

# 10 Devotional Method of Study

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A tired, hungry traveler in a desolate place finds a beautiful tree, laden with delicious fruit. His one desire is to eat a piece of the fruit, to be nourished and refreshed by it. After he has eaten, he may consider the tree. He may note where it is growing, the shape of its leaves and branches, its color and fragrance. No matter how much he satisfies his curiosity about the lovely tree itself, however, it is his eating of the fruit that satisfies his hunger and nourishes his body. *The part of the tree that you eat is the part that gives you life.*

So it is with God's Holy Word, the Bible. Every aspect of it is intriguing. No human mind ever can reach the depths or the heights of it because, like its Author, it is eternal and infinite. New aspects of familiar verses will continue to unfold as long as you study Scripture. Like the beautiful tree and its fruit, the part of the Scripture that you *eat*, is the part that gives you life.

How can I *eat* Scripture? I must begin by reading it, but I must do more than that. I must internalize it through *devotional study*. I must make its teachings my own. When I do this, Scripture becomes my spiritual food and gives me spiritual life. Jesus said, "The words I have spoken to you bring God's lifegiving Spirit" (John 6:63).

## ***lesson outline***

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Introduction to Devotional Bible Study

Devotional Study of a Verse

Devotional Study of a Paragraph

Devotional Study of a Longer Segment

## ***lesson objectives***

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When you finish this lesson you should be able to:

1. Describe the spirit and textual composition of devotional Bible study.
2. Apply observation and interpretation to a devotional study of Philippians 2:1.
3. Apply observation and interpretation to a devotional study of Philippians 2:1-5.
4. Apply observation and interpretation to a devotional study of Philippians 2:1-11.

## ***learning activities***

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1. Read the opening section, outline, and objectives.
2. Learn the meanings of key words that are new to you.
3. Read the lesson development, answering each study question as you come to it.
4. Use your notebook for all except the very short answers.
5. Open your heart to the Holy Spirit as you study, so that the Word of God can truly become the *Bread of Life* to you.
6. Take the self-test at the end of the lesson and check your answers.

## ***key words***

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amplified  
internalize

intriguing  
procedure

segment  
vice versa

## lesson development

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### INTRODUCTION TO DEVOTIONAL BIBLE STUDY

**Objective 1.** *Describe the spirit and textual composition of devotional Bible study.*

One author has said of devotional Bible study,

“[It] is not so much a technique as a spirit. It is the spirit of eagerness which seeks the mind of God; it is the spirit of humility which listens readily to the voice of God, it is the spirit of adoration which rests in the presence of God” (H. F. Vos, *Effective Bible Study*, Zondervan, 1956, p. 172).

Throughout this course, you have been urged to make your studies more than intellectual exercises. You have become aware of the *devotional attitude* each time you have entered into the study of Scripture with an open heart and found it speaking to you personally. There really are no new techniques to present in this lesson. Devotional study is accomplished by combining all the tools and skills you have been learning. What is important to learn here, however, is purpose.

The main purpose of devotional Bible study is to personally feed upon God’s Word, allowing it to become life to you! It is seeking the mind of God. It is listening to the voice of God. It is pursuing the will of God. It is resting in His holy presence in praise and worship. This is accomplished by using every possible means to understanding what the Scriptures are saying, and then responding to the Lord in loving obedience.

Devotional study should be a part of every Christian’s daily activity. It is intensely personal. While there may be times when a devotional study is prepared to be shared with others, its main purpose remains personal. What is the Holy Spirit saying to me? Devotional study will help me find the answer.

Because Christians have an enemy who tries to keep them from knowing and doing God’s will, you may find more

hindrances to your study when you are studying in this manner. Peter warns us:

Be alert, be on watch! Your enemy, the Devil, roams around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. Be firm in your faith and resist him, because you know that your fellow believers in all the world are going through the same kind of sufferings (1 Peter 5:8-9).

**Application**

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**1** Write **T** in the blank space preceding these statements if the statement is true. Write **F** if the statement is false.

- ... **a** A devotional Bible study should be prepared only when you have to speak to a group.
- ... **b** Devotional study should be done every day by every believer in Jesus.
- ... **c** Devotional study should primarily interest the intellect.
- ... **d** Devotional study should primarily feed the spirit.

**2** Review the first paragraph of the lesson development. Use it to complete the following sentences concerning *devotional Bible study*.

- a** It is the spirit of .....
- b** It is the spirit of .....
- c** It is the spirit of .....



The text for devotional Bible study can be a *word*, a *verse*, a *paragraph*, or a *longer segment* of Scripture. In this lesson you will not make a devotional study based on just one word because such a study would require access to reference materials which could give you further insight into the ways specific words are used in the original Greek and Hebrew texts. This sort of study cannot be covered in this course. Your studies will be based on a verse, a paragraph, and a longer segment—all from Philippians.

*Verse and chapter division.* Verse and chapter divisions are not found in the original Greek and Hebrew texts of the Bible. Scripture has traditionally been divided that way by translators to break up the text into smaller portions for better understanding. Once in a while you may find that the first verse of one chapter would fit better if it were the last verse of the previous chapter, or vice versa. The choice of just where to begin and end the chapters was made several centuries ago. The great convenience of having Scripture divided into easy-to-handle sections far outweighs any problem about which verse should end the chapter! You always are free to start or stop your study at any logical place. Just be sure that your starting or stopping does not alter the meaning of the passage. Include all the words that make the thought complete.


*Paragraphs.* Usually, modern translators include not only chapter and verse division but also divide the Scripture into paragraphs. A *paragraph* is grouping together of sentences that relate to the same main topic. The first line of that group of sentences is *indented* to show transition from one thought to another. A paragraph is a convenient unit to study.

These small “bites” of Scripture will be important to devotional study. When Jesus was tempted by Satan, He quoted the Scripture which says, “Man cannot live on bread alone, but needs every word that God speaks” (Matthew 4:4). Jesus was quoting from Deuteronomy 8:3. You will be studying small portions of Scripture intensely as though you were looking at them under a microscope. You will try to understand each phrase as thoroughly as possible. You will be asking the Bible questions as you learned to do in Lesson 2 and Lesson 5.

*Longer segments.* Sometimes you may want to use longer segments such as several paragraphs or more than one chapter. The length of the text is not as important as the “listening heart.”

## Application

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- 3** The most likely text for a devotional study would be
- a book of the Bible.
  - a paragraph of Scripture.
  - a group of books such as the four Gospels.
- 4** (Circle the letters before *all* the correct endings.) Verse and chapter divisions of the Scripture
- are a convenience for reading and understanding.
  - are of no value to a student.
  - were found in the original Greek and Hebrew texts.
  - were decided upon by translators, centuries ago.
  - have recently been added by modern translators.
  - always mark where a study should begin or end.
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## DEVOTIONAL STUDY OF A VERSE

**Objective 2.** *Apply observation and interpretation to a devotional study of Philippians 2:1.*

It is true that in devotional study, heart attitude is more important than intellectual technique. It is true also that methodical study is more valuable than random or haphazard study. A good Bible scholar will combine right attitude of heart with best method of study. You will be responding to God's Word to feed your spirit, and you will bring to bear all you have learned about Bible study.

In this section of the lesson, you will consider three convenient steps in making a devotional study. Then you will be asked to apply the last two of them to Philippians 2:1. The steps are: Choose the Text, Observe the Facts, Interpret the Facts.

*Choose the Text.* The first step is to decide on the verse to be studied. You will rely heavily on the Holy Spirit to direct your attention to His Word for *you* at that particular time. This reliance is difficult to explain to anyone because it is so

personal. But if you are a Christian and you spend time with the Word of God, you probably are aware of the way the Holy Spirit quickens your mind to certain Scriptures. I have heard Christians say such things as “the letters just seemed to jump off the page,” or “it seemed like that verse was printed in letters of gold.” Each of you who seeks God for guidance in the study of the Word knows that the Holy Spirit has His own special way of attracting your attention!

So, one way to choose a verse is to pay close attention to a given passage of Scripture. You may be especially drawn to a verse as you read. Any time you read the Bible, make a note of verses that are interesting to you. The verses that lend themselves to devotional study are those which contain *directions to follow* or *warnings to heed*.

What if you receive no “special” guidance? Does that mean you should not study the Word? By no means! “All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching the truth, rebuking error, correcting faults, and giving instruction for right living” (2 Timothy 3:16). So, if you are not drawn especially to any verse, just choose one that contains directions to follow or warnings to heed.

*Observe the Facts.* The second step is to read the verse thoughtfully many times. As you read, think this question to yourself: “*If I had to give this verse a three or four word title, what would it be?*”

By thinking of a title for the verse, you will grasp the main idea in it. When you have the main idea of the verse, read it through and *list all the facts you can find in it*. Look for facts that are either *directly stated* or *implied* by this verse. Look for answers to the questions you learned to ask in Lesson 2: WHO? WHAT? HOW? WHEN? WHERE? (You will not be able to find answers to all five of these questions in every verse you study.) Make a note of the names of things, the action words, *the words that describe things*. All of these observations should be written in your notebook.

*Interpret the Facts.* The third step is to interpret the verse by writing the meaning of it in your own words. By doing this, you will be answering the question that is the key to interpretation: “What does this mean?” For your devotional study you will ask a second question: “What does this mean to *me*?”

In preparing a devotional study you will be more interested in finding truth to feed your spirit than in technical matters. However, all the skills you have learned should be brought to bear on the text whenever you study the Bible. Let me illustrate what I mean.

You learned in Lesson 5 that *repetition* is a principle of composition. You learned to notice repetition as you study Scripture because it is a forceful literary device in the hands of a skillful writer. Repetition brings unity to a passage of Scripture. It indicates *emphasis*.

The *reason* for repetition is what makes it important! When you learn to recognize *repetition*, it is not just so you can say, “That *truth* must be *important* because the Holy Spirit has stressed it by repetition!” Your technical knowledge should help you handle truth more accurately. The skills you have learned all through this course will become *tools* to help you recognize and understand truth for your personal benefit!

## Application

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- 5** Circle the letter in front of each correct statement.
- a)** Verses of the Bible that lend themselves to devotional study are those which contain directions to follow or warnings to heed.
  - b)** You should study only verses you feel especially attracted to.
  - c)** All Scripture is useful for teaching the truth and giving instruction for right living.
  - d)** The second step in preparing a devotional study is *interpretation*.
  - e)** The key question in interpretation of Scripture is: “What does this mean?”
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Review Lesson 2 in this Study Guide. Especially note what you learned about the *observing* and *interpreting* steps in the study of Scripture.

## Application

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- 6** *Repetition* is important primarily because it
- a) is a principle of composition.
  - b) is “technical” knowledge.
  - c) indicates emphasis.
- 7** Which one of these statements concerning preparation of a devotional study is true?
- a) Since you are seeking spiritual food, you can ignore the study skills you have learned.
  - b) You discover and understand truth by using in a prayerful, thoughtful way all the skills you have learned.
  - c) It is of primary importance to be able to say you can recognize the principles of composition.

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Now you are ready to apply a devotional study to one verse: Philippians 2:1. Throughout the following exercises, it is extremely important that you follow each direction on your own, writing down all your findings in your notebook *before* you look at the answers in the study textbook. Expect your answers to be somewhat different from those given. Do not feel that you must change yours unless they are obviously wrong. Step one, *choosing the text*, has already been done for you. Write the reference, PHILIPPIANS 2:1, at the top of a page in your notebook.

## Application

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- 8** Read Philippians 2:1 many times. You should memorize it. Write a three or four word title for this verse.
- 9** Observe the facts as you read Philippians 2:1 over again. Write brief answers to the questions: WHO? WHAT? HOW? and WHEN?

**10** Interpretation of facts. In your own words, write an amplified statement on this verse, using the pronoun “I” instead of “you.” Write thoughtfully and prayerfully, keeping in mind the two key questions: “What does this mean?” and “What does this mean to me?”

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## DEVOTIONAL STUDY OF A PARAGRAPH

**Objective 3.** *Apply observation and interpretation to a devotional study of Philippians 2:1-5.*

Devotional study of a paragraph is very similar to devotional study of a verse. The paragraph you will study in this section is Philippians 2:1-5. First, you will read each verse carefully and assign a short three or four word title to it as you did for Philippians 2:1.

Second, you will observe the facts. That is, reread as many times as necessary to find answers to the five *fact* questions: WHO? WHAT? HOW? WHEN? WHERE? Note the verbs or actions, the statements of truth, the commands and warnings. When you begin to clearly understand the message of the paragraph, you will write a three or four word title for the paragraph.

The third step will be interpretation. It will include the writing in your own words of a statement of meaning on this paragraph. This statement will bring all your observations and interpretations together in a unified whole.

The following questions will guide you through a study of Philippians 2:1-5. Write your answers to them in your notebook *before* you look at the ones in the study textbook. The answers may vary, so do not think you have to change your answers unless they seem to need correction.

## Application


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**11** Read each individual verse of Philippians 2:1-5 several times. Give each verse a two or three word title that briefly summarizes the main thought of the verse. Write these titles on your notebook page as though they were the main headings of an outline. Leave several spaces between them so that factual observations can be placed under each verse title, as you develop this outline. (Review the outlining procedure in the section of Lesson 7 titled “Outlining Habakkuk.”) At the top of this page, write a short title for your outline that summarizes the ideas in the paragraph.

**12** Reread each verse of Philippians 2:1-5 with the five fact questions in mind: WHO? WHAT? HOW? WHEN? WHERE? (You will not find answers to all of them in every verse, of course.) You will be looking also for statements of truth, commands, warnings, and principles of composition that are clues to what the Holy Spirit intended to emphasize. With all this in mind, write subtopics under each of the five verse titles and details under your subtopics for verse 3 only.

Note: Space did not permit a complete outline of every observation in our answer to the preceding exercise, but please note in verse 2 of the following phrases: “same thoughts . . . same love . . . being one in soul and mind.” What literary devices do you see in use here? *Repetition?* *Continuity?* Yes. There also is *continuation*, which is the extension of an idea. When a passage is built up in this way, it becomes very forceful. It lets us know that the idea being presented is one which is very important to God. The suggested outline in the answer section to the study textbook will not contain all of these kinds of observations, but be sure that your own notes are complete with all the observations you can make.

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## Application

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**13** Now you are ready for the third step which is *interpretation*. Remember the key questions, “*What does this mean?*” and “*What does this mean to me?*” In your own words, write an amplified statement of meaning on Philippians 2:1-5 using “I” and “my” instead of “you” and “your.” (After all, this devotional study is for personal benefit and it helps to put it in the first person.) Your statement should include all the highlights of the passage that you have found. As you write it prayerfully, the Lord’s Holy Spirit will make it life to you!

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## DEVOTIONAL STUDY OF A LONGER SEGMENT

**Objective 4.** *Apply observation and interpretation to a devotional study of Philippians 2:1-11.*

The procedure you have used for studying verses and paragraphs can be extended to longer passages. For devotional study you will want to choose passages in which all the verses are related in some way. This could be several paragraphs or a whole chapter, but for this kind of study you should be able to see continuation of a topic throughout the passage. Here, the passage for study has been chosen for you.

Philippians 2:1-11 has been chosen so you can see how the study of a single verse and paragraph can relate to the study of the longer passage of which they are a part. We can save time and space by building on the study you have just completed, making it part of the study of the longer passage. In this section, you will examine verses 6-11. Write your findings in your notebook immediately following your study of verses 1-5. The steps will be the same as before, except in a longer passage you may want to find a key verse. Remember the following steps.

First, read each verse carefully, assigning a brief title to it.

Second, observe the *facts*. Reread as many times as necessary to find answers to the five *fact* questions: WHO?

WHAT? HOW? WHEN? WHERE? Note the verbs, or actions, the statements of truth, the commands and warnings. Be sure to find out the meaning of any words you do not know. In a longer passage it is likely that you will see more principles of composition and literary devices you have learned to look for. Write all your observations. Use an outline form as you did for Philippians 2:1- 5. Choose a short new title for the entire passage.

Third, interpret and write your findings, answering the important questions *What does this mean?* and *What does this mean to me?*

Write the answers to the following exercises in your notebook in such a way that they will be a continuation of your study of verses 1-5.

## **Application**

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**14** Read the entire passage (Philippines 2:1-11) several times. By now you are becoming familiar with the first part of the passage, but you will need to read it again to see how it relates to verses 6-11. When you see the entire passage as a whole, choose *a key verse* for it and write the reference to this verse. This verse should be one that seems to sum up the main idea of all the verses, or one that is basic to all the ideas.

**15** Examine again the title you chose for Philippians 2:1-5. Keep the same title, or modify it if necessary, for use with the whole section, 1-11. Now, write the title you have decided on for the whole section.

**16** Since you have already completed a study of the first five verses, start with verse 6. For verses 6-11, read each verse carefully. Write down a three or four word title that briefly summarizes each one. *When you have finished*, compare your titles with those in the study guide. (Answers may vary.)

**17** Now, choose and write a title (based on our key verse, 2:5) for verses 6-11.

**18** You are ready to *observe the facts* in Philippians 2:6-11. Use your verse titles as main points in an outline of this section, as you did for verses 1-5. Review the directions in Exercise 12. Because the study of verses 6-11 is to be a continuation of the passage, continue numbering your main points where you left off at verse five. Your next main point will be VI. Now write subtopics under each of the six verse titles for verses 6-11.

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The study textbook contains only a basic outline. Your own outline should contain every detail of observation that comes to you as you carefully and prayerfully look for what the words actually are saying. Now you are ready to write your interpretation for 2:6-11. This section is one of the most profound, meaningful passages in all of Scripture. We will never be able to understand the full significance of what Jesus Christ did for us when He entered our world as a man, went to His death on the cross, and then received the highest name and the greatest honor from the hand of God the Father. Yet we are to have “the attitude . . . that Christ Jesus had” (verse 5).

### ***Application***

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**19** Review the directions for Exercise 13. Prayerfully consider verses 6-11. Write your answer for them to these questions: What does this mean? What does this mean to me? Answer these questions to the best of your ability as the Holy Spirit helps you.

**20** Finally, write a master statement of meaning for the entire passage, Philippians 2:1-11. (This statement will explain how Philippians 2:6-11 relates to 2:1-5.)

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**self-test**

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- 1** The main difference between devotional Bible study and other kinds of Bible study, is in
  - a)** skills used.
  - b)** technique.
  - c)** purpose.
- 2** The primary purpose of devotional Bible study should be
  - a)** intellectual discovery and understanding.
  - b)** to get personal strength from God's Word.
  - c)** to apply study techniques to Scripture.
- 3** Devotional Bible study can be accomplished best by using
  - a)** verses, paragraphs, or chapters.
  - b)** a whole book.
  - c)** several related books.
- 4** Devotional study should be
  - a)** part of every Christian's daily activity.
  - b)** done only when preparing to speak to a group.
  - c)** reserved for special seasons of the year.
- 5** When studying just a single verse of Scripture
  - a)** a simple reading is sufficient.
  - b)** methodical study is better than haphazard study.
  - c)** Bible study skills are not important or used.
- 6** When studying just a single verse of Scripture,
  - a)** any Bible verse is as good as another.
  - b)** choose an especially long verse.
  - c)** decide on a verse that has directions to follow or warnings to heed.
- 7** What is the key question in interpretation of Scripture?
  - a)** Who is the main person?
  - b)** What does this mean?
  - c)** Where did this take place?

- 8** What is the final step in devotional Bible study?
- a)** Interpretation.
  - b)** Assigning a title.
  - c)** Observation.
- 9** Skills in Bible study should
- a)** become tools to help you handle truth accurately.
  - b)** make you a better Bible teacher than most people.
  - c)** be ignored when you do devotional study.
- 10** The purpose of writing a short title for each verse in a paragraph is to
- a)** keep the study brief.
  - b)** keep you from being concerned with details.
  - c)** help you grasp the main idea in each verse.
- 11** You write your interpretation in a statement of meaning to
- a)** shorten the passage.
  - b)** unify all your observations and interpretations.
  - c)** tell the most important thing in the passage.
- 12** Whether a devotional study is based on a verse, or a paragraph, or several paragraphs will
- a)** completely change the steps for the study.
  - b)** change very little the steps for the study.
  - c)** greatly change the steps for the study.
- 13** In devotional study of a longer passage,
- a)** only the general, overall thought is important.
  - b)** each verse is important for what it contributes to the whole passage.
  - c)** one reading can usually reveal all there is to see.
- 14** When you are choosing a longer passage for devotional study,
- a)** it helps to have many topics introduced in it.
  - b)** choose a passage in which all verses are related to one another in some way.
  - c)** the passage must start or stop with the chapter divisions.

Be sure to complete your unit student report for Unit 3 and return the answer sheet to your GU instructor.



**answers to study questions**

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- I**
- a** F
  - b** T
  - c** F
  - d** T

**10** In Jesus Christ I have all that I need to keep me steadfast and secure as a person, and make me more than a conqueror as a believer! The fact that my life is in Christ is my source of strength! He never fails! When I need comfort, I find it in His love. I have fellowship with the Spirit so I am never alone! Fellowship implies communication and sharing of interests. The more I conform my life to Jesus Christ, the closer this fellowship can become. Kindness and compassion should describe my attitudes and actions toward fellow believers and theirs toward me.

- 2**
- a** eagerness which seeks the mind of God.
  - b** humility which listens readily to the voice of God.
  - c** adoration which rests in the presence of God.

**11 CHRISTIAN RELATIONSHIPS**

- |             |         |                    |
|-------------|---------|--------------------|
| <b>I.</b>   | Verse 1 | GOD, SELF, OTHERS  |
| <b>II.</b>  | Verse 2 | CHRISTIAN UNITY    |
| <b>III.</b> | Verse 3 | CHRISTIAN MOTIVE   |
| <b>IV.</b>  | Verse 4 | CHRISTIAN CONCERN  |
| <b>V.</b>   | Verse 5 | CHRISTIAN ATTITUDE |

**3 b)** a paragraph of Scripture.

**12 CHRISTIAN RELATIONSHIPS**

- I.** GOD, SELF, OTHERS
- A.** Strength from Life in Christ
  - B.** Comfort from Christ
  - C.** Fellowship with Holy Spirit
  - D.** Kindness and Compassion for One Another

**II. CHRISTIAN UNITY**

- A.** Have Same Thoughts
- B.** Share Same Love
- C.** Be One in Soul and Mind

**III. CHRISTIAN MOTIVE**

- A.** Wrong Motives
  - 1.** Selfish Ambition
  - 2.** Cheap Desire to Boast
- B.** Right Motives
  - 1.** Humility Toward One Another
  - 2.** Always Consider Others Better than Yourself

**IV. CHRISTIAN CONCERN**

- A.** Not Just For Your Own Interests
- B.** Concern for One Another's Interests

**V. CHRISTIAN ATTITUDE**

- A.** Attitude that Christ Jesus Had
- B.** The Believer Needs It

- 4** **a)** are a convenience for reading and understanding.  
**d)** were decided upon by translators, centuries ago.

**13** Philippians 2:1-5 shows that the foundation for all right personal relationships is my life in Jesus Christ. Only when I am strong in the Lord can I relate rightly to others. As the completeness of Christ's life flows through me, I have inner strength, comfort, and fellowship. Then His love shining through me can show kindness and compassion to others. The goal for me and other Christian believers is more than kindness and compassion, it is that we all will be one in thought, mind, soul, and love toward each other and toward the Lord. (See the prayer of Jesus, John 17:21-23.) This may seem difficult, but verses 3-5 help me see what I can do to bring about this desire of God for His family. I must guard my spirit against selfish ambition or a cheap desire to boast. If I notice this weakness in myself, I must immediately recognize it as displeasing to the Lord. Instead of boasting, I will cultivate humility toward other believers. Each one is better than I am in some way. I must

think about that and be concerned for the interests of other believers as well as my own interests. My attitude must be the same as the attitude Jesus Christ had. I will remember that this is my goal, and I will discipline my spirit to be this kind of person. I can succeed only because it is that life of Jesus Christ and my union and fellowship with Him (verse 1) that make it possible!

- 5 a)** Verses of the Bible that lend themselves to devotional study are those which contain directions to follow or warnings to heed.
- c)** All Scripture is useful for teaching the truth and giving instruction for right living.
- e)** The key question in interpretation of Scripture is: What does this mean?"

**14** Key verse: Philippians 2:5.

**6 c)** indicates emphasis.

**15** (Answers will vary.) Our suggested new title for Philippians 2:1-11: THE MIND OF CHRIST IN ME.

**7 b)** You discover and understand truth by using in a prayerful, thoughtful way all the skills you have learned.

**16** Verse 6: NATURE, FORCE, AND EQUALITY  
 Verse 7: WILLINGLY TOOK SERVANT'S NATURE  
 Verse 8: HUMBLE OBEDIENCE UNTO DEATH  
 Verse 9: GIVEN THE HIGHEST NAME  
 Verse 10: EVERY KNEE SHALL BOW  
 Verse 11: JESUS CHRIST IS LORD

**8** All I Need, or Completeness In Christ. (Answers will vary.)

**17** THE ATTITUDE OF JESUS

**9** WHO? You, Christ, the Spirit, and other believers.  
 WHAT? Strength, love, fellowship, kindness, and compassion.  
 HOW? Strength in Christ, His love comforts you, fellowship with the Spirit, kindness and compassion for other believers.

WHEN? Now (all action verbs are present tense).  
(Answers will vary.)

**18****VI. NATURE, FORCE, AND EQUALITY**

- A.** Always Had God's Nature
- B.** Forced Equality Unacceptable

**VII. WILLINGLY TOOK SERVANT'S NATURE**

- A.** Of His Own Free Will
- B.** Gave Up All
- C.** Became Like Man
- D.** Appeared in Human Likeness

**VIII. HUMBLE OBEDIENCE UNTO DEATH**

- A.** Walked Path of Obedience
- B.** Path Led to Crucifixion

**IX. GIVEN THE HIGHEST NAME**

- A.** God Raised Him to Highest Place
- B.** God Gave Him the Highest Name

**X. EVERY KNEE SHALL BOW**

- A.** All Beings in Heaven
- B.** All Beings on Earth
- C.** All Beings in World Below
- D.** To Honor the Name of Jesus

**XI. JESUS CHRIST IS LORD**

- A.** All Will Openly Proclaim It
- B.** To the Glory of God the Father

**20** The Holy Spirit clearly shows how the attitude of Jesus Christ (vv. 6-11) corresponds to the attitude I must have in this world (vv. 1-5). Because Paul urges certain kinds of actions and attitudes in verses 2-4, I understand that my will is involved. I must choose to be like Jesus. My decisions in day to day living must be made by my own will, and that will must be obedient to Jesus. Jesus is my example in that He willingly, "of His own free will" (v. 7), became completely obedient to God. To be like Jesus, I must renounce selfish ambition (v. 3). Those who

allow it to rule them become crazed with lust for power, wealth, and fame. They become insensitive to the welfare of others. I must never become that kind of person. Jesus showed me the way when He refused the idea of achieving personal gain by force (v. 6). I learn from verse 3 that I must shun the “cheap desire to boast,” and deal humbly with other people. Verse 8 tells me that Jesus Himself was humble. Verses 3 and 4 urge me to be considerate of others and their interests, to consider others better than myself. Jesus showed me how to do this also. He took on Himself the nature of a servant (v. 7). Jesus walked the path of obedience all the way to death. I must obey the command of verse 5 to have the same attitude that He had. It is evident that the attitude Jesus had was pleasing to God. Verses 9-11 show me the great power and glory that Jesus has received from the Father for a certain reason (v. 9). For what reason? For His humble obedience of His own free will to the will of the Father (vv. 6-8). When I consider the true nature of Jesus Christ, how ashamed I am of my failures! But that shame must not defeat me. Jesus wants to strengthen me so I can be the kind of person He wants me to be. My strength for living like Jesus comes from the union of my life with Him (v. 1). Obedience to Him can only result in future glory!

- 19** (Suggested answer; answers will vary.) Philippians 2:6-11 gives me a little insight into the nature of Jesus Christ and the true meaning of His coming to the earth. There was never a time when Jesus did not have the nature of God. This nature was against the use of force for personal gain. Jesus freely gave up all, took the nature of a servant, became like a man, and took human form. Jesus Christ’s giving up all He had as God and coming to live on earth as a human being is beyond understanding, but there is more still. Becoming a man in humble obedience to the Father’s will led Jesus to His death on the cross. He knew where giving up all would lead, yet He did it “of His own free will” (v. 7). The magnitude of His act caused the Father to raise Him to the highest place above and give

Him the name that is greater than any other name. In honor to the name of Jesus, all beings whether in heaven, on earth, or in the world below will fall on their knees and openly proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father. The meaning of verse 10 is clear. All will bow one day to Jesus Christ. Either we will bow to Him while living and receive His pardon and eternal life, or we will be compelled to bow and acknowledge His lordship in the future when it is too late for salvation. Every knee eventually will bow to Him. The great significance of this passage for me is to be sure that now, while I am living, I make Jesus Christ LORD of my life. Jesus freely chose to walk in humble obedience to the Father's will. Even so, I choose to walk in humble obedience to Jesus, no matter what happens to me personally. My life is His to command, just as His life was the Father's to command.