

# PLEASANT VIEW PROCLAIMER

July 31, 2022

## Context, Context, Context

Most of us have heard the famous real estate quote, "There are three things that matter in property: location, location, location." This phrase is often attributed to Lord Harold Samuel, a real estate tycoon from Britain. His 1987 obituaries from the *Britain's Sunday Times* and *Financial Times* both identified Lord Samuel as the originator. However, the phrase has also been found in a real estate classified ad from the *Chicago Tribune* in 1926, when Harold Samuel would have been 14 years old. So, while there is confusion about where this quote came from, there is NO confusion about what it means. When it comes to real estate, a good location is vitally important!

Using this same phrasing as it relates to the Bible, we might be inclined to say something like, "The three keys to Bible study are: context, context, context." There are obviously many important things when it comes to studying God's Word, but understanding scripture within its context is critical for deciphering the intended meaning. When we lift verses out of their context, we can make them say anything we want. Consider a verse from Romans that is often taken out of its context:

**Romans 8:28 (ESV)** *And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.*

**Confusion** - This verse is often interpreted to mean that God will always cause things to work out our way in this lifetime. In modern times, this could be included as one aspect of what is often referred to as the "prosperity gospel" that is popular among many preachers (especially those on TV).

**Complication** - This incorrect interpretation can lead to significant problems when dealing with real life situations. For example, Olivia had a childhood friend in Michigan who moved to Florida. In her early 20s, this friend died in a car accident when another motorist ran a stop sign. This county in Florida did not have life-flight available, and the EMS team that responded thought she might have survived had life-flight been available. Eventually the county added life-flight to their EMS services largely as a result of this accident. They put up a plaque in her honor at EMS headquarters and they used her initials in the

THE LORD  
IS A  
REFUGE  
FOR THE  
OPPRESSED,  
A STRONGHOLD  
IN TIMES OF TROUBLE

PSALM 9:9-10

*"O Lord, You are my God. I will exalt You, I will praise Your name, for You have done wonderful things; Your counsels of old are faithfulness and truth."*

Check us out on  
facebook as  
pleasantviewcoc for  
upcoming sermon and  
bible class topics

*I am His arms and His hands  
As I stretch forth to help  
mankind*

*I am His eyes as I see  
The needs and hurts of my  
neighbor*

*I am His mouth when I speak  
Sharing His holy Word  
I am His feet as I walk  
Along that second mile*

*I am His heart when I say  
"Lord, here am I. Use me."*

helicopter call letters. Obviously some good things came from her death, does this mean that her death was a good thing? Was her death caused by God? Would her mother say that what happened to her was “good,” because it resulted in life-flight being available for others?

What about situations that never resolve in this life? Does that mean that we don’t love God or that we did something bad to deserve it? This was the thinking of Jesus’ disciples in **John 9:1-3**. If we believe that “good” refers to this lifetime, how do we reconcile all the **bad** things that happen to God’s people? We have promises that God will take care of our basic needs (**Matt 6:25-34**), that He will give us strength to deal with any situation (**Phil 4:10-13**), but NOT that we will avoid suffering (**2 Tim 3:10-13**).

**Context** - Paul is talking to Christians in Rome who are enduring suffering and persecution, and he is offering encouragement to help sustain them through this difficult time. This encouragement focuses on three things:

- (1) Help from in temptation (**13**) / interceding in prayer (**26-27**)
- (2) Adoption as “children of God” (**14-17**) / conformed to His image (**29**)
- (3) Future **glorification** received from God (**17-25, 30**)

**Content** - Think about the key elements of this verse based on the context:

**“all things”** - This means everything in a person’s life, both positive and negative. Paul has been talking to these Christians about the suffering they are presently enduring (16-17). Think about Paul and James’ writing on rejoicing in trials (Rom 5:1-5; James 1:2-12).

**Good** - From the context, this must be talking about future glory with God, and not present day circumstances. So, Paul is promising that if we “love God” and are “called according to His purpose,” then He will take all things in our lives (good and bad) and use them to work towards our eternal good (future glory). This is the promise!

## PRAYER LIST

- **Steve Buchanan** has covid
- **Tommy Shearer**, who spoke here in June, lost a leg in a motorcycle accident
- **Doug Demonbreun** is still dealing with pain
- **Forshia Pennington, Carolyn Pennington** and **Judy Grissom**, relatives of the Reeds, have breast cancer
- **Faye Waller** is at NHC rehab after elbow surgery
- **Rebecca Brown’s** great-granddaughter passed away
- **Donna Rawls Head** has cancer
- **Diane Singleton** is recovering from knee surgery
- Continue to pray for: families in **Uvalde, Texas** and those in **Ukraine; Kristine Garrett, Delores Coleman**, the **Krantz** family, **John Hayes, Nick Phifer, Gaynell Walker, Rosemary Douglas, Isabel Johnson**, and **Jim Sims**

## SERVING TODAY (July 31, 2022)

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

**Read:** R. Mayo  
**Prayer:** J. Gupton

### WORSHIP

**Read:** J. Buchanan  
**Wait On Table:** E. Walker  
**Serve:** D. Demonbreun, C. Baker  
**Prayer:** D. Billingsley