

**BACKGROUND PASSAGE(S):** Philippians 2:14-18; John 6:63; 2 Timothy 3:12-14; 4:6-8; 1 Thessalonians 5:21-22; Hebrews 10:23; John 1:1; 6:63; 8:31-32; 1 John 1:1; James 1:22.

**KEY VERSE(s):** – *Philippians 2:17* – *Yes, and if I am being poured out as a drink offering on the sacrifice and service of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all.*

***“Holding fast to the word of life.”***

- What is meant by “holding fast”?
- What is the “word of life”?

How can we ensure that we are holding fast to the word of life?

It is true that we live in a crooked and perverse generation – where lying and deception take place all around us. How can we guard against such deception?

How can we be light in a dark world?

What is a drink offering according to the OT?

How does Paul draw similarities between a drink offering and his life of service for Christ?

What do you hope to accomplish in your life as it pertains to the kingdom of God?

What do you rejoice in as you follow and serve Christ?

What is your “take-away” from this week’s study and **how can it be applied to your daily walk with Christ?**

**Perhaps the most common error people make when studying the Bible is to read meaning into the verses as opposed to discovering meaning from proper context. Here is a basic method to use when studying a verse or passage that will help you avoid this. Always begin each time of Bible study with prayer, asking God to help you understand what you are reading correctly.**

### **1) Observation**

*What does the passage say?*

Read the passage then look back to see what the passage is saying. Look for repeated words, key phrases, and cross-references. Think about questions that you have after reading. Allow your curiosity to lead you further in understanding.

*Who? What? When? Where? Why? How? What else do you notice?*

*What other questions arise from the passage?*

### **2) Interpretation**

*What does the passage mean?*

After observing what was said in the text, interpretation seeks to understand what God, through the book's author, is seeking to communicate through this text. Context is crucial to determining the meaning. Outside resources like Bible dictionaries and commentaries can help at this point.

*What is the context? Why is the author bringing this up?*

*What is God saying through this passage?*

**What is the main point of this passage?**

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### **3) Application**

*How do I need to respond?*

It's easy to read through passages, especially those familiar to us, without taking time to stop and think about how we can practically apply the truths we studied.

*How should I live my life in light of this passage?*

*How does this truth compel me to be transformed?*

*What does it look like to put this into practice?*

*"But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does."*

*-James 1:22-25 (NKJV)*