

III. Basic rules of biblical study and interpretation

Fifteen factors to focus Bible study

#1 THE CONTEXT FACTOR

1. There is no understanding of the Bible without a proper understanding of _____.

Note: **Every** verse, **every** passage **MUST** be studied in light of its context...

This has always been a common problem.

Psalms 56:5 Every day they wrest my words...

Jer 23:36 ...for ye have perverted the words of the living God, of the LORD of hosts our God.

Matt 22:29 Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures...

2 Pet 3:15-18 ...which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures...

It will always be a common problem.

Acts 20:28-31 ...shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock...

Note: If this was going on 2,000 years ago...how much more today!?!

2 Cor 11:3-4 ...For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached...

2 Cor 11:13-15 ...And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light...

1 Tim 1:19-20 ...which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck...

Biblical context is a factor by which God sheds light upon a subject through either near passages or remote details bearing upon the same theme.

Note: Every verse in the Bible has something that precedes it and something that follows it, except two verses, Genesis 1:1 and Revelation 22:21.

Never, never, never take a verse out of its setting and give it a foreign meaning!

Establishing biblical _____ includes:

- 1) _____ context
 - ✓ The preceding _____(s)
 - ✓ The following verse(s)
 - ✓ The preceding _____(s)
 - ✓ The following passage(s)
 - ✓ The preceding _____(s)
 - ✓ The following chapter(s)

2) _____ context

- ✓ The _____ of the particular book of the Bible the scripture is located in
- ✓ How that particular Book fits into the _____ of the Bible
- ✓ Always keeping in mind the _____ of the entire Bible

3) _____ of other important rules of Bible study

- ✓ Historical framework
- ✓ Ethnic division
- ✓ Comparing things spiritual with things spiritual
- ✓ Other critical details, etc.

Tonight we will examine examples of near and remote passages...

Some questions to ponder: (think for a minute...)

Have you ever had your words or statements taken out of context?

- Removed from your intention?
- Taken away from your heart's motive?
- Stripped from your character?
- Used against you?

How did it make you feel?

- Hurt?
- Betrayed?
- Misunderstood?
- Angry?

How do you think God feels about His words being taken out of context?

Hold that thought as we look at some examples...

2. Some common examples:

Near Context (These passages are often misunderstood because they have been removed from their proper near context)

Matthew 7:1-2 -

WHAT IT IS NOT TEACHING: It is not teaching us _____ to judge but rather teaching us not to have a critical or judgmental heart towards others...and what happens to someone who does!!

WHAT IT IS TEACHING: It teaches us how to _____!!

Matthew 18:20 -

WHAT IT IS NOT TEACHING: That Jesus is only with you at _____ times. Is Jesus with you when you are saved? Even if you are doing things that are not representative of Him (not in His name), He is still with you!

WHAT IT IS TEACHING: Settling _____ between brethren – like-mindedness!!

John 6:56 -

WHAT IT IS NOT TEACHING: That Jesus somehow wants us to eat His _____ flesh and drink His literal blood! Jesus had just fed 5,000 people. Many were still following Him because they wanted a free lunch. Verse 66...and took their false doctrine with them!!

WHAT IT IS TEACHING: A spiritual principle – His _____ are life!!

Acts 2:38 –

WHAT IT IS NOT TEACHING: How _____ in the NT church age are to get saved!
How _____ in the NT church age should speak babble!

WHAT IT IS TEACHING: What actually happened as a matter of _____ significance after Jesus ascended into Heaven to be with God the Father and answers the question for the Jews that had killed their Messiah – oh no – what shall we do?!?! It was a special “dispensation” of God’s _____ for the Jews that had rejected and killed Jesus Christ!

Revelation 3:20 -

WHAT IT IS NOT TEACHING: Jesus is happy and at _____ in the Laodicean church today with its lukewarm, watered down, entertaining, Bible denying, ear tickling, people pleasing, Satan directed side show acts that they call having church!!

WHAT IT IS TEACHING: Jesus is on the _____ of the church!!

Remote Context *(Passages in these books are often misunderstood because they have been removed from their remote context)*

Ecclesiastes There are _____ things said in this book. It was written by a man who is “under the sun” and separated from God!

1 Corinthians A _____ – a rebuke...it is more about what _____ to do rather than what to do – be careful!

Hebrews Some of the hardest passages in the Bible regarding _____ security. It appears like you can lose your salvation?

- Remember – it was written to _____ – this is a Tribulation Period context!
- Remember – it is a _____ book in the Bible – like Matthew and Acts!

Observations *(Passages and chapters can be understood in light of the big picture painted by the order of the following books therefore establishing a broad overall doctrinal context)*

Example #1 Consider the big picture doctrinal context painted by the first 6 books of the Bible:

Genesis	The book of beginnings...ends with God's man dead in a coffin in _____...
Exodus	God's people are redeemed by the blood of the _____...
Leviticus	God's people are _____ to God and the priests are established...
Numbers	God's people wander in the wilderness of _____...
Deuteronomy	God gave the law a second time...this time serve out of _____ not duty...
Joshua	Joshua (_____) leads God's people to conquer the Promised Land...

Example #2 Consider the big picture doctrinal context painted by the order of the following books:

Ezra	The Jews _____ to their land and the temple is rebuilt in Jerusalem...
Nehemiah	The Jews continue to return to their land and the _____ network is rebuilt...
Esther	A Gentile bride is replaced with a _____ bride...
Job	There is a time of great _____...
Psalms	King _____ takes the throne from Saul (antichrist) and is King on the throne in Jerusalem leading worship...
Proverbs	The reign of the _____ of God – Jesus Christ – the living Word ...