

North Christian Church -

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9/11/16 - The "Difficult" Passages - The Gospel Context - Part 2

"ready to make a defense"

Students eventually become teachers (ala Heb 5:11-14). Teachers are able to clarify topics of discussion by wiping away irrelevant or false preconceptions, supplanting them with the truth. One must be able to first identify false ideas before they are able to dispel them for their students!

"the ends justifies the means"

NEVER in the Bible is this method considered godly. In fact, the Word of God tells us that it is better to suffer for what is right than to do something wrong! (eg. 1Pe 2:20; 3:17; 4:19)

Ro 9:20 [Message]

Who in the world do you think you are to second-guess God? Do you for one moment suppose any of us knows enough to call God into question? Clay doesn't talk back to the fingers that mold it, saying, "Why did you shape me like this?"

What is life?

Answer: Jn 1:4

The Gospel Context

The Gospel context must be tied to the Person of Jesus Christ. If a person ties it to something artificial, like hyper-dispensationalism, they have lost their context!

Jesus Seeks and Saves

Jesus' purpose in life, His calling, as an obedient servant of His Father in Heaven, was/is to seek and to save that which is lost! The "good news" (Gospel) is that He came to do this! His ministry, His words, His actions were dominated by this simple calling. This is the Gospel context.

The Value of Context

Without the Gospel context, the rest of scripture becomes "difficult" to understand, often confusing, and as a result, frustrating. Satan loves it when a "well-intentioned" believer puts their Bible aside in frustration!

The Gospel Context

The Bible speaks about two types of people, unbelievers and believers. The Gospel is always presented in this context because it concerns the salvation of man (eg. Mt 7:13-29). The only time Gospel passages become "difficult" is when people make further divisions (eg. from errant context).

"fishers of men" - Mt 4:19

This phrase is consistent with the context of Jesus' own ministry. "Fishing" implies catching. Maturing may come later, as experiential sanctification does, but the goal is to "catch" (seek and save).

Continuing Christ's Work

The Great Commission is a continuation of Jesus Christ's ministry, which was to "seek and to save the lost" (Lk 19:10). The Bible equips us to do this by teaching us, often through examples, what it means to reaffirm and defend the Gospel (ala Paul, Peter, John in their epistles).

Life's Context

Our great charter in life is to seek and to save...for that is Jesus' legacy...that was His own context, His Gospel context. He has handed the mantle over to generations of believers.

What is life?

Answer: Jn 1:4

Heb 11:1-2

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. For by it the men of old gained approval.

"from faith to faith"

The beginning and the end is faith. We live by faith in the Person of the Gospel. That is our life's context. That is our salvation and our sanctification.

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Jesus' Life Context

The context of Jesus' life, and therefore the Gospel context, was dictated by the history and the audience of the Jews. The Jews had gone astray and needed to repent from "salvation by works" to "salvation by grace, through Christ". This conflict dominated His ministry.

Our Life's Context

We must evangelize the same way that Jesus did, "repent and believe in the gospel" (Mk 1:15). We must evangelize in context. We mustn't ever take Biblical passages out of context in order to relieve the pressure of spreading the true Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The result of taking Biblical things out of context is a fall from holiness.

The Gospel has context.