

MEN'S LIFE BLOOMINGTON & GOD @ WORK

Tuesday, May 25, 2021

Living What Paul Wrote

Overview: As Men's Life we "exist to support men in their walk with Christ. We come together to discuss the issues and problems that are common to men. To support each other, to pray for one another, and to glorify God." After studying Paul's letters this year, do you see the alignment with Men's Life's mission? What a joy it was to learn more about Paul and the early church as well as ourselves as we met this year!

Video: BibleProject | [The Apostle Paul, Acts 8-12](#)

Segment Questions:(References are on back)

- What has impacted you this year as we have studied Paul's letters together?
- In what ways have you grown and changed in your relationship with Christ and others?
- Do you know someone that is rooted in deep theology? What do you admire about that person? What are you rooted in?
- How does what you are rooted in affect the fruit you bear?
- What takeaways do you have from Paul's letters to how you live and respond to others?
- What are some ways we can improve our performance of the Men's Life mission statement "exist to support men in their walk with Christ. We come together to discuss the issues and problems that are common to men. To support each other, to pray for one another, and to glorify God"?

Action Questions:

- Have you ever used Scripture as the start of your prayers? We included as attachments an overall summary page of our lessons with hyperlinks to key verses and a list of Paul's prayers. Pray these prayers over your family, your friends, your churches, and your community.
- Brothers, we encourage you to read and reread Paul's letters. We have included attachments for reading plans for the books of Acts and the Epistles of Paul. Acts can be read twice in a month and the letters all within one month. This summer, continue to immerse yourselves in these books.

Closing Personal Prayer:

Father God, we thank you for Paul and his heart for your church. We thank you for the preservation of his writings and for the ability to read and study them. We thank you for this group of men that we can walk beside on these faith journeys as we seek your face. Continue to draw us to you and root us in your truths that we may bear the Fruit of the Spirit and glorify you!

Introduction

Dear Brothers,

As we have read and studied the letters of Paul over this past year, we trust you have been blessed by their content, stirred by the Holy Spirit, and encouraged by the thoughts and challenges of our Men's Life brothers as we spur each other on in knowing and glorifying God. Paul impacted the early church and helped be "a light to the Gentiles." The message of Christ and his resurrection spread from Jerusalem to "the ends of the earth," including us in this day and time because of the ministries of Paul and the other apostles. Our faith journeys connect to theirs in this tapestry and heritage of faith.

As we have observed, Paul's letters are rooted in deep theological constructs surrounding sanctification and salvation, the wages of sin and the cost of following Jesus. We have read that "none is righteous, no not one" and "all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God." How then can any of us boast in our own accomplishments and doings? The weightiness of the letters to the Romans and Ephesians are quite heavy and complex at times. Other times, Paul boils down ginormous thoughts into a single sentence, as in Galatians 1:4, "Jesus gave his life for our sins, just as God our Father planned, in order to rescue us from this evil world in which we live." How can we boast in anything else? Paul's faith is rooted in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus as a fulfillment to God's covenants with Abraham and David.

Because of his deep roots, Paul's letters to the various churches or individuals addressed application of faith into living with and spurring each other on in their faith journeys. These fruits of faith were evident in his writings. The fruit that are frequently found in Paul's letters are prayers for people and their faith (42 prayers are noted in his letters), words of encouragement, response to, and sometimes, the correction of others in love, patience, and in a gentle manner, remembrance of their heritage of faith, and focus on a hope only found in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 1:9-11: And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.)

Although Paul's letters were written to address specific issues and concerns for a church or a dear friend, his letters provide rich teaching that we can apply to our daily lives. Paul reminds us that we must be rooted properly to bear good fruit. The deep theological understanding must be the source for the fruits of practical application. Our place in the kingdom of God is not determined by our physical circumstances. We must look to Christ for our foundation (1 Corinthians 3:1-13: For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw— each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done.)

As Men's Life we "exist to support men in their walk with Christ. We come together to discuss the issues and problems that are common to men. To support each other, to pray for one another, and to glorify God." After studying Paul's letters this year, do you see the alignment with Men's Life's mission? What a joy it was to learn more about Paul and the early church as well as ourselves as we met this year!

Lesson	Impact
Letters to Friends – Introduction	In a year of social/physical distancing, we find that Paul experienced the same, yet it did not stop him from mentoring, loving, and communicating the Gospel message and encouraging others
What Matters to God Galatians	"What matters is God's New Creation — the new, multi-ethnic family of the Messiah... full of faith in Jesus... loving God and others in the power of the Holy Spirit." Mic drop – Galatians 6:14-15
Faithfulness and Growth 1 Thessalonians	Paul's main point in writing is to encourage the love, faithfulness, and growth of the believers while reassuring them of their reward in Christ's coming. – 1Thessalonians 1:3
Steadfastness and Hope 2 Thessalonians	Paul wrote to them an uplifting message to persevere and continue to seek God for he is the source of our hope and our salvation. Paul's prayers – 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12; 2:16-17; 3:16
Boast in the Lord 1 Corinthians 1-6	Paul's first letter to the Corinthians is a classic of pastoral response: affectionate, firm, clear, and unswerving in the conviction that God among them, revealed in Jesus and present in his Holy Spirit, continued to be the central issue in their lives, regardless of how much of a mess they had made of things. 1 Corinthians 3:11-13
Living as a Christian 1 Corinthians 7-16	Paul's guidance regarding how they (Church in Corinth) should be living out their faith regarding the practical issues of daily life. Love (1 Corinthians 13:1-5) and Freedom in Christ (1 Corinthians 8)
The Blessing of Giving – 2 Corinthians	In writing this letter Paul shares much of the suffering he faced for Christ and for them, motivating them to stand strong, and at the same time lets us come to know him better. He focuses on giving based on Christ's and God's gift. Motivation (8:8-9) , Amount (8:12) , and God's gift (9:8-9)
Righteousness Revealed Romans 1-4	All Humanity is hopelessly trapped in sin and needs to be rescued. God's righteous character has moved him to rescue the world through Jesus' death and resurrection so he could create a faith-based, multi-ethnic family based on faith in Jesus as his own new covenant people. Romans 3:22-25
Living From a Firm Foundation Romans 5-16	Foundational truths and instructions to live grounded in Christ. Romans 12:1-2
Jesus at The Center of Life Colossians	Paul writes to them to restore Jesus, the Messiah, to the center of their lives. Paul writes with unswervingly confidence in the conviction that Christ occupies the center of creation and salvation without peers. Colossians 4:3-4
Equal Partners Through the Messiah Philemon	Paul demonstrates the willing sacrifice (through Christ) made to restore two men to an equal partnership through the Messiah. Philemon 1:4-7
Be Prepared Ephesians	Paul writes from prison and starts by reminding them of God's grace that has declared all of them, Jews and Gentiles alike, are now one in Christ. Knowing the challenges in their culture, he urges them to renew their commitment to the Gospel of Jesus, despite being a small but influential minority in the city. Ephesians 6:13-18
High Five Book of Joy Philippians	I would submit that of all the takeaways of Philippians the JOY of following JESUS is certainly worthy of a HIGH FIVE from all of us. Paul's letter/book is a powerful and useful guide for us to live a JOYFUL life even in the challenges of life. Let us look at five messages that we can embrace and apply if we choose to follow Jesus. Philippians 2:14-16
In Love, Confront False Teachers and Encourage Right Living 1 Timothy	Paul instructs Timothy to go to Ephesus to command false teachers to stop but do it with love. He gives Timothy the truth about how leaders should be, how we should be, and what the message should be. 1 Timothy 1:15-16
Truth that Leads to Godliness Titus	In order to protect the Cretan churches, Paul sent Titus to establish godly elders who would teach the gospel faithfully and live according to the truth they proclaimed. Titus 2:11-14
Paul's Locker Room Pep Talk 2 Timothy	Paul wants to give Timothy the practical wisdom, courage, and focus on Jesus Christ that Timothy needs in order to serve God and bring glory to the Savior, Christ Jesus. 2 Timothy 1:8

Epistles of Paul	
Day	Readings
1	Galatians 1-3
2	Galatians 4-6
3	1 Thessalonians 1-5
4	2 Thessalonians 1-3
5	1 Corinthians 1-3
6	1 Corinthians 4-6
7	1 Corinthians 7-8
8	1 Corinthians 9-11
9	1 Corinthians 12-14
10	1 Corinthians 15-16
11	2 Corinthians 1-4
12	2 Corinthians 5-7
13	2 Corinthians 8-10
14	2 Corinthians 11-13
15	Romans 1-3
16	Romans 4-6
17	Romans 7-8
18	Romans 9-11
19	Romans 12-14
20	Romans 15-16
21	Colossians 1-4
22	Philemon 1
23	Ephesians 1-3
24	Ephesians 4-6
25	Philippians 1-4
26	1 Timothy 1-3
27	1 Timothy 4-6
28	Titus 1-3
29	2 Timothy 1-4
30	

Acts of the Apostles	
Day	Readings
1	Acts 1-2
2	Acts 3-4
3	Acts 5-6
4	Acts 7-8
5	Acts 9-10
6	Acts 11-12
7	Acts 13-14
8	Acts 15-16
9	Acts 17-18
10	Acts 19-20
11	Acts 21-22
12	Acts 23-24
13	Acts 25-26
14	Acts 27-28
15	Acts 1-2
16	Acts 3-4
17	Acts 5-6
18	Acts 7-8
19	Acts 9-10
20	Acts 11-12
21	Acts 13-14
22	Acts 15-16
23	Acts 17-18
24	Acts 19-20
25	Acts 21-22
26	Acts 23-24
27	Acts 25-26
28	Acts 27-28
29	
30	

Paul's Prayers in the Epistles

Romans

First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is being reported all over the world. God, whom I serve with my whole heart in preaching the gospel of his Son, is my witness how constantly I remember you in my prayers at all times; and I pray that now at last by God's will the way may be opened for me to come to you. Romans 1:8–10

Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved. Romans 10:1

Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Romans 12:12

May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 15:5–6

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13

I urge you, brothers, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to join me in my struggle by praying to God for me. Pray that I may be rescued from the unbelievers in Judea and that my service in Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints there, so that by God's will I may come to you with joy and together with you be refreshed. The God of peace be with you all. Amen. Romans 15:30–33

1 Corinthians

I always thank God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. For in him you have been enriched in every way— in all your speaking and in all your knowledge—because our testimony about Christ was confirmed in you. Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. He will keep you strong to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful. 1 Corinthians 1:4–9

The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you. 1 Corinthians 16:23

2 Corinthians

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God. For just as the sufferings of Christ flow over into our lives, so also through Christ our comfort overflows. If we are distressed, it is for your comfort and salvation; if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which produces in you patient endurance of the same sufferings we suffer. And our hope for you is firm, because we know that just as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our comfort. 2 Corinthians 1:3–7

But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of him. For we are to God the aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. To the one we are the smell of death; to the other, the fragrance of life. And who is equal to such a task? 2 Corinthians 2:14–16

This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, men will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift! 2 Corinthians 9:12–15

To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." 2 Corinthians 12:7–9a

Now we pray to God that you will not do anything wrong. Not that people will see that we have stood the

test but that you will do what is right even though we may seem to have failed. For we cannot do anything against the truth, but only for the truth. We are glad whenever we are weak but you are strong; and our prayer is for your perfection. 2 Corinthians 13:7–9

Galatians

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers. Galatians 6:18

Ephesians

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will—to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding. . . . Ephesians 1:3

For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way. Ephesians 1:15–23

For this reason, I kneel before the Father, from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen. Ephesians 3:14–21

Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should. Ephesians 6:19–20

Philippians

I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. Philippians 1:3–6

And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God. Philippians 1:9–11

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6–7

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Philippians 4:23

Colossians

We always thank God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all the saints—the faith and love that spring from the hope that is stored up for you in heaven and that you have already heard about in the word of truth, the gospel that has come to you. All over the world this gospel is bearing fruit and growing, just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and understood God’s grace in all its truth. You learned it from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf, and who also told us of your love in the Spirit. For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding. And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light. For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. Colossians 1:3–14

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. Colossians 4:2–4

1 Thessalonians

We always thank God for all of you, mentioning you in our prayers. We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Thessalonians 1:2–3

And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is at work in you who

believe. For you, brothers, became imitators of God’s churches in Judea, which are in Christ Jesus: You suffered from your own countrymen the same things those churches suffered from the Jews, who killed the Lord Jesus and the prophets and also drove us out. They displease God and are hostile to all men in their effort to keep us from speaking to the Gentiles so that they may be saved. In this way they always heap up their sins to the limit. The wrath of God has come upon them at last. 1 Thessalonians 2:13–16

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you again and supply what is lacking in your faith. Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus clear the way for us to come to you. May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you. May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones. 1 Thessalonians 3:9–13

May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it. 1 Thessalonians 5:23–24

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. 1 Thessalonians 5:28

2 Thessalonians

We ought always to thank God for you, brothers, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love every one of you has for each other is increasing. Therefore, among God’s churches we boast about your perseverance and faith in all the persecutions and trials you are enduring. 2 Thessalonians 1:3

With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may count you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may fulfill every good purpose of yours and every act prompted by your faith. We pray this so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and

you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ. 2 Thessalonians 1:11–12

May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word. 2 Thessalonians 2:16–17

And pray that we may be delivered from wicked and evil men, for not everyone has faith. But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen and protect you from the evil one. We have confidence in the Lord that you are doing and will continue to do the things we command. May the Lord direct your hearts into God's love and Christ's perseverance. 2 Thessalonians 3:2–5

Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with all of you. 2 Thessalonians 3:16

1 Timothy

I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me faithful, appointing me to his service. 1 Timothy 1:12

I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all men—the testimony given in its proper time. . . . 1 Timothy 2:1

2 Timothy

I thank God, whom I serve, as my forefathers did, with a clear conscience, as night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers. Recalling your tears, I long to see you, so that I may be filled with joy. I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also. For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God did not

give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline. 2 Timothy 1:3–7

May the Lord show mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, because he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains. On the contrary, when he was in Rome, he searched hard for me until he found me. May the Lord grant that he will find mercy from the Lord on that day! You know very well in how many ways he helped me in Ephesus. 2 Timothy 1:16–18

The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you. 2 Timothy 4:22

Titus

Grace be with you all. Titus 3:15

Philemon

I always thank my God as I remember you in my prayers, because I hear about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints. I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ. Your love has given me great joy and encouragement, because you, brother, have refreshed the hearts of the saints. Philemon 4–7

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Philemon 25