

Bon Appetit Week 1: Course 1 – Appetizer (Read) Phil 2:12-16

David Bawks - Pathway Community Church (Feb 7, 2021)

Four Courses – Four Steps

1. Appetizer – To Read
2. Salad – To Understand
3. Main Course – To Explain
4. Take-Away – To Apply

What challenges do you have in reading the Bible?

Two things that can help us with this:

- 1) Understand the overall story of the Bible, what the story is about
- 2) How to read the Bible, what questions to ask, and what approach to take

What is the Bible?

- The Bible is the account of what God has done and continues to do in our world.
- We call the Bible “revelation”, which means God’s communication to us.
- Most of the Bible takes the form of a story, or a narrative.
 - It is the story of the children of Israel, culminating in the coming of the Messiah and subsequent growth of the church, looking forward to the Messiah’s return in glory.

Why should we read the Bible?

- 1) first is that God made us, and the Bible tells us about how and why God made us – which gives us the purpose for our lives.
- 2) As Christians, the Bible is also God’s love letter to us – his explanation of how and why he saved us.

2 Tim 3:16-17

¹⁶All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. ESV

Challenge of Understanding - While the scriptures do apply to us today, they were not originally addressed to us today and as such we cannot read them uncritically in the sense of direct, literal application to our lives.

Rather, we must discern as best as possible the original intent and function of a passage in its original context before we take this meaning and apply it to our current situation.

Course 1 – Appetizer – Read! Spend time with the passage.

- 1.1 Pray before you begin this process. Ask God to open your eyes and your heart to receive.
- 1.2 Read the passage slowly and carefully. Read it more than once.
- 1.3 Read several different Bible translations, if possible.

Philippians 2:12-16

¹²Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.

¹⁴Do everything without grumbling or arguing, ¹⁵so that you may become blameless and pure, “children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.” Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky ¹⁶as you hold firmly to the word of life. And then I will be able to boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor in vain. NIV

My dear friends, you always obeyed when I was with you. Now that I am away, you should obey even more. So work with fear and trembling to discover what it really means to be saved. God is working in you to make you willing and able to obey him.

Do everything without grumbling or arguing. Then you will be the pure and innocent children of God. You live among people who are crooked and evil, but you must not do anything that they can say is wrong. Try to shine as lights among the people of this world, as you hold firmly to the message that gives life. Then on the day when Christ returns, I can take pride in you. I can also know that my work and efforts were not useless. CEV

So that, my beloved, as ye always obey, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, with fear and trembling your own salvation work out, for God it is who is working in you both to will and to work for His good pleasure.

All things do without murmurings and reasonings, that ye may become blameless and harmless, children of God, unblemished in the midst of a generation crooked and perverse, among whom ye do appear as luminaries in the world, the word of life holding forth, for rejoicing to me in regard to a day of Christ, that not in vain did I run, nor in vain did I labour; YLT

Coming up: **Annual meeting on Feb 21 @ 4 pm.**

Online movie night *Just Mercy* on Friday Feb 26 @ 7 pm

Church survey: <https://www.pathwayfremont.org/survey>

Pre-service Prayer & Post Service Fellowship Invite

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84118841989>

Check-in with us at <https://www.pathwayfremont.org/checkin>

You can give online at <https://www.pathwayfremont.org/give>

Join us again next Sunday @ 10:30 am right here at <https://pathwayfremont.online.church/>