

Fresh Fire Ministries
The Expository Teaching Ministry of Jay Duane Driver

“The Context for Living”

“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.” II Timothy 3:16 (NKJV)

In order for life to be lived with reward, benefit, and to the glory and honor of God it must be lived within the context of the scriptures. The Word of God must be our primary and most fundamental frame of reference from which we derive the power to endure in an often troubled world. Problems ensue when these same scriptures are read, taught, preached, or shared out of context or with the improper interpretation. When there is improper interpretation of the scriptures, there will always be the improper application of the scriptures. Moreover, when the scriptures that are preached or taught are combined with entertainment, secular euphemisms, or other unnecessary antics, the Word of God loses its desired impact. The Apostle Paul reminds Timothy that all the aforementioned are meaningless because all inspiration of scripture comes from God. In other words all scripture is “God breathed.” It is the life and the power of God himself. No other additives are needed to ensure its truth, power, or context.

When applied properly, the scriptures are profitable or beneficial for doctrine. Doctrine is the precepts and divine instructions from God for every believer. This is so critical now when there are so many prevailing winds of false doctrine, error, and other heresies that have invaded the landscape of our society. “For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.” II Timothy 4:3-4 (NKJV) The time that this passage refers to has now come. When our instruction from the scriptures is based on “unhealthy” doctrine, it changes the context of said doctrine and we begin to live life out of context with the scriptures. We can easily see this being lived out before us each and every day in the midst of racial hatred, same sex marriage, corrupt politicians, a compromising pulpit, and a new generation in the pew with needs and desires far apart from the original intent of the scriptures.

The Word of God also provides for us a context of reproof and correction. Reproof is the manifestation of truth that brings conviction. Conviction will ultimately change our heart, which will in turn change our behavior, which will subsequently change our context for living. This reproof of the scriptures will be reinforced by the correction that the scriptures afford us. Here the idea of correction is “the straightening up again.” When we stray from the path of obedience, establishing our own standards, and falling and stumbling along the way the word of God can lift us up, reestablish our steps, and make straight the paths from which we have strayed. Where there is no reproof or correction there is compromise. This compromise is subtle but sure.

Finally the Word of God provides us the context to live life based on the instruction of righteousness. This is simply to say right living. The word is our guide, our light, our barometer, our focus for living right in a world that is hopelessly going wrong. Even when we are wrong, the word of God always reminds us of what is right; how to think right, how to behave right, and how to live right even when our flesh motivates us to do otherwise. Perhaps most importantly the word is a reminder of the righteousness of God through Jesus Christ our Lord. He is our righteousness. He becomes the sin offering for us by shedding His own blood. Now we can walk in right standing with God. This eternal fact helps us to maintain the context of how we live to do what is right, and to do what is appropriate to the glory of God.

