

Philippians #6  
Philippians 2:12-14  
“Worth Repeating”

*Some things are worth repeating and remembering. In fact, repetition improves the memory. In this lesson, Tom returns to the same passage from the prior week to develop a few of the most important principles that separate Christianity from religion.*

The main attitude that Paul stresses in these verses is humility. Tom says that humility is “counterintuitive” – how does this Christ-like attitude run contrary to the world’s way of thinking? Where are you most challenged to exercise humility of mind?

Tom shared an important window into how he studies a passage of scripture which is very helpful to read and apply the Bible for all its worth. This three-step process is known as the “inductive” method. Try to incorporate these steps whenever you study scripture.

1. Observation. Ask, “*What does the passage say?*” Look for the clues and details within a passage. Note key words, phrases, commands or verbs.
2. Interpretation. Ask, “*What did this mean?*” Consider the context and surrounding passages. What was the intent of the author? What is the big idea that is being communicated? What is forever true about this passage?
3. Application. Ask, “*What does this mean – to me?*” How can I specifically apply the truth from this passage to my life?

There is a balance needed to live for Christ. We must strive and work hard, but we do so energized by God’s Spirit. Look at how Colossians 1: 28-29 frames this balance. What happens if we lose this balance and stress one side over the other?

*“The essence of the Christian life is faithful obedience. It is the hallmark of a Christian.”* What do you think Tom means by this statement? How do these other passages affirm this truth?

- John 15:10, 14
- 1 John 2:3

Tom always had a knack for finding a descriptive word picture and does so by using Frank Sinatra's song lyrics, "love you all the way." God's love for us is complete, full, and never dispensed in measured doses. Remind yourself of the depth of God's love in these passages and record your thoughts as you consider the implications of this kind of love.

- Romans 8:31-39
- John 13:1
- Jude 20-21

The love of God is beyond our human comprehension, especially when we consider that God is loving the unlovable (that's us). Observe what these passages say about this type of love.

- Romans 5: 6-10
- 1 John 4: 9-11

Tom summarizes the distinction between Christianity and man's concept of religion by saying, "*we are Christians based on what we believe, not on how we behave.*" Read Ephesians 2:8-10 and remind yourself of this important truth. [This is a passage worth memorizing!] How could you use this passage to correct those who think they need to "stack up" good works for entry into heaven?

Tom closes this week's lesson with a reminder of the security that believers enjoy. What God initiated, He continues and He brings to completion. How do these passages provide a sense of eternal security?

- John 6: 37
- John 10:27-30
- Romans 8: 38-39