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*“But examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good
(I Thessalonians 5:21)” — gain a window on the word.*

Chester A. McCalley

Illustrating God’s Truth _____

Christ: Savior or Judge?

In I John 2:1-2, it states “if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but for those of the whole world.” At the same time, Jesus said, “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes in Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life...for just as the Father has life in Himself, even so He gave to the Son also to have life in Himself; and He gave Him authority to execute judgment, because He is the Son of man (John 5:24, 26-27).” Jesus Christ is presented in His role of man’s present advocate or future judge.

This truth is illustrated by the following true story. A lady faced the possibility of an indictment for a certain crime. She knew she would need a good advocate and thus contacted a prominent attorney who agreed to be her advocate. However, she did not wish to retain the attorney until she was sure she would be indicted, so she delayed for a year. When the indictment was finally made, she contacted the attorney and reminded him of his agreement to represent her. His reply was, “I remember my agreement, but I cannot be your advocate now for I have since been appointed your judge!”

Jesus stands ready to be man’s Savior at this very hour. We must remember, however, that He who waits to be our savior will one day be our judge. □

Suggested Studies _____

2nd Timothy - Paul’s “Swan Song”

The apostle Paul, while in prison for the last time in Rome, wrote his second epistle to Timothy. Paul was probably nearing 70 years of age and II Timothy is considered his “swan song.”

Just as in I Timothy, Chester taught a 27-class series on the book of II Timothy. These classes are available on cassette tapes, CD’s, or in Mp3 format. These, also, will be sent to you in three separate shipments of 9 classes each if ordered on tape or CD. All 27 classes can be sent on one CD if ordered in Mp3 format. If you have not yet ordered Chester’s commentary on I and II Timothy, consider doing so to aid you in your study of this book. If you’d like to order these classes or commentary, please fill out the enclosed order form. Be sure to indicate in which format you’d like your audio classes. Orders can also be placed by emailing them to wtruth@kc.rr.com or calling **1-800-326-4414**. In addition, the classes are available for streaming audio or download on our website, www.WordOfTruthKC.org. The commentary is also available for download and is in PDF format. □

Emotions

God created man with an intellect—the ability to think and reason, a will—the ability to make choices, and emotions—the ability to feel. In this brief, three-lesson series, Chester surveys Scripture to determine what God has to say about our emotions and how they should relate to our intellect and will. Some emotions are good, some are wrong, and many can be either depending on our motivation. For example, anger is characterized as a desire of the flesh in Galatians 5:20; yet in Revelation 16:1, the same word is used of God’s wrath poured on the earth in judgment.

This series focuses on three emotions, each of which we all experience and which have a significant impact on the way we live the Christian life. This series studies the legitimacy of emotion in general, then specifically the emotions of self-pity, worry, and grief. This is a very practical series that will help with the ever present need for us to adjust to God’s viewpoint. These lessons from the Biblical Perspectives series are available on cassette tape, CD, and Mp3. They are coded BP 19, 20, and 21. To order, use the enclosed order form or give us a call or email as described above. These classes are also on our website for listening or downloading. □

Context or Confusion?

The Bible is not a collection of isolated texts. Just as the human body is a connected whole, so is Scripture. Every word, every sentence, every paragraph has a relationship to every other word, sentence, and paragraph. To interpret without an understanding of these relationships is to misinterpret, and to misinterpret is to teach error instead of truth.

The word *trunk* has many meanings and can be understood only by context. The trunk of a tree is one thing; the trunk of an elephant is another. At the same time, to pack one's clothes in a trunk is one thing, but to lay a trunk line from the street to the house is another. And yet, in each case the word *trunk* is identical in spelling. How do we distinguish one meaning from another? The answer is context. If the context attaches it to an elephant, we understand one thing; if a place to put clothes, it means something different—all determined by context.

The following "circles of context" must always be considered:

- The Cultural Context

When we read Judges, we understand it to be written amidst very ancient culture and customs. All is different when we read the writings of John. John was written after the coming of Greece and Rome; Judges was written in Palestinian bronze-age culture.

- The Biblical Context

All of the word of God is a harmonized unit—no passage in Genesis contradicts a passage in Isaiah; nor does the Old Testament contradict the New. Each passage must be understood in a manner that recognizes its place in the whole of God's revelation.

- The Specific Context

The noun *faith* affords a good example. In Paul's earlier writings the word often has a subjective meaning, a reference to our personal faith in the Lord. Later, however, in the books of Timothy and Titus, Paul begins to attach a definite article to the word—"the faith." This makes the expression refer to an objective body of truth, almost equivalent to "what we Christians believe."

Never isolate verses from context. To do so is to invite error and reflect the false method of interpretation that is typical of the "proof texting" cults. □

A Thank You

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If you have a friend that you'd like to receive this packet, fill out the bottom portion of the order form. Your kind referrals are the most effective way to help us make our Bible study materials known to others. □