

SCRIPTURE INTERPRETATION

Scripture Passage:

Orientation Questions: Clarify the purpose of the letter.

- Why is Paul writing this letter? _____

- What problem, confusion, or need is he addressing in this church or individual? _____

1) OBSERVE – What Does it Say?

Locate the passage within the letter.

- Where does this passage fall in Paul's letter?
 - Greeting
 - Prayer / Thanksgiving
 - Theological Instruction
 - Practical Application
 - Closing
- How does the **location within the letter** inform your understanding of this passage? _____

Read the passage in its immediate context.

- What does it seem Paul is trying to get at in the preceding paragraph (immediately before the verses in question)? _____

- Where does Paul go in the following paragraph (after the verses in question)? _____

- How does this surrounding context shape or limit how you should read this passage? _____

2) INTERPRET – What Does It Mean?

Study the language and literary features.

- Are there any **key words or phrases** that need further study?
(Use Blue Letter Bible or another tool to note meaning, usage, or emphasis.)

Notes: _____

- Do you observe any of the following literary features?

<input type="checkbox"/> Contrasts (e.g., flesh/Spirit, death/life, old/new)	<input type="checkbox"/> Metaphors or imagery
<input type="checkbox"/> Transition words (therefore, also, so that, because).	<input type="checkbox"/> Rhetorical questions
<input type="checkbox"/> Quotations from Jesus or the Old Testament	<input type="checkbox"/> Surprising or strong statements

Explain: _____

Pause and read all your notes to this point in the worksheet. Keeping in mind your observations and study, what was Paul’s main point to the original audience?

3) APPLY – How Should This Shape Us Today?

- Truth to believe: What does this passage teach about God, the gospel, or life in Christ? _____

- Posture to adopt: What attitude, mindset, or heart response does this passage call for? _____

- Practice to consider: What might faithful obedience look like today—in concrete, realistic terms? _____

Lingering Questions: What is still difficult, unclear, or worth further study in this passage? _____

