

# WEEK AT A GLANCE

## WEEK 01

### BIBLE

Philippians 1-4

### RELIGION

*Rooted: The Apostles' Creed*, pp. 1-73

### WORLDVIEW

*How Should We Then Live?* Ch. 1

### WESTERN CIVILIZATION

*Western Civilization*, pp. 181-184

### TIMELINE

Place the figures in blank timeline book.

### GEOGRAPHY

Map Trek: The Roman Empire Divided

In Steadfast Year One, we saw that God has a master plan for history. We traced the roots of Judaism and saw how Jesus was the fulfillment of the prophesied Messiah of the Old Testament. While Christianity has its roots in Judaism, we can also see Pentecost as the beginning of something new—the Church Age, which had been a mystery to the Jews in the Old Testament. Gentiles have been grafted into the “family tree” because of God’s desire to bring all men to a saving faith. Just as one would want to know and trace his family’s ancestors, it’s important for Christians to know the heritage of their faith and of the Church and to know of people who have had a significant impact on Christianity through the ages. By doing so, we have a greater understanding and appreciation of where we’ve come from, where we are now, and how we fit into God’s plan for history.

We begin Steadfast Year Two with a review of the main events of the early church after the day of Pentecost. As you will remember, the first Christians were Jews, but the gospel quickly spread among the Gentiles. It is interesting that God used Paul, who had been a devout Jew and a leading persecutor of the earliest Christians, to be an evangelist to the Gentiles. Paul, an apostle of Christ, wrote 13 of the 27 books of the New Testament. Paul’s letters reveal much about life for the early Christians, but they also deal with issues pertinent to believers today, such as salvation, faith in Christ, the grace of God, unity among believers, and living for Christ in the face of trials. We will read several of Paul’s epistles this year. We begin with Philipians.

## PHILIPPIANS 1

Paul is writing Philipians from his prison cell in Rome. This was a time when Christians were under great threat and persecution for their faith. The believers lived in a pagan society, and their stance was counter-cultural. For the most part, we also live in a pagan society where our beliefs are mocked and ridiculed and stand in stark contrast to what the world would have us believe. How can you, as a Christian, remain steadfast while living in a non-Christian world? How can you respond to others who are hostile to your faith? Keep these things in mind as you read Philipians.

1. In the opening of Paul's letter (verses 1-2), you see three elements which are part of his literary style. Answer the questions below about the introduction.

LETTER FROM:

ADDRESSED TO:

MAY GOD GIVE YOU:

2. Paul refers to Timothy and himself as servants or slaves of Christ Jesus. What does the term servant or slave show about Paul's commitment level to Christ?

3. What are five key points of Paul's prayer for the Philippians in 1:9-11?

---

**POINT TO PONDER:**

"And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns." (NLT)

We are all in the process of maturing. No one has arrived, but we continue to strive toward the things of God. When you think of someone who is mature in Christ, what character traits come to mind? What things do others see in you which would cause them to have confidence or be fully convinced that God is working in your life? Do you see any areas in your life where you feel you could grow more spiritually? What things can you do to help you become more mature in your faith?

4. What are Paul's circumstances in 1:12-14? What good things does Paul see that have happened because of or in spite of these circumstances?

5. What does the above passage show about our own stand for Christ and how it can affect others? Do you think boldness for Christ is contagious?

You are high school students, but that doesn't mean you're immune from problems and suffering. There is no rule that suffering is saved for adulthood. Last year we examined the causes for pain and suffering. The truth is that we live in a fallen world, and we will encounter trials. No one is exempt. Some of you have very serious issues in your lives—maybe you've lost loved ones; maybe you or a family member is struggling with sickness, disease, or injury; maybe your family is experiencing strife or financial difficulties; maybe you're struggling with temptations. As you read Philippians, notice Paul's attitude and his encouragement to the believers who were faced with extreme trials and persecution.

6. Even though Paul is in a prison cell, he isn't moping and fretting. What is his underlying attitude in spite of his circumstances? What is his exhortation to the believers in Philippi? (Phil. 1:4; 1:18; 2:17-18; 3:1; 4:4)

7. What is Paul's attitude toward death? Should our attitude be the same or different?

8. What is Paul's attitude toward life? Should our attitude be the same or different?

9. The NLT states: “Above all, you must live as citizens of heaven, conducting yourselves in a manner worthy of the Good News about Christ.” (Phil. 1:27a) Instead of considering themselves citizens of Rome, what are they encouraged to do? Why? How does this apply to your life?

10. What can we learn from Paul about suffering?

## PHILIPPIANS 2

1. How does Paul encourage us to live? (Phil. 2:1-16) List at least ten things from this chapter.

2. Why is unity in the body of Christ important?

3. What can happen when there is disunity among believers?

4. In the upcoming weeks we will look at what the church believed about who Jesus is. Philippians 2:6-11 is called the Christ Hymn because it shows the beliefs of the early Christians about the nature of Jesus. What does this passage say about Who Jesus is?

5. Paul encourages us to shine like bright lights in a dark world. In what ways do you shine His light?

## PHILIPPIANS 3

1. Why does Paul address circumcision and the law in Phil. 3:2-11?

2. What is the overall message Paul communicates about righteousness?

3. What does Paul say about life after death? (Phil. 3:10-11 and Phil. 3:20-21)

4. How would the above verses be a source of comfort to the early Christians living under Roman rule?
  
5. Paraphrase Philippians 3:12-14 in your own words.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. Paul says there are “many whose conduct shows they are really enemies of the cross of Christ... Their god is their appetite...” (NLT- Phil. 3:18-19) What type of “appetites” would be considered wrong? What other behavior is associated with being an enemy of the cross of Christ?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. How can Christians find the balance between living in this world, yet being heavenly-minded?

## PHILIPPIANS 4

1. Even though there were so many reasons for the early Christians to band together as one, we still see that they still struggled with unity. What is the evidence of this?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. In Phil. 4:4, what does Paul emphasize? How does he accomplish this extra emphasis?

3. Describe how joy is different from happiness.
  
4. What important truths does Paul communicate about prayer, thanksgiving, and peace in Philippians 4:6-7?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. Philippians 4:8 is a great verse to memorize. It tells us on what our minds should focus. List those things.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. How is God glorified through our generosity to others?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. What verse or passage in Philippians is the most meaningful to you? Paraphrase it below and explain why it is meaningful to you.

---

#### POINT TO PONDER:

Have you ever visited a third-world country? If not, you've likely seen pictures in magazines or on TV. Some Christians I've met in Africa are truly some of the most joyful people you could ever meet. They walk miles to church service, and they worship joyfully with hearts full of gratitude as they bring a chicken to place in the offering bucket. Paul gives a secret to living a life of contentment. Read Philippians 4:11-13. Does contentment depend on possessions or status or success? On what does it depend? On what do you base your level of contentment?



# ROOTED: THE APOSTLES' CREED

BY RAYMOND CANNATA & JOSHUA REITANO

## PP. 1-73

1. What is The Apostle's Creed? How is The Apostles' Creed useful?

The authors take you phrase by phrase through each of the main statements of The Apostles' Creed. Rather than being asked specific questions about each phrase, you will jot down notes on what each statement means, why it is important, and how this tenet can be reflected in a believer's life. At the end of each section, the authors have questions for further reflection.

### I BELIEVE IN GOD THE FATHER ALMIGHTY

What does this statement mean?

Why is it important?

How can this be reflected in a believer's life?

## MAKER OF HEAVEN AND EARTH

What does this statement mean?

Why is it important?

How can this be reflected in a believer's life?

## JESUS CHRIST, HIS ONLY SON, OUR LORD

What does this statement mean?

Why is it important?

How can this be reflected in a believer's life?

## CONCEIVED AND BORN

What does this statement mean?

Why is it important?

How can this be reflected in a believer's life?

## SUFFERED, CRUCIFIED, DIED, BURIED

What does this statement mean?

Why is it important?

How can this be reflected in a believer's life?

# HOW SHOULD WE THEN LIVE?

FRANCIS SCHAEFFER

## CH. 1: ANCIENT ROME

1. Explain the three lines in history we must trace to understand where we are today.
2. What parts of the Roman Republic have had the strongest influence on our own Western civilization?
3. Why did the Greco-Roman societies which were built upon their gods ultimately fail? How did this affect their value system? Explain.
4. In the days of Caesar, to what type of political system did Rome turn?
5. For what reason did Virgil write *The Aeneid*?
6. Think back to your reading of *The Aeneid* and your study of the Roman Empire last year. In your opinion, do you think that Virgil succeeded in his goal? Why do you think that?



# WESTERN CIVILIZATION

BY JACKSON SPIELVOGEL

WEEK 01

WESTERN CIVILIZATION

## PP. 181-184

### THE LATE ROMAN EMPIRE

1. What changes did Diocletian make in the political structure of the Roman empire? Explain the new structure.
2. Which two rulers had even more autocratic power than any emperor held in the period of the Pax Romana?
3. What impact did the economic and social reforms of Diocletian and Constantine have on the empire? What economic problems arose? Evaluate the role that these reforms may have played in hastening the demise of the empire.

---

#### POINT TO PONDER

Take a moment and think about Rome's nickname -- the Eternal City. What does this title suggest? The Latin phrase "imperium sine fine" (empire without end) was first penned by Virgil in *The Aeneid*. Other writer and poets such as Albius Tibullus also used similar expressions. It was Tibullus who wrote in "Elegies:" "'Romulus aeternae nondum formaverat urbis moenia, consorti non habitanda Remo.'" ('Not yet

had Romulus drawn up the Eternal City's walls, where Remus as co-ruler was fated not to live'.)

Why do you think Romans thought their empire and their great city would last forever? How would they have felt when Rome proved to be fallible after all? Who did Romans blame for the fall of their Eternal City?



# TIMELINE

WEEK 01

PLACE THE FOLLOWING FIGURES IN BLANK TIMELINE BOOK.

Diocletian (245-313)

Constantine I (285-337)

First Council of Nicaea (325)

Ambrose (340-397)



# GEOGRAPHY

## MAP TREK: ROMAN EMPIRE DIVIDED

USE MAP 7.1: DIVISIONS OF THE LATE ROMAN EMPIRE IN YOUR WESTERN CIVILIZATION TEXT TO COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING:

**TRACE:**

the dividing line between the East and West

**MAKE A COLOR KEY:**

of the four prefectures as seen in the left corner of Map 7.1.

**COLOR AND LABEL THE FOUR PREFECTURES:**

Prefecture of Gaul; Prefecture of Illyricum; Prefecture of Italy; Prefecture of the East

**LABEL THE FOLLOWING CITIES:**

Rome, Constantinople, Carthage, Alexandria, Nicomedia, Pergamum, Antioch, Damascus, Jerusalem

**LABEL:**

Britain, Gaul, Germany, Libya, Egypt, Judaea, and Syria

**LABEL:**

Atlantic Ocean, North Sea, Mediterranean Sea, Black Sea, Red Sea