

PHILIPPIANS 1

OBSERVATION

Read Philippians 1 aloud together.

Read it again!

What would you say the theme of this passage is? _____

Come up with your own titles for each paragraph/section. (Don't use ones already in your Bible!)

vv. 1-2 _____

vv. 3-11 _____

vv. 12-18a _____

vv. 18b-26 _____

vv. 27-30 _____

What sorts of structural relationships do you see at work in this passage? How would you describe the relationship between vv. 3-11 and vv. 12-18? How about the relationship between vv. 18b-26 and vv. 27-30?

cause-effect?

contrast?

introduction?

climax?

cruciality (the pivot)?

question-answer?

comparison?

generalization / particularization?

recurrence (repetition)?

Why do you think Paul uses these structural relationships here in the letter? What is accomplished by structuring the letter this way?

List some key repeated words or phrases you see in this passage.

Do you notice any major shifts in chapter 1? Where?

Where would you say the climax of this section is?

INTERPRETATION

Who wrote this letter? Who is/are he/they? When was the letter written? Where from?

How would you describe Paul's tone up to this point in the letter? Explain how you came up with your answer.

To whom was he writing? What do you think his relationship is with his readers? Why do you say that?

Where is Philippi?

Why did Paul write this letter? (You may need to look at other parts of the letter.)

What does Paul want for his readers? What do you think he means by that?

Did you notice the shift in v. 27? Describe what changes there.

Put yourself in Paul's shoes. To whom would you write a letter if you were in prison?

Put yourself in the Philippians' shoes. How would you feel when you received this letter from Paul?

What "conflict" do you think Paul is referring to in v. 30?

EVALUATION — Zoom in on vv. 27-30

What period of biblical history is this letter from? How should that affect your interpretation?

Are there aspects of vv. 27-30 passage that you think are local, as in, specific to the recipients, not having a direct obvious application to us?

What universal principles of Christian life and doctrine do you see in this passage?

APPLICATION (vv. 27–30)

How can you conduct yourself in a manner worthy of the Gospel? Do you believe that *how* a Christian conducts themselves is important?

Do you think Paul might say or hear of our church and our fellowship that we are “standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel; in no way alarmed by our opponents”?

In what ways do you suffer for Christ’s sake? *Do* you?

What sin should you confess and repent of in view of this passage?

What affirmations should you make in light of this Word—affirmations about God, about Christ, about myself, about others, about the world?

What should you thank God for in light of this passage?

What changes should you make in your investment of time, money, energy, or personal resources in view of the truth of this passage?

What prayer should you pray for yourself or your family or your friends or your enemies in light of what you have seen in the Word?