



**July 31**  
**Return on Investment**  
**Philippians 4:14-23**

This week we are finishing up the book of Philippians. For several weeks, we have been trying to create a new habit by using several different Bible meditation methods. This will be the last week that we emphasize the methods but pray that you will continue to write down questions, thoughts, insights, and observations from scripture. In review, here are the different methods:

- **Pronounce it** – write the verse out in your journal then read the verse over and over again emphasizing a different word each time. (June 5, 2016)
- **Picture it** – read a passage a couple of times and imagine being a different person in the narrative...what is God saying to me and what does God want me to do? (June 12, 2016)
- **Personalize it** – put your name in place of the pronouns or nouns used in Scripture. (June 19, 2016)
- **Pray it** – put the passage you are studying into the first person singular from you, turn it into a prayer, and pray it back to God. (June 19, 2016)
- **Paraphrase it** – read the verse or passage two or three times. Think about what God is saying to you. Put it into your own words. (June 26, 2016)
- **Search it** – read a passage then ask key questions for personal transformation. For example...Is there a sin to confess? Is there a promise to hold on to? A command to obey? (July 3, 2016)

**Day 1:** The Philippians had invested in Paul's gospel ministry, and were assured that God would bring that investment to completion. But Paul was imprisoned, and his friends and co-laborers may have been discouraged by his circumstance. Paul explains in this concluding section of his epistle that investing in God's truth and God's people is never in vain. In fact, the return on the Philippians' investment was astounding! Are we investing in

eternal things that are guaranteed to pay off? Or are you frustrated with your current investments? What needs to change? Read verses 14-18 and pick a method or two to study with. Be sure to journal your thoughts and what God is revealing to you. Think about heart change.

**Day 2:** As a result of the Philippians investment in Paul, (an investment the passage says "are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God.") God was in the midst of meeting their needs. And the big picture result was that God would receive the glory! Are you giving God the glory for the payoff of your investment? Or where is the glory going? Do you see your investments as furthering God's Kingdom? Or yours? Read verse 19-20 and pick a method or two to study with. Journal your thoughts and what God is revealing to you. Think about heart change.

**Day 3:** Paul concludes this book of Philippians with a final greeting of unity and fellowship. Paul's tone is one of blessing and care. One way we can invest in our relationships with other believers is by showing love and respect towards one another. Who in the body of Christ can you be a blessing to today? What action steps do you need to take? Read verse 21 and pick a method or two to study with. Journal your thoughts and what God is revealing to you. Think about heart change.

**Day 4:** It is interesting to find the saints in Caesar's household in the final greeting. They were probably those (soldiers and relatives of Caesar) who had come to Christ as a result of Paul's house arrest. Paul gives the Philippians tangible proof of their investment. Think about this, your obedience to give to LSCC means you played a part in seeing kids and teenagers coming to Christ through VBS and Student camp, the gospel advancing in Honduras, Asia, Russia, and Zimbabwe, life change happening in Lee's Summit and so much more. I encourage you to find joy from your gifts and if you have not begun giving to ask the Lord to show you. Read verses 22-23 and pick a method or two to study with. Journal your thoughts and what God is revealing to you. Think about heart change.

**Day 5:** As we consider this message entitled "Return on Investment", in who are you currently investing (time, talent, treasure)? Spend some time praying and ask God to show you who or where He wants you to invest. Journal your thoughts and impressions He gives you. Then act! Take the next step in your journey to know and become like Jesus.