

**Share-the-Love:**

**BRIDGE-BLITZ!!!**

1. "I Have Been There"
2. "As For Me & My House"

***"Prayerful & Obedient Bible Study"***

**Introduction: VIDEO: Charlie Bethmann - Prayer**

- How about you?
- How much do YOU love, trust, & KNOW Jesus?

**T/S:** Let me introduce you to a few guys that I pray will offer us both instruction AND inspiration... (Mark 2:1-5)

*When Jesus had come back to Capernaum several days afterward, it was heard that He was at home. **2** And many were gathered together, so that there was no longer room, not even near the door; and He was speaking the word to them. **3** And they \*came, bringing to Him a paralytic, carried by four men. **4** Being unable to get to Him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above Him; and when they had dug an opening, they let down the pallet on which the paralytic was lying. **5** And Jesus, seeing their faith, \*said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven."*

**- Mark 2:1-5**

- **How much do you BELIEVE the Bible?**
- **How much BIBLE do you Believe???**

**SECTION 1 (Review): Why Study the Bible:**

1. **Matthew 28:18-20:** "...teaching them to obey everything I commanded you..." requires us to know what He taught...
2. **2 Timothy 3:16-17:** *All Scripture is inspired (breathed) by God and profitable for **teaching**, for **reproof**, for **correction**, for **training in righteousness**; 17 so that the man of God may be adequate, (fully) equipped for every good work.*
3. **Matthew 7:21-23:** It is eternally important that you "know" & **are known by Christ!**

## Why did God give us the Bible?

1. To **Teach Us About Himself**
2. So **we can understand ourselves & the world...**
3. To **enable us to live godly lives** (2 Peter 1:3)
4. To **strengthen our relationship with God...**
5. To **exalt Jesus**
6. To **prepare us for our God-given mission**

*Remember:*

**The right motivation makes all the difference:**

- A. **Bible study should make us more Christ-like...**
- B. The **right way to come to the Bible is:**
  - **Reverent**
  - **Surrendered**
  - **Humble**
  - **Teachable**
  - **Obedient**

## **T/S: Moving forward... from the Why? to the “HOW?”**

...there are many different perspectives on studying the Bible:

- Text book
- Rule book
- History book
- Philosophy book
- Encouraging mystical book

One's approach reveals their expectations...

**(Approach reveals Expectations)**

T/S: For today...

**(PRINCIPLES & EXAMPLES)**  
of prayerful & obedient Bible study...

**T/S:** Let's start with some important & defining principles:

### **Studying Devotionally:**

1. Study as if you are **hearing God's voice audibly!**
2. Read with an **expectant and reverent intensity!**
3. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 **demands humble devotion...**

- **How much do you BELIEVE the Bible?**
- **How much BIBLE do you Believe???**

## **Prayer & Understanding:**

1. Prayer **DURING Bible study is key** but missing in most lives...
2. God's Word reveals God's wants & ways.... Thus, to understand and embrace God's wants & ways **REQUIRES** one's right relationship with God's Word.
3. If our Bible study is not saturated in prayer, we are not studying the way Scripture admonishes us to study (**2 Cor. 2:14**).

- **How much do you BELIEVE the Bible?**
- **How much BIBLE do you Believe???**

## **Studying the Bible Obediently:**

1. *"What is the value of truth if it does not change us?"* Chan
2. Knowledge is not the mission... knowledge is the map to mission! - JDP
3. *"If you are studying the Bible without applying what you are learning, then you are misusing the Bible."* - F. Chan

## **Studying the Bible with Faith:**

1. We mentally acknowledge the Bible but many don't accept its authority.
2. **Ephesians 1:11** shows God's sovereign control over all things...  
*"we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will"*

**God is either sovereign ALL the time or never...**

- **How much do you BELIEVE the Bible?**

- **How much BIBLE do you Believe???**

**The Bible & Transformation:**

1. "Good" Bible study leads to transformation... see Heb. 4:12
2. ***Change is not the same as transformation.*** - JDP
3. Be doers of the Word and not hearers only... James 1:22-25
4. The Bible is like a mirror that will show you what is really there...
5. "There is no reward for merely hearing truth." - F. Chan

**Examples:** Christians, Churches, Goats & Sheep

**Romans 12** exemplifies individual "**Kingdom Culture**"

Verses:    SOUL        GOAL (Realize/Respond/Reconcile)

**Refuse = LOST                      Sin-Saturated**

**Romans 3:23; 6:23; 5:8; 10:9...**

BRIDGE Ministry:        **ENGAGE**

- a. Truth
- b. Love
- c. Relationship

**\*\*\* Example:** Rich Young Ruler... came & left LOST

**vv.1-2 =** *Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.*

**vv.1-2 = LOVER                      Surrendered & Separated**

BRIDGE Ministry:                      **EXPLAIN**

- a.      Miracle
- b.      Messiah
- c.      Mission

**\*\*\* Example:      Zacheaus... came lost, left FOUND!**

**vv.3-8 =** *For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith. 4 For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, 5 so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. 6 Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, each of us is to exercise them accordingly: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith; 7 if service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching;*

*8 or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.*

**vv.3-8 = LEARNER      Standing w/ Sober-Self Image**

BRIDGE Ministry:      **EQUIP**

- a. Know
- b. Grow
- c. Go!

\*\*\* **Example:**      Samaritan Woman at the well

**vv.9-13 =**      *Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good. **10** Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor; **11** not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; **12** rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer, **13** contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality.*

**vv.9-13 = LEADER      Serving & Sharing**

BRIDGE Ministry:      **EMPOWER**

- a. Serve
- b. Share
- c. Support

\*\*\* **Example:** Stephen... **1<sup>st</sup> Deacon & 1<sup>st</sup> Martyr**

**vv.14-21 =**

**14** Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.  
**15** Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.  
**16** Be of the same mind toward one another; do not be haughty in mind, but associate with the lowly. Do not be wise in your own estimation. **17** Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Respect what is right in the sight of all men. **18** If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men. **19** Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. **20** "But if your enemy is hungry, feed him, and if he is thirsty, give him a drink; for in so doing you will heap burning coals on his head."  
**21** Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

**vv.14-21 = LIFER**

**Shining Supernaturally**

BRIDGE Ministry:

**EXEMPLIFY**

- a. Lead
- b. Feed
- c. Seed

\*\*\* **Example:** Peter / Paul "**Ambassadors of Christ**"

# Philippians 4:1-9

...collective ***“Kingdom Culture”***

## v.1 = Loving “HOW-TO”

*1 Therefore, my beloved brethren whom I long to see, my joy and crown, **in this way** stand firm in the Lord, my beloved...*

### Love:

- A. “beloved brethren”
- B. “whom I long to see”
- C. “my joy & crown”
- D. “my beloved”

### How-To:

- A. “in this way” (a.k.a. “so” or “thus”)
  - ***“stand firm”***
  - “in the Lord”

## vv.2-3 = Live in Loving Unity (harmony)

*2 I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to **live in harmony in the Lord**. 3 Indeed, true companion, I ask you also to help these women who have shared my struggle in the cause of the gospel, together with Clement also and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.*

**v.4 = Choose JOY (“in the Lord”)**

*4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!*

**v.5a = Selfless HUMILITY**

*5 Let your gentle spirit be known to all men.*

**v.5b-6a = Bold, Biblical FAITH**

*The Lord is near. 6 Be anxious for nothing,*

- A. To truly KNOW, love, & trust the LORD is Everything!
- B. Children of the King are never fearful when Dad is close
- C. Biblical “LORD” = *Creator God, Saving God, ABBA Daddy*
- D. To “KNOW” the true Lord is to truly embrace Rom. 8:28
- E. NOTE: this is an “all or nothing” passage...

**v.6b = PRAY... Attitude of Gratitude**

*but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.*

## v.7 = "Peace of GOD"

*7 And **the peace of God**, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

- A. "surpasses ALL understanding"
- B. "WILL Guard"
- C. "...hearts & minds"
- D. "IN Christ Jesus"

## **NOTE: vv.2-7 = Christian/Church Character:**

- 1. Loving, Harmonizing-**Unity**
- 2. Choosing **Joy**
- 3. Selfless **Humility**
- 4. Bold **Faith**
- 5. **Prayer** Warrior
- 6. Attitude of **Gratitude**
- 7. Protected by the **Peace of God**

## v.8 = Thought-Life (content, context, culture)

*8 Finally, brethren, **whatever is true**, whatever is **honorable**, whatever is **right**, whatever is **pure**, whatever is **lovely**, whatever is **of good repute**, if there is **any excellence** and if anything **worthy of praise**,  dwell on these things.*

- A. Where/How do you find such things to think on?
- B. BIBLE STUDY!!!
- C. "dwell on these things" = COMMAND!
  - How much do you believe the Bible?
  - **How much Bible do you believe?**

**NOTE: vv.2-8 = “Character & Thought Life”**

1. Loving, Harmonizing-**Unity**
2. Choosing **Joy**
3. Selfless **Humility**
4. Bold **Faith**
5. **Prayer** Warrior
6. Attitude of **Gratitude**
7. Protected by the **Peace of God**

**PLUS**

8. **Saturated in Devotional Bible Study**

**Finally... If you truly WANT to stand firm in the Lord:**

**v.9 = OBEY**

***9 The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.***

- A. Live what you have learned...
- B. Back to 2 Timothy 3:16-17
- C. “practice these things” = “DO” / “OBEY”
- D. NOTE: don’t miss role of “modeling”
- E. See closing promise...
  - “AND”
  - “the God of peace will be with you”
    - **v.7 = “peace of God”**
    - **v.9 = “God of peace”**

**So...**

Why are **YOU** studying the Bible?

***Do you want information or transformation?***

**Close contrasting 2 passages... *SAME TRUTHS!***

**Matthew 25:31-46...**

Sheep vs Goats  
Eternal Life vs. Eternal Hell-fire

**Luke 22...**

**2 Goats & a Savior...**

1. Goat #1 “REJECTED Jesus”
2. Goat #2... turned “SHEEP #1”
  - a. **Realized...** Sinner / Savior
  - b. **Responded...** Repent / Believe
  - c. **Reconciled...**
    - Truth
    - Love
    - Gospel
    - ALL of GRACE – Amen!

**We would never & could never come to saving grace  
without truth in love...**

Let's Pray:

1. **"This Is Where the Healing Begins!"** = *REALIZE*
2. "As For Me & My House" (we will serve the Lord) = *RESPOND*
3. "Imagine Me" = *RECONCILE*