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Philippians study guide

Paul's letter to the Philippians contains some of the greatest hits of the New Testament: the one who started a good job in you will take it to the fullest until the day of Christ. (Philippians 1:6) To live for me is Christ and have the benefit to die. (Philippians 1:21) I can do all the things I can through him that strengthens me. (Philippians 4:13) It is easy for readers of Paul's letters to latch on to a powerful poem that inspires them. Certainly your letters are inspiring, but sometimes we can find ourselves neglecting the larger context or, worse, pulling a poem out of context. Each one's inspirational poetry is part of a larger work of literature — the whole letter. The authors of these letters intend to express rich layers of meaning throughout the entire letter. Which raises the question: How can ordinary modern readers discover these deep layers of meaning? Here's the good news: It's easier than you think. We are going to see three useful steps to read the letter. This blog is designed as a study, so we would recommend that you have your own Bible and use what you learn here as your guide. Step One: Find the structure letters are not a jumble of random thoughts; They perform carefully structured and cohesive work that follow the flow of ideas from start to finish. Most ancient letters have a four-part structure: introduction, prayer, body and opening of closing sections. But even within that extensive structure, Paul and other ancient writers created classes in their letters that were different but related to each other. So how do you find the structure? Here are some tips: Start with a video. The best way to start a head on finding the literary structure of characters is to start with a Bible project video. We've created videos for each new rule letter (and the rest of the Bible) that focus on structure, core ideas, and key points in letters-all in an easy visual format. (The video on the Philippians is a great example.) Read it several times. The next step is a simple one. If you can then read the letter more than once. Try reading it all in bits and pieces instead of sitting one (or break it in half for longer characters). As you read them again and again, you'll start to see new meanings emerging like the picture that develops before your eyes. Find literary breadcrumbs. To continue finding the composition, pay attention to any changes to the subject that marks the new sections and asks itself what each idea came first and what came after that. Look to add words (since, therefore, finally, but, etc.) that authors use the transition from one idea to the next. Through these and other methods, Paul and his co-senders have left literary breadcrumbs so that readers can follow the main ideas. The composition of the Filipino Philippians is a great example of biblical letter literary structure. If you follow the tips above, you will start seeing different classes that are united by all the general topics. These topics are all condensed into the wonderful Jesus verse in Chapter 2). The letter to the Philippians is broken down into the following sections. Section 1: Opening Prayer 1:1-11 This section begins with a greeting and ends with a prayer that introduces Paul's main subjects. Section 2: Paul Imprisonment 1:12-26 Paul raises the subject of his imprisonment. Section 3: After Jesus' example 1:27-2:18 Paul turns focus on how the Philippians should remain and call them to follow the example of Jesus. The section begins with transition phrases, only to be your life-worthy... Section 4: Timothy and Epaphroditus 2:19-30 Paul jumps from Jesus to Timothy and Apphroditus, highlighting them as examples before moving on to another topic. Section 5: Example of Paul 3:1-4:1 This section begins with a large transition word, finally, my brother... Section 6: To relieve the challenge Paul after Example 4:2-9, Paul begins a new section with a transition phrase (hence, my brothers...) and returns to his subject of how they should live as Christians. Section 7: Closing Thanksgiving 4:10-23 The final section ends with a classic closing generosity, greeting every saint in Christ Jesus... The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ is with your Spirit. Keep those sections in mind. We will be back to them in a minute. Next, we need to look at literary instruments. Step Two: Look for literary instruments New Rules Letters are ancient works of literature. The techniques or literary tools they use may actually differ from our use! Being familiar with these literary instruments helps us understand the meaning the author would like to communicate. A literary instrument in particular stands out when we are trying to understand the literary meaning in the Philippians – Chiasm. What is a Chiasm? A Chiasm bible is a common literary tool in verse that uses repetition to highlight, compare and link the main idea to other subs. Chiasms are a symmetrical structure that can look like this: A D: The center of Chiasm is often a very important idea A2 Chiasm in the Philippians 2 If we look for repetition, we can find a chiasm in The Philippians 2:6-11 that tells the life of Jesus, the story of death, and resurrection in a poetic format. Check out how this Jesus poem maps on the structure of a chiasm. Glory of a Jesus as God. Verse 2:6: Although he was as God, he did not understand the similarity with God. B. Jesus' service to others. Verse 2:7: But emptied himself, taking the form of a servant. Humility of C. Jesus. Verse 2:7,8: Being born in the likeness of men and being found in human form, he himself the death of the oppressed de Jesus. Verse 2:8: By becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. That's the key idea! C2 Jesus' exaltation. Verse 2:9: So God has exalted him and honored him with the name that is above every name B2 all humanity bows to Jesus. Verse 2:10: In the name of so Every knee must bow down to heaven, and on earth, and under the earth A2 Jesus gives glory to God. Verse 2:11: And every tongue admits that Jesus is the Lord for the glory of The Father God. How do I take note of it? At this point, you'll be asking how you can look something like a chiasm, especially since they're very unfamiliar to the modern reader. One of the best ways to get started is to read what you think. When you see some repetition in ideas, try looking back to see if the author relates other ideas to direct structure or chiasm. What does Chiasm show us? In the order of Chiasm (point D), Paul draws together other ideas around Jesus' crucifixion. This is the turning point that shows how far Jesus was willing to go to serve his people. Jesus' life plotted the path for the return journey that all his followers get to take: give yourself away to be found in God, humble yourself and God will exalte you, die by himself to find true life. It all waited just below the sheet surface! But there's more. Step Three: Information Repetition Bible Repetition comes in many forms. It's often a once-in-a-time term, but it can also be whole quotations from other evangelical places, repeated design patterns or motifs that recur throughout the Bible, or even repeating repeated settings, images, characters and events. You can learn more about this type of iteration with how to read the Bible series. When you develop eyes to see these iterations, new layers of meaning will open throughout the Bible, and the Philippians are no exception. Repetitions in the Philippians come together at chiasm (one step by step) and the literary composition of the Philippians (from step two) step three. Paul's main thoughts about Jesus' life, death and resurrection are repeated in each section of the letter. It seems that Paul is drawing seeds from Jesus' life and planting them in the rest of the letters, so that they can bear fruit in people's lives as they become more like Jesus. Let us take a look. Section 1: Prayer 1:1-11 Spotting subjects: humility, happiness, hardship, hope beyond suffering, glory of God. Like Jesus, Paul's service to others brought him to face humiliation and death, but he is still convinced that God will glorify himself in Paul's suffering. Section 2: Paul Imprisonment 1:12-26 Subjects: Hope beyond hardship, death, suffering, glory of God. Even if Paul's service to the church ended in his death, it would be an advantage because he could be with Jesus. However, like Jesus, he will continue to survive, suffer and serve to become a blessing to others. Section 3: The example of Jesus after 1:27-2:18 Topics: Hardship, humility, love, service, hope beyond suffering, glory of God. Paul tells the Philippians that even if they face persecution and danger, their lives as Christians must conform to God's truth in Jesus who abandoned himself Love for others. The gospel caused by Jesus is a way of living out. Section 4: Timothy and Epaphroditus 2:19-30 Subjects: Hardship, Service, Death, Love. Paul tells two brothers and sisters who are living after Jesus' example. First, he appreciates Timothy because he puts before himself the needs of God's people. Second, he accepts that Epaphroditus left his home, just as Jesus did, serving Paul in his time of need and almost lost his life in the process. Section 5: Paul's example 3:1-4:1 Subject: Hope beyond hardship, humility, suffering. Paul turns up next to his story as an example. He tells things about themselves that others may regard as an impressive spiritual resume and says he has shunned all of that knowing Jesus. In other words, Paul empties his glory after God's pattern that came to serve but not to serve. Section 6: Challenge Paul's example to live after 4:2-9 Subjects: Hope Beyond Service, Happiness, Suffering. Here Paul challenges two female leaders to follow Jesus' humble example and become unified. Then he encourages the Philippians to give in prayer to God their fears and troubles, which will protect them in Jesus, who has passed into death and has returned again. Section 7: Thanksgiving 4:10-23 Closing the themes: joy, service, glory of God. Paul's imprisonment and hardships do not mean his wastage; Rather, they are in the same way that God has blessed him (and others through Him) and through which He has experienced God's strength under any circumstances. What does all this mean? Through the use of literary instruments, structure and repetition, the people of Paul Philippi have been trying to sink deep roots into the reality of life carried out by Jesus, so that they will be able to live a changed life. He is trying to force them to create a community that shines as stars in the middle of a dark world and be full of peace and unity as they share the gospel with the world. This still rings true for us today. Closing ideas The New Testament letters are picked and missed out of context more than just collections of good verses. Seeing Paul's thoughts in his literary context deepens the meaning of what he is saying, linking them to the deep reality fulfilled by God in Jesus. And you can study each letter in this way! With three steps to read the fresh letter in your mind, we recommend choosing a letter (Ephesian, Gallian, etc.) to practice for ourselves. Andy Patton is on staff at the L'Abri Fellowship in England and is co-editor of Three Things Newspapers. He holds an M.A. in theology from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, and, if there was such a thing as a card-carrying biblical nerd, he would hold one of those too. also.

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