 to feel the grief and sorrow that it brings, but remember that you still have hope.

**NOW WHAT?**

Application: How does it apply to me?

**THEN WHAT?**

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING  
1 THESSALONIANS 4

Who was Paul talking about 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 pastors? 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 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 difficulties have you endured in your life?

**SO WHAT?**

What positive qualities have they produced?

**NOW WHAT?**

What is one way you can respond better when trials or difficulties come into your life?

**THEN WHAT?**

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

Can you think of something positive that happened to someone as a result of a trial? What positive characteristics are a part of your life because of the trials you have faced? Paul saw great characteristics in the Thessalonians from the trials they had gone through. He thanked God that, first of all, they had grown in their faith. Trials had helped them 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 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. 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

The book of Proverbs was designed to help us in "gaining wisdom and instruction; for understanding words of insight; for receiving instruction in prudent behavior, doing what is right and just and fair; for giving prudence to those who are 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

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## 2 THESSALONIANS 2:1-12

## REJECTION

**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 do people go to hell? Is God the one who chooses for them to spend eternity there? According to this passage, Paul tells the Thessalonians that people go to hell because they have refused to love the truth, accept salvation, and follow Jesus. He lets them know that they have had the opportunity to hear and understand the Gospel but have refused to love and believe it. People make their own decision concerning eternity. God doesn't do that. 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 need to talk to about this?

EXTRA READING  
2 THESSALONIANS 2

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 set us apart for salvation. It is not because of anything we had or could have done, but because of what God did. 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 because we all deserve that. It is that some get to go to heaven. If you are saved, 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?

### 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 3:6-15

## WORK ETHIC

**SAY WHAT?**

List the different areas you demonstrate your work ethic.

**SO WHAT?**

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

**NOW WHAT?**

In what areas do you need to do a better job?

**THEN WHAT?**

What commitment can you make in light of this passage?

What does the word idle mean? How do we respond to idle people? The word translated in the NIV as "idle" is a military term that means "out of rank." Someone who is idle is acting out of rank. In this context, the specific behavior Paul had in mind was someone who follows Jesus and was not working for a living or being lazy. What should our response be to someone who follows Jesus who is idle? Paul tells us to not associate with him. That does not mean to withdraw with an air of superiority, but to demonstrate 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 following Jesus 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?

EXTRA READING  
2 THESSALONIANS 3

What does it mean to be saved? Too often, people who are saved seem to be apathetic about salvation. 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 verses 15 and 16, he explained salvation and 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 Jesus. His own salvation gave hope to other violent men. If you are saved, how is your life different from those who do not know Jesus? Is there someone you know who needs to see and hear the ways in which Jesus changed your life? If you are not saved, what is stopping you from following Jesus?

### SAY WHAT?

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Observation: What do I see?

### SO WHAT?

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Interpretation: What does it mean?

### NOW WHAT?

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Application: How does it apply to me?

### THEN WHAT?

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Implementation: What do I do?

## EXTRA READING

1 TIMOTHY 1

## 1 TIMOTHY 2:8-15

## MODESTY

**SAY WHAT?**

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 actions and not your physical appearance?

**THEN WHAT?**

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

Is Paul saying it is wrong for women to wear jewelry or braid their hair? A close look at this chapter will give us the answer. The principle Paul wanted us to grasp is modesty. Modesty, in this context, is 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 actions. His point was that women should not be known or noticed for how they look, but for the kind of people they are. If you are a woman, what are you noticed for? When people talk about you, what do they say? For someone who wants to please God, her priority should not be her looks, but how she follows God and how she treats 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 way God chose to share the Gospel with the world. There is simply too much at stake to allow unqualified people to hold the positions of deacon or pastor in our churches. If you feel God may be leading you to be a pastor or deacon, make sure you work to meet these requirements and that your spouse or future spouse does as well. The church needs faithful and godly men and women!

### SAY WHAT?

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Observation: What do I see?

### SO WHAT?

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Interpretation: What does it mean?

### NOW WHAT?

---

Application: How does it apply to me?

### THEN WHAT?

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Implementation: What do I do?

## EXTRA READING

1 TIMOTHY 3

**PROVERBS 31**

The book of Proverbs was designed to help us in "gaining wisdom and instruction; for understanding words of insight; for receiving instruction in prudent behavior, doing what is right and just and fair; for giving prudence to those who are 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

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How much of a difference can a teenager make in this world? Do you have to be an adult to be able to change 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. 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 make you feel unimportant or insignificant. Instead, you should strive to be an example in your speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity. Maybe the reason so few teenagers positively influence others is that they do not set an example in these areas. If you are going to influence others, you have to be someone they respect. How are you doing in these five areas?

### SAY WHAT?

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How are you doing in these five areas (speech, conduct, love, faith and purity)?

### SO WHAT?

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In what ways have you struggled to be an example in these five areas?

### NOW WHAT?

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Name two things you should change in order to be an example in these areas.

### THEN WHAT?

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

## EXTRA READING

1 TIMOTHY 4

## 1 TIMOTHY 5:1-16

## WIDOWS

**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?

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 taking care of widows is very important to God. The job of the church is to determine which widows are really in need. 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 care for widows is clear. Make the commitment to start doing that today.

EXTRA READING  
1 TIMOTHY 5

How are pastors often 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. 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 pastors? In what way can you encourage them today?

### 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 6:3-10

## MATERIALISM

**SAY WHAT?**

What are some of your goals in life?

**SO WHAT?**

How can you tell if materialism is one of your motivations?

**NOW WHAT?**

What is one area you need to be more content in?

**THEN WHAT?**

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

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. Paul wanted Timothy to be sure to warn people about 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. Pursuing money leads to destruction and contentment 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 contentment your priority, not gaining money. Demonstrate it by the choices you make for your future!

EXTRA READING  
1 TIMOTHY 6

Did you notice the contrast between verses 9-10 and verses 11-16. In verses 9-10, we see a person who has made it his goal to be rich. However, in verses 11-16, we see a person who has made it his goal to be goldy. 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. What an empty life pursuing money brings. If we examine your life and the choices you are making, what would we conclude your priorities are? Your priority will be either godliness or money. What needs to change to have your priorities reflect a pursuit of godliness and not money?

### SAY WHAT?

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Observation: What do I see?

### SO WHAT?

---

Interpretation: What does it mean?

### NOW WHAT?

---

Application: How does it apply to me?

### THEN WHAT?

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Implementation: What do I do?

## EXTRA READING

1 TIMOTHY 6

## 2 TIMOTHY 1:6-18

## BRINGING JOY

**SAY WHAT?**

List the people who have contributed 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? 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

The book of Proverbs was designed to help us in "gaining wisdom and instruction; for understanding words of insight; for receiving instruction in prudent behavior, doing what is right and just and fair; for giving prudence to those who are 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

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## 2 TIMOTHY 2:8-13

## FAITHFUL

**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?

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 when we doubt, God is still faithful. What a great God we serve!

EXTRA READING  
2 TIMOTHY 2

In today's reading, we find one of the most important principles in Scripture. It is found in verse 22. Paul told 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 someone can. There is no provision here to see how close someone can get to sin without actually sinning. We are to run away from anything that might encourage us to sin. It is not about where the line of sin is, but how far away from the line we 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 or listen to things and go places that don't motivate us to run from evil desires. We must stay as far away as possible from evil desires and thoughts. As you make plans this week, remember to flee evil desires.

### SAY WHAT?

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

### SO WHAT?

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How can you better flee them?

### NOW WHAT?

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

### THEN WHAT?

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What personal commitment can you make after reading these verses?

EXTRA READING  
2 TIMOTHY 2

## 2 TIMOTHY 3:10-17

## BIBLE 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?

How important to you is reading your Bible? According to today's reading, it should be the most important thing you can do each day. It should be the one activity you never miss. Paul reminds Timothy that the Bible has been inspired by God and is His 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 make sure reading the Bible is a priority?

EXTRA READING  
2 TIMOTHY 3

Would you be ready if someone came up to you today and asked you a question about God or the Bible? In today's reading, Paul gave Timothy an important charge. He wrote, in verse 2, for Timothy to be ready both in season and out of season to give people answers for the hope he had. Some of us would be ready after church or when we were expecting questions, but most of us aren't always ready. Timothy needed to be ready all the time. In order to always be ready, he would have to make time to read and study the Bible. What would it take for you to always be ready? You never know when your opportunity will come. If you have questions, who is someone you know is always ready that you can ask.

### 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?

## EXTRA READING

2 TIMOTHY 4

## TITUS 1:1-9

## CHILDREN

**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 part of his life? Paul answers that question in this passage. Titus was left by Paul in Crete to appoint pastors in every town. To be sure that he would appoint the right men, Paul left him some particular instructions about what qualifications these men should have. Interestingly, there are requirements for the pastor as well as his children. Paul told Titus to examine how they conducted their personal lives and examine the lives of their children. Children often do not consider how their conduct influences their parents. Though this passage addresses pastor's children, they are not alone in their ability to impact their parents lives. Your parent may not be a pastor, but they want to influence their workplace or community, and your behavior can hinder or help their efforts. You may have unsaved parents and your conduct provides an opportunity to give credibility to the claims of Jesus. We must all consider how our conduct reflects Jesus and impacts those around us.

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 convict. 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 following Jesus attractive. What impact does your behavior have on those who observe your life? Is following Jesus attractive to them because of the way you live? What an awesome opportunity it is to influence those around you!

### SAY WHAT?

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What kind of behavior makes following Jesus attractive?

### SO WHAT?

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What kind of behavior makes following Jesus unattractive?

### NOW WHAT?

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What can you do to make sure your behavior makes following Jesus attractive?

### THEN WHAT?

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

EXTRA READING  
TITUS 2

## TITUS 3:1-11

## 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 what it means to follow Jesus. Paul begins, in verse 3, by describing what people are like before they become a follower of Jesus. It is not very flattering, is it? In verses 4-6, he tells us how someone becomes a follower of Jesus. 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. Salvation happens 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 salvation is. It should motivate them to do good. When we stop and consider what Jesus has done for us, how can we do anything less? Reread this section and ask yourself if you are following Jesus. If you are, what good are you doing? If you are not following Jesus, who can you talk to about it today?

EXTRA READING  
TITUS 3

Although the theme of this book is forgiveness, there is an awesome truth included about prayer. 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 others. 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 Philemon to have opportunities to share what Jesus had done in his life. He wanted him to be active in building relationships with people so that they might come to know Jesus. Think of the influence a church could have in your town if people were active in sharing their faith and building relationships with those who need Jesus and the hope he gives. If you follow Jesus, are you praying for and building relationships with those who need Him? Are you actively sharing your faith?

### SAY WHAT?

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Who is someone you know who needs Jesus?

### SO WHAT?

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How might their life be different if they followed Jesus?

### NOW WHAT?

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What plan can you create to remain faithful to pray for them?

### THEN WHAT?

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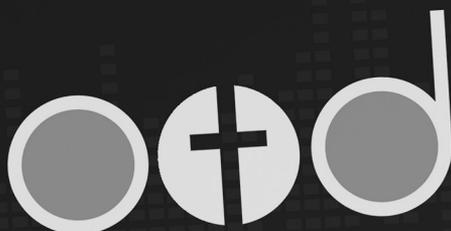
What personal commitment should you make in light of this passage?

EXTRA READING  
PHILEMON





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the Word of God

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PHILEMON 1:7



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