

We believe discipleship is a direction
not a destination.



Living by The Book
Learn to Read & Study the Bible

Course Outline (12 Weeks)

- **OBSERVATION**

- ~~Week 5 Six Things To Look For (CH 18-23)~~

- ~~Week 6 What Do I Do With This (CH 24-26)~~

- **INTERPRETATION**

- ~~Week 7 Interpretation Intro (CH 27-29)~~

- ~~Week 8 Five Keys to Interpretation (CH 30-34)~~

- **Week 9 Don't Stop (CH 35-38)**



Course Outline (12 Weeks)

- **APPLICATION**

- **Week 10** Critical, Truth, Transformation (CH 39-41)
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Coming To Terms

Chapter 35



Terms

- We have discussed terms before
 - In this chapter we will discuss how better to
 - Find them
 - Investigate them
- A “term” is a key word or phrase the author uses to make his point



Finding Terms

- There are several ways to find important terms such as:
 - The word is repeated to give it emphasis
 - It is place on display in a prominent verse
 - A story is built around it to illustrate its significance
 - It may be put it in the mouth of a central character
- Once a term is found how can we better understand its meaning?



Investigating a Term

- How do we investigate terms?
 - We utilizes our two friends from last week:
 - Concordance
 - Bible Dictionary
- Let's look at an example word and how we would investigate it



The Investigation of Joy

- You are studying Philippians and notice the word joy and rejoice used often
 - A repeated term, a clue of its importance
 - Where is Joy used in the Bible
 - To our concordance
 - Joy, Joyful, Joyfulness, Joyfully
 - Joy is found almost 1,000 times in the Bible



How Is “Joy” Used?

- Compare and contrast the use of Joy in Philippians
 - Maybe look how Paul uses it in his other letters
- Next, how is joy used in the original language it was written in?
 - Let’s look at where Joy is used in Philippians



always offering prayer with j in	Php 1:4	5479
your progress and j in the faith	Php 1:25	5479
make my j complete by being of the	Php 2:2	5479
and share my j with you all	Php 2:17	4796
same way and share your j with me	Php 2:18	4796
receive him in the Lord with all j	Php 2:29	5479
I long to see, my j and crown	Php 4:1	5479



What's the Difference?

- Strong's 5479
 - χαρά chara, khar-ah´; from **5463**; **cheerfulness, i.e. calm delight:— gladness, × greatly, (× be exceeding) joy (-ful, -fully, fulness, -ous)**
- Strong's 4796
 - συγχαίρω sugchairō, soong-khah´-ee-ro; from **4862** and **5463**; to **sympathize in gladness, congratulate:— rejoice in (with)**

What's the Difference?

- Strong's 5463
 - χαίρω **chairō**, khah'-ee-ro; a primary verb; to be "cheer"ful, i.e. calmly happy or well-off; impers. espec. as salutation (on meeting or parting), be well:—farewell, be glad, God speed, greeting, hail, joy (-fully), rejoice

What's the Difference?

- Strong's 4862
 - σύν sun, soon; a primary prep. denoting union; with or together (but much closer than 3326 or 3844), i.e. by association, companionship, process, resemblance, possession, instrumentality, addition, etc.:— beside, with. [In composition, it has similar applications, including completeness.]



It's All Greek To Me

- Both Greek words, 5479 and 4796 are translated to Joy
 - But in Greek they are different
 - 5479 Greek is chara, which means joy or delight
 - It comes from the Greek verb 5463 chairō, to rejoice or be glad
 - 4796 Greek is sugchairō—related to chairō, but with a prefix, sug, that shades the meaning
 - The concordance tells you that sugchairō means “to rejoice with



Why Does It Matter

- It is obvious from the English text the words mean joy
 - And this joy is always shared with those he is writing to
- Why did we have to delve into the Greek?
 - a good concordance will help you when something is not so obvious



Figuring Out The Figurative

Chapter 36



An old, old man sat before his twelve sons. His eyes had failed, but his insight had not. Knowing that his time was drawing near, he wished to pronounce his vision of each man's future. They stood waiting, respectful in their silence. Finally the ancient one spoke: "Come close, my sons. Listen carefully to what your father tells you."

The gathered successors leaned closer, straining to hear. Robert, the eldest, occupied a central position. It was to him that the wheezing voice spoke first.

"Robert, you were the first, my pride and joy. But you are boiling water. You shall be first no longer."

The younger man's face fell, fighting back shame and rage. But he dared not reply. The old man was continuing without a pause.

"Stephen and Lawrence. You are thieves and murderers. To you I leave no blessing, only a curse.



“John, you are a lion’s cub, and so you will rule. But someday you will wash your clothes in wine.

“Zachary is a seaport where ships will find harbor.

“Ian is nothing but a wild mule. Satisfied with anyone who feeds him, he will spend his days in forced labor.

“Daniel, you are a snake lying in the road. You will strike at your brothers and be their judge.

“George, you are a bandit. You will rob and be robbed, and live in uncertainty.

“Allen loves the choicest of meats. But he will spend his days cooking, not eating.

“Nathan is a deer on the run. His words will leap and dance.



“Jonathan, you are my tree along the cool river bank. You will grow and prosper and shade all your brothers. To you will come the blessings of my fathers, and through you will pass the blessings to my descendants.

“Bradley, my last, is a vicious wolf, hungry and wild. All day you will kill, and all night you will devour.”

He finished abruptly, and no sound could be heard but the droning of flies. No one moved. Each son brooded on the words given to him. They failed to notice that the rattling patriarch, his words at an end, had dropped his head on his chest and sighed his last.



A Way of Speaking

- This is a loose reconstruction of Genesis 49 from Living By The Book
 - This is where Jacob gathers his twelve sons
 - And prophesies the future of each one's lineage
- Descriptions like
 - “Lions welp”, “haven for ships”, “strong donkey”
 - Does Jacob mean these things literally?
 - No, this is all figurative speech



Figurative Speech

- “I could have died of embarrassment”
- “I guess I’ll have to face the music”
- “He was bored to tears”
- “She has a green thumb”
- “The lily of the valleys.”
- Jesus called Herod a fox
- The Pharisees are whitewashed tombs
- James and John the Sons of Thunder

Is It Figurative or Literal?

- People talk about the “literal interpretation of Scripture”
 - Does this mean Judah is a real live lion cub?
 - Or Benjamin is a werewolf?
 - No, it is figurative
- On the other hand some will read more into scripture saying it is figurative when it is literal
 - “Render unto Caesar what is Caesar” means what it says, pay you taxes



Ten Principles

- How can we tell the literal from the figurative?
 - When the literal doesn't make sense when do we read it as figurative?
 - And how should we read it as figurative?
 - There are ten principles to guide us



Ten Principles (1)

- Use the literal sense unless there is some good reason not to.
 - We must assume that the writers were normal, rational people who communicated in the same basic ways that we do.
 - Reading more into the Song of Solomon than is there



Ten Principles (2)

- Use the figurative sense when the passage tells you to do so.
 - When dreams are the topic you can expect figurative and symbolic language



Ten Principles (3)

- Use the figurative sense if a literal meaning is impossible or absurd.
 - “Out of His mouth came a sharp, two-edged sword.”
 - This sounds absurd so what does it mean?



Ten Principles (4)

- Use the figurative sense if a literal meaning would involve something immoral.
 - “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in yourselves.”
 - Does God want us eating Human flesh? No!
 - So figurative meaning must be here



Ten Principles (5)

- Use the figurative sense if the expression is an obvious figure of speech.
 - “Like a gold ring in a pig’s snout is a beautiful woman who shows no discretion” (Proverbs 11:22)
 - Like is a huge clue here



Ten Principles (6)

- Use the figurative sense if a literal interpretation goes contrary to the context and scope of the passage.
 - Revelation 5, “the Lion of the tribe of Judah”
 - Is this a literal beast?
 - No
 - A little research and you will see it is a reference to the Messiah



Ten Principles (7)

- Use the figurative if a literal interpretation goes contrary to the general character and style of the book.
 - This principle applies especially to two types of literature:
 - Prophetic: Often makes sense only if read figuratively
 - Poetic: Employs imaginative language as part of poetic style
- “In the shadow of Thy wings I sing for joy” (Psalm 63:7)



Ten Principles (8)

- Use the figurative sense if a literal interpretation goes contrary to the plan and purpose of the author.
 - He is like a tree planted beside flowing streams that bears its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers. (Psalms 3:3)
- So, God wants us to prosper
 - With money and stuff
 - Maybe we need to look a little deeper here



Ten Principles (9)

- Use the figurative sense if a literal interpretation involves a contradiction of other Scripture.
 - “It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God” (Mark 10:25)
 - It is impossible for the rich to get into Heaven
 - This goes against what Jesus says in verse 27
 - “all things are possible with God”



Ten Principles (10)

- Use the figurative sense if a literal interpretation would involve a contradiction in doctrine.

¹⁶ Don't you yourselves know that you are God's temple and that the Spirit of God lives in you? ¹⁷ If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him; for God's temple is holy, and that is what you are.

1 Corinthians 3:16–17



Ten Principles (10)

- Use the figurative sense if a literal interpretation would involve a contradiction in doctrine.
 - Does this say that suicide is an unforgivable sin
 - As in you will go to Hell for it?
 - No
 - It conflicts with the doctrine of eternal security



Figures of Speech

- The following are various figures of speech
- With biblical examples of each one



Anthropomorphism

- The attribution of human features or actions to God.
- “The Lord’s hand is not so short that it cannot save; neither is His ear so dull that it cannot hear” (Isaiah 59:1).

Apostrophe

- Addressing a thing as if it were a person, or an absent or imaginary person as if he were present.
- “O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?” (1 Corinthians 15:55).



Euphemism

- The use of a less offensive expression to indicate a more offensive one.
- “ Would that those who are troubling you would even mutilate themselves” (Galatians 5:12).

Hyperbole

- Exaggeration to say more than is literally meant.
- “ I robbed other churches, taking wages from them to serve you” (2 Corinthians 11:8).



Hypocatastasis

- A comparison in which likeness is implied rather than stated directly.
- “Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy” (Luke 12:1).

Idiom

- An expression peculiar to a particular people.
- “And [Samson] said, ‘I will go in to my wife in her room’ ” (Judges 15:1).



Merism

- A substitution of two contrasting or opposite parts for the whole.
- “Thou dost know when I sit down and when I rise up” (Psalm 139:2).

Metaphor

- A comparison in which one thing represents another.
- “You are the light of the world” (Matthew 5:14).



Paradox

- A statement that seems absurd, self-contradictory, or contrary to logical thought.
- “Whoever wishes to save his life shall lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake shall find it” (Matthew 16:25).

Personification

- Ascribing human characteristics or actions to inanimate objects or animals.
- “The moon will be abashed and the sun ashamed” (Isaiah 24:23).



Rhetorical Question

- A question that requires no response, yet forces one to answer mentally and consider its ramifications.
- “In God I have put my trust, I shall not be afraid. What can man do to me?” (Psalm 56:11).

Simile

- A comparison using “like” or “as.”
- “He will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water” (Psalm 1:3).



Putting It All Together

Chapter 37



Let's Use Romans 12 as an Example

¹ Therefore, brothers and sisters, in view of the mercies of God, I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your true worship. ² Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God.

Romans 12:1–2



¹ Therefore, brothers and sisters, in view of the mercies of God, I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your true worship. ² Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God.

Romans 12:1-2

First Things First

- What do we observe?
 - First: Therefore
 - What do we do with “therefore”?
 - We look to see what it’s there fore
- It appears the therefore is everything preceding chapter 12
 - What does Romans chapter 1-11 say?
 - Anyone want to summarize this?



Summary of Romans Ch 1-11

- Theme of Romans; Righteousness of God, Romans 1:17
 - ¹⁷ For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith,, just as it is written: The righteous will live by faith.
- There are three major divisions in Romans



Divisions Of Romans

- 1) Ch 1-8 deal with a righteousness that God has revealed but we must receive
- 2) Ch 9-11 turn to the subject of Israel, where Paul says the righteousness from God was rejected by His people
- 3) Ch 12 starts the practical section of the book that talks about a righteousness reproduced in the believer's life

Our First Observation

- Therefore, because of everything written previously
 - Because of what God has done for you (mercies)
- I really, really want you to do something
- Notice Paul is asking us to do something after he has told us what God has done for us
 - Observation: God acted first not us



What Do You Want Us To Do?

- “present your bodies”
 - What do you mean present?
 - How do I figure out what present means here?
 - Does Paul use this word elsewhere in Romans?
 - If so, how?
 - How else is this word used in the Bible?
 - Word study time, where is my concordance?



Concordance

- Present is found in several places in the Bible
 - Romans 6:13
 - Luke 2:22
 - Acts 1:3
 - Ephesians 5:27
 - 2 Corinthians 4:14
 - 2 Corinthians 11:2
 - ...



Concordance

- And when the days of their purification according to the law of Moses were finished, they brought him up to Jerusalem to **present** him to the Lord (Luke 2:22)
- And do not **offer** any parts of it to sin as weapons for unrighteousness. But as those who are alive from the dead, offer yourselves to God, and all the parts of yourselves to God as weapons for righteousness. (Romans 6:13)
- Both words are translated from
 - Strong's **3936**.
 - παριστάνω paristanō par-is-tan'-o; from 3844, and 2476; to stand beside, i.e. (tran.) to exhibit, proffer

The Meaning

- In Luke Jesus is being “presented” to God as a baby
 - This is Jesus’ parents giving Jesus to God
 - He is God’s not ours
- In Romans 6 Paul gives you the option
 - You can present yourself for use by sin
 - You can present yourself for use by God



Back to Romans 12

- I am to, “Present”,
 - give, offer, allow to control
- What?
 - “Your bodies”
 - My physical body?
 - My mind?
 - My actions?
 - What?



“Bodies” Another Word Study

- I’ll give you the quick answer
- A word study reveals that “Bodies” stands for
 - The total person
 - The total being
- But you should try doing the word study of “bodies” here on your own



A Tie In

- Did you notice anything similar between Romans 6:13 and Romans 12:1-2
 - They both discuss the presenting, giving, offering, allowing to control
 - Your body, total person, total being



¹ Therefore, brothers and sisters, in view of the mercies of God, I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your true worship. ² Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God.

Romans 12:1-2



Present Our Bodies How?

- “as a living sacrifice”
 - This is a contradiction
 - Sacrifice is killing something
 - Living is the opposite of killing
 - Except when we are in the spiritual realm
- This is not a killing of ourselves physically
- What is it then?



What Does a Sacrifice Look Like?

- What is normally sacrificed to God at this time?
 - A lamb, “unblemished”
 - That is a lamb free of imperfections, pure, clean
- We are to present ourselves free of imperfections, pure and clean?
 - But we are not pure and clean
 - This is why Christ came!



“In view of the mercies of God”

- Exactly! Christ was that physical sacrifice
 - The mercy of God to us
 - We did not receive what we deserved
- In view of this mercy, we should
 - “Present” ourselves pure and clean
 - This is our way to worship God
- But how can I do this! I couldn't before Christ.



Theme (1:17) Divisions 1-8, 9-11, 12-16

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of God, I urge you to present your bodies as a living

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Romans 12:1-2



Let's Move to Verse 2

- “Do not be conformed to this age”
- Conformed in Vines Bible Dictionary
 - "to make of like form with another person or thing, to render like“
 - Don't be, “conformed” (molded, carved, squeezed) into the shape of this “age” (culture, time, people, world)

We Have An Option

- “But” a contrasting word linking two things as opposite
 - Before the “but” be like the world
 - What is the opposite? The other option
 - “be transformed”
 - How can I be transformed
 - And into what?



How Can I Be Transformed

- “by the renewing of your mind”
- We could spend days studying all these words and doing our observations but
 - You must be tired of my voice by now so,
 - After your exhaustive study of the text
 - You can go to a secondary source for a perspective on what you have studied
 - Use a commentary



Then Paul commanded, But be transformed (pres. passive imper., “keep on being transformed”) by the renewing of your mind. The Greek verb translated “transformed” (metamorphousthe) is seen in the English word “metamorphosis,” a total change from inside out (cf. 2 Cor. 3:18). The key to this change is the “mind” (noos), the control center of one’s attitudes, thoughts, feelings, and actions (cf. Eph. 4:22–23). As one’s mind keeps on being made new by the spiritual input of God’s Word, prayer, and Christian fellowship, his lifestyle keeps on being transformed.

John A. Witmer, “Romans,” in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 487.



After Consultation

- We find that
 - Transformed is in the passive form
 - Renewing is in the active form
- We can draw from this that
 - We can't do the “transforming” only God can (passive)
 - But we can do the “renewing” of our minds (active)



Renewing of Your Mind

- These two verses don't tell you how to renew your mind
 - But the Bible is full of how you renew it
- We chose what we fill our minds with
 - We can set our mind in neutral and let what the world has fill you up
- Or we can take an active role and fill our mind with the things of God
- This will determine what your transformation will look like



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of God, I urge you to present your bodies as a living

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worship. ² Do not be conformed to this age, but be

transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you

may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will

of God.

¹
As good
as God is

²

³
As perfect
as God is

Romans 12:1-2



So That You

- What's the purpose of this transformation?
 - So that you may “discern”
 - This means prove, test, show
- What are we going to test?
 - Gods Will
 - What are we to test for?



Prove Gods Will

- Is it good
 - Not our good as in ok
 - Is it God good, as in God is good
- Pleasing
 - Can Gods will be any better
- Perfect
 - Not only pleasing but perfect in all ways



Test Gods Will in Your Life

- This is what we are to test in our lives
 - Is Gods will good, pleasing, and perfect in our lives?
 - If it is not, why?
 - Am I done being transformed?
 - Where am I in my transformation?



Don't Stop Now!

Chapter 38



Information Overload

- We live in a world full of information
 - Information that is at our fingertips
 - At times, most of the time, there is too much information
 - And of that information what of it has any practical use?
 - The truth is careers are built on gathering information
 - The problem is having people who know what to do with it



Bible Study Has the Same Issue

- Bible study unfortunately has the same issue as the world
 - Lack of “What to do with it”
 - Or
 - Application



²¹ Therefore, ridding yourselves of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent, **humbly receive the implanted word**, which is able to save your souls. ²² But **be doers of the word and not hearers only**, deceiving yourselves.

James 1:21–22



It Is Harvest Time

- Imagine planting a field, watering it, watching it grow
 - Then right when the fruit is ripe and ready to eat
 - You walk off and never harvest and eat the fruit of your labors
- That is where we are now
 - We have observed and interpreted
 - We have put in the hard work



It Is Time To Apply

- It is time for us to seek the application of Gods Word!
- It is time for us to make changes in our lives!
- It is time for:

• **Application: How does it work?**



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Observation: What do I see?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

Application: How does it work?

