

Tools for Digging Deeper in your Study of Scripture

Tool Shelf #1: Author & Audience

- Tool A: Book Introductions found at YouVersion (App), or Bible Project (Online), or Study Bibles (Print)
- Tool B: Salvation Story Timeline (see Lakepoint's Salvation Story Timeline & Sermon 9.3.2023)

Tool Shelf #2: Genre

- Tool A: Know What Genre You Are Reading
 - *Story*. Read it like History or News.
 - *Poetry*. Read it like Lyrics, Romance, or an Emotional Interview.
 - *Letters*. Read it as a Mentor's Wisdom.
 - *Prophetic*. Read it like Warnings on an Instruction Manual.
 - *Apocalypse*. Read it like Social Commentary for today, with Future Reality Someday, all in Cinematic Flare.
- Tool B: *How to Read the Bible for All It's Worth* by Gordon Fee.
- Tool C: Shape of a Circle Podcast Episode #147.

Tool Shelf #3: Translations



New American Standard Bible, English Standard Version, King James Version, New Revised Standard Version, New International Version, God's Word, New International Reader's Version, Voice Amplified Bible, Revised Standard Version, New King James Version, Christian Standard Bible, New Living Translation, Common English Bible, Good News Bible, The Message

- Tool A: Read Three Translations (Word, Thought, Paraphrase)
- Tool B: Basic Word Study with Concordance (StudyLight.org)
- Tool C: Complex Word Study with Greek-English Interlinear

Tool Shelf #4: Q&A

- Tool A: Study Bible (you'll get a paragraph answer)
- Tool B: Commentaries (you'll get a page answer)
- Tool C: Cross-Referencing (you'll get other scriptures to answer)

Practice Page for Studying Scripture

Read the Scripture: Philippians 3:7-9 (NIV)

7 But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. 8 What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith.

Before you start your study, what do you make of this Scripture at face value?

Tool Shelf #1: Author & Audience

Introduction: Paul writes from prison in Rome, A.D. 62. The Church of Philippi is predominantly a Gentile Church (evidenced by no OT quotes) planted by Paul on his second missionary journey. Paul's play on "citizenship" paralleled Philippi's pride as a Roman Colony. Loyalty to Rome allows us to assume that there was a strong emperor cult dedicated to his deity, thus explaining heavy opposition to the Christian faith.

Salvation Story Timeline: Jesus' death and resurrection came 30 years early, the Holy Spirit is still apply the gospel to everyday through letters such as this.

Read the Scripture again with this insight.

Tool Shelf #2: Genre. It's a Letter. Read it as a Mentor's Wisdom.

Read the Scripture again with this perspective.

Tool Shelf #3: Translations. Compare Three Translations (and mark some words that jump out to you)

Philippians 3:7-9

Word for Word (NASB)

7 But whatever things were gain to me, these things I have counted as loss because of Christ. 8 More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them mere rubbish, so that I may gain Christ, 9 and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith, that I may know Him.

Thought for Thought (GW)

7 These things that I once considered valuable, I now consider worthless for Christ. 8 It's far more than that! I consider everything else worthless because I'm much better off knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. It's because of him that I think of everything as worthless. I threw it all away in order to gain Christ 9 and to have a relationship with him. This means that I didn't receive God's approval by obeying his laws. The opposite is true! I have God's approval through faith in Christ. This is the approval that comes from God and is based on faith that knows Christ.

Paraphrase (MSG)

7-9 The very credentials these people are waving around as something special, I'm tearing up and throwing out with the trash—along with everything else I used to take credit for. And why? Because of Christ. Yes, all the things I once thought were so important are gone from my life. Compared to the high privilege of knowing Christ Jesus as my Master, firsthand, everything I once thought I had going for me is insignificant—dog dung. I've dumped it all in the trash so that I could embrace Christ and be embraced by him. I didn't want some petty, inferior brand of righteousness that comes from keeping a list of rules when I could get the robust kind that comes from trusting Christ—God's righteousness.

Tool Shelf #4: Q&A. Which verse created the most questions for you (and how does a study Bible help answer it)?

Life Application Study Bible

7 When Paul speaks of “these things,” he is referring to his credentials, credits, and successes. After showing that they could beat the Judaizers at their own game (being proud of who they were and what they had done), Paul shows that it is the wrong game. Be careful of considering your position or past achievements so important that they get in the way of your relationship with Christ.

8 After Paul considered everything he had accomplished in his life, he decided to write it all off as “worthless” when compared with the greatness of knowing Christ. We should value our relationship with Christ as more important than anything else. To know Christ should be our ultimate goal. Yet how do we know him better? (1) Study the life of Christ in the Gospels. See how he lived and responded to people (Matthew 11:29). (2) Study all the New Testament references to Christ (see, for example, Colossians 1:15-2:15). (3) As you worship and pray, let the Holy Spirit remind you of Christ’s words. (John 14:26). (4) Take up Christ’s mission to preach the gospel, and learn from his sufferings (Matthew 28:19; Philippians 3:10)

9 No amount of law-keeping, self-improvement, discipline, or religious effort can make us right with God. Righteousness comes only from God, and we are made righteous - receiving right standing with him - by trusting in Christ. When we do this, he exchanges our sins and shortcomings for his complete righteousness. (For more on Christ’s gift of righteousness, see 2 Corinthians 5:21)

9-10 Paul gave up on everything-family, friendship, and freedom in order to know Christ and his resurrection power. We, too, have access to this knowledge and this power, but we may have to make sacrifices to enjoy it fully. What are you willing to give up in order to know Christ? A crowded schedule, in order to set aside a few minutes each day for prayer and Bible study? A friend’s approval? Some of your plans or pleasures? Whatever you must change or give up, having Christ and becoming one with his will be more than worth the sacrifice.

Summarize here what more you learned from your Study of Scripture.