

Men in the Bible

Applying Truths from Their Lives to Today

Paul

- Paul's background and training (Acts 7:58-8:3; Philippians 3:5-6)
 - Paul's transformation (Acts 9:1-31)
 - Paul's passion and devotion (Philippians 1:1, 20-21; 3:7-8)
 - Paul's focus (Philippians 1:12,16,18, 25-27; 2:19-26; 1 Corinthians 9:18-23)
 - Paul's textbook (2 Tim 2:15, 3:16-17)
 - Paul's adversity (2 Corinthians 11:23-27)
 - Paul's joy and contentment (Philippians 3:1; 4:4, 11-13)
 - Paul's endurance and eternal perspective (Philippians 3:12-14; 2 Timothy 4:6-8)
- ★ Paul was a MAN of God. For us to be **God's man**, we must be students of His Word, stay focused on our mission of sharing God's message of salvation and making disciples, and maintain an eternal perspective.
1. Paul's priorities were to share the gospel, disciple others, and to glorify Christ. How did Paul stay so focused on these priorities? What hinders us from staying focused?
Paul stayed "on mission" because he kept his heart and mind on Jesus. He passionately loved Jesus and remembered what Jesus did for him. Once Paul accepted God's gift of forgiveness, he knew that Jesus was the only thing that really mattered in life. Our potential trap? Letting ourselves get focused on the world's priorities and not keeping our heart devoted to him.

2. Paul is shown as a great missionary so we tend to think of him as a person that shared the gospel and then went to the next group of people to share with them. Scripture tells us a different story. He invested heavily in discipling others. See Acts 11:24-26; 15:35-36; 18:11, 23; 19:9-10; 20:18-20). We are also told to make disciples in Matthew 28:19. How can we invest in discipleship? What actions do we need to take to be disciplers of men?

First of all, we have to realize this is part of our purpose in life and must commit to disciple others. After we make the commitment, then we have to prepare ourselves; i.e., be students of the Word and grow in our knowledge of Christ. Third, we must reach out and begin to make the investment of time and energy to help someone else grow in Christ. Bottom line, do not “sit on the sidelines”. “Get in the game” and begin to invest in things that last forever — lives of friends and family.

3. Paul loved the Word of God. He uses the Word continually in his writings and in his defense of the faith. In Ephesians, he mentions the Word as the sword of the Spirit. In 2 Timothy, he writes that the Word is necessary for our growth and maturity. How much time are you spending in growing in your knowledge of the Bible? How can you become a better student of Scripture?

To grow in our knowledge of Scripture and become a student of God’s Word:

- take time to study the Bible on a regular basis*
- study in a focused, concentrated fashion with no distractions*
- begin with reading Scripture, prayer, and seek to understand what God is saying BEFORE you start looking at commentary by others. Listen to what God is saying to you.*
- Respond to Scripture; i.e, obey. If you are studying a passage and know you have disobedience, stop, confess, repent, and go forward in obedience.*
- utilize on line tools for reference or use commentaries that can be purchased at a local bookstore. Use Biblically grounded authors for your study.*
- attend church and a small group Bible study.*

4. In 2 Timothy 4, Paul writes as an old man nearing the end of his life. Look at 2 Timothy 4:6-8. What are his declarations about his Christian walk? What will be the legacy of your life? What will be your final words as you reflect on your faith at the end of your life?

“I fought the good fight”. Commit today to be on the battlefield for Christ and to follow Him for the remainder of your life.

Commitment

Pray to God today. Commit to being a man that shares the Gospel, invests in discipling others, and loves the Word of God.