

Pleasant View Proclaimer

Pleasant View church of Christ

Misinterpreted Verses

April 2, 2017

Issue 307

The Bible teaches us that we should “rightly divide” Scripture, or, as the New American Standard Bible puts it, we should “accurately handle” it (II Tim. 2:15). Both of those phrases make it clear that there is a right way to use Scripture and a wrong way. Unfortunately, there are many well-meaning people today who believe that the Bible teaches anything they want it to teach—there is no such thing as mishandling God’s word.

One of the best ways to avoid mishandling Scripture is to pay attention to the context or setting of a verse or chapter. Ask yourself: Who is speaking? Who is he or she speaking to?

Where is the event taking place? If it is a narrative passage, have I read the entire story? If a command is given, is it a timeless command for all Christians for all time, or was it a specific command directed to a specific group of people for a specific reason (ex. Jesus’ commands to His apostles)? If I am studying one verse, have I read the verses that come before and after that verse?

Some very familiar verses have been misused because scores of people have disregarded context. Here are a few:

(1). *Matthew 18:20*: “For where two or three have gathered in My name, I am in

their midst.” This verse has been used to determine if a quorum has been met so a proper worship service can take place. But in context we see that Jesus is teaching about conflict resolution among Christians. He is simply stating that when those deliberations take place, He is also present, which should greatly affect the behavior of those involved.

(2). *Philippians 4:13*: “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” This verse has been used to motivate businessmen...

(con’t on back)

Items of Note:

- Beverly Nicholson, wife of Tim Nicholson of Austin & Bell Funeral Home, was diagnosed with Breast Cancer. He begins treatment soon.
- Dick Chapman, friend of Sherry Buchanan, had a pace maker implanted.
- Continue to remember the Lee family, Paula Lee, Haley Rector, Frieda Perry, Mildred Walker, and all those families who were affected by the chemical attack in Syria.

This Morning’s Sermon: “Judgment” Men’s Meeting At 5:00; Singing At 6:00

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: E. Walker

Pray: John Hayes

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: Billingsley

Serve: Doug D., Simpkins, J. Buchanan

Pray: Reed

Pleasant View church of Christ
2500 Highway 49 East
P.O. Box 189
Pleasant View, TN 37146

Sunday School: 9:30
A.M. Worship: 10:30
P.M. Worship: 6:00
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:00 pm
Phone: 924-9714

Psalm 119:9
“How can a young man
keep his way pure? By
keeping it according to your
word.”

Michael and Leigh Smith have expressed interest in placing membership at Pleasant View. They have been members of the church for many years. They come to us from the Hilldale church of Christ in Clarksville.

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Misinterpreted Verses, Con't

...athletes, students, and anyone else who is trying to meet a goal. Most people think this verse is about achievement. But it's not. Logically we know that we cannot do all things. God did not endow each person with the talents and resources to do whatever he or she wants to do. Aside from logic, the context of Philippians 4:13 teaches us that it's not a verse about human achievement; it's a verse about contentment. In the previous verses, Paul stated that he lived as a wealthy person and a poor person, and no matter what condition he was in, He found strength from Jesus. His faith was not dictated by circumstances, but by Christ's love.

(3). *Matthew 7:1: "Judge not, lest you be judged."* This is the preferred verse of those who do not want to be told that what they are doing is sinful. It's used as a mirror to direct the attention away from them and onto the one making the judgment. But did Jesus really say that we cannot recognize sin? Of course not: in John 7:24, Jesus said we should judge with a righteous judgment. In Matthew 7:1 Jesus begins a lesson on judgment. He goes on to say that the standard of judgment we use will be used against us. Jesus didn't forbid judging; He forbade hypocritical, condescending, holier-than-thou judging.

(4). *Romans 10:13: "Whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved."* Some have interpreted "call" in this verse to mean a prayer. So this verse and others have been used to support the false teaching that a prayer can save someone's soul. The word "call" by itself means nothing. We have to look at the whole context of Scripture to see *how* someone calls on the Lord. We see that a sinner calls on the Lord by being obedient to gospel commands. Rom. 10:13 does not negate the necessity of confession, repentance, and baptism.

Pay attention to context, and you will become a better Bible student.

James Hayes
