

Instructions

- *For Life Groups*: Pick one question from the **CONTEXT**, **OBSERVATION**, and **MEANING** sections. Spend the bulk of your time in the **APPLICATION** section by choosing at least three questions.
- *For Personal Study*: Answer every question in every section.

The COMA Method: Context Observation Meaning Application

The COMA method is an essential way to read, understand, interpret, and apply the Scriptures to your life. Its simplicity helps you study the Bible personally, one on one, or in group settings while staying faithful to the text. This method provides the tools to draw out the author's intended meaning and forces the reader to ask good questions of the text in order to understand it clearly in order to apply it appropriately. Please use this method anytime you study the Bible!

Thanksgiving Celebration - 1 Thessalonians 5:12-24

CONTEXT

Author: the Apostle Paul

Date: ~ A.D. 51

Theme: Living in light of the coming of Christ

1. What is Paul's connection to the church in Thessalonica? (See Acts 17:1-9)

OBSERVATION

1. From this passage, what people make up the Christian community?
2. What attitudes underlie Paul's various commands in this passage?
 - a. What impressions of the Christian life do these commands give you?

MEANING

1. How do the many commands in verses 12-22 relate to the multi-dimensional blessing of verse 23? To the promise of verse 24? To the requests of verses 25-27? To the benediction of verse 28?
2. How would you summarize the goal and hope of the Christian life in your own words? (v.23-24)

APPLICATION

1. **Gospel Reminder:** The thing we should be most thankful for is the gospel! Read Philippians 3:7-11 to reflect on another passage from Paul about his joy in “gaining Christ”.
 - a. How often do you revel in the gospel and the reality that you’ve been made righteous by the merits of Christ?
2. Verse 18 commands us to be thankful in ALL circumstances. How are you doing with this?
 - a. How is it possible to be thankful in the midst of ANY circumstance? (See Romans 8:28-29, James 1:1-8)
3. How can you cultivate an attitude of thanksgiving and gratitude this week? (See Colossians 3:16)
4. Of the various commands in this passage, which are most relevant to you? Your church? Your Life Group?
 - a. Which one do you feel you already are practicing well?
 - b. Which one will you work on this week? How?
 - c. What encouragement, sanctification, and grace do you receive from God to fulfill these commands?
5. Read 2 Corinthians 11:22-29 and compare Paul’s sufferings for Christ with your own. How does this comparison produce gratitude in you? What can you learn about thanksgiving when you compare the amount of Paul’s suffering with the amount of his gratitude and thanksgiving?
6. What has God been teaching you from His Word recently?
 - a. What are you going to do about what He has shown you?
 - b. What’s your next step?