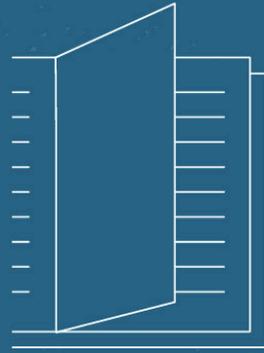


MIS-READING PAUL



JANUARY 7 - 18
DISCOVERTHEWORD.ORG

Many in our day find offense in who Paul was and what he wrote in the name of God. But then again, Paul offended both Roman and Jewish sensibilities in his own day too. Even so, we have a responsibility as believers to understand how and why the writings of this apostle are so often misunderstood. In this study of Scripture, *Misreading Scripture with Western Eyes* authors Randy Richards and Brandon O'Brien offer you a new set of lenses to take a closer look at the apostle's character, ministry, and teachings.



THIS WEEK'S DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- If you were asked to imitate Jesus, you would probably embrace that notion with little trouble. But what if you were asked to imitate the apostle Paul? In 1 Corinthians 4, Paul makes that very request. Do you hesitate or welcome the apostle's request with the same enthusiasm as you would the Lord Jesus's request?
- Picture a conversation with someone from the 1800s where you describe sending a message. Now picture that same conversation with someone today. What differences can be seen in how the message looks, what it's called, and how it's delivered?
- In John 5 and Acts 14, we find stories of healing. How do perspective and context help us understand what is said?
- Hitting a pothole can result in a car repair bill of hundreds of dollars. What can it cost us when we hit a spiritual pothole when reading the Bible? Read 1 Corinthians 10:1-4. What potholes do you see in this passage?
- Philippians 4:8-9 can stir up a lot of emotions—one of which could cause us to ask, "Who does Paul think he is?" What is your reaction to this passage? Do we send off signals to others that may cause them to ask the same question of us?



CHALLENGE

As you study Scripture and engage in conversations with others this week, remember that biblical interpretation is a cross-cultural experience. Make sure to read and listen to everything prayerfully and carefully.



COMMIT TO MEMORY

"Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15).



PRAYER

Lord, I know that Your Word is relevant for me today. But I admit there are times I struggle to understand it. Through the power of Your Holy Spirit, I ask that You bring clarity to the writings of the apostle Paul. Help me to not only understand the times in which these words were written, but also how You would have me apply them to my life today. Thank You for teaching me how to embrace Your truth. In Your Name, I pray. Amen.