

Examining Context Acts 17:11

Knowledge of background of scripture needed to properly understand

- I wore a fan shirt to a Malvern game.
- Brenda wore a fan shirt while watching AL vs Clemson.
- Brenda wore her fan shirt while watching AL vs Clemson.
- Brenda wore a fan shirt to the AR vs AL game.
- Brenda wore her fan shirt to the AR vs AL game.

context - noun

the parts of a written or spoken statement that precede or follow a specific word or passage, usually influencing its meaning or effect:

the set of circumstances or facts that surround a particular event, situation, etc.

We must guard against isolating words/phrases from context. We must consider its setting and all that is joined together with it

Learn Facts That Prompted

Who is the author of the statement?

- Is it inspired? Or inspired record
- Gamaliel - wait it out **Acts 5:38**; Who's rules? **Colossians 2:20-22**

Is passage from old or new covenant?

To whom was statement made?

- For general application or a special situation
- John's baptism **Matthew 3:1-6**; Christ's baptism **Matthew 28:18-20**

Was it a promise only to certain ones or for all?

- Spiritual gifts limited **John 14:26; 16:13**
- All baptized receive "gift of Holy Spirit" (salvation) **Acts 2:38-39**

What is the subject matter?

Is it about past, present, or future? Thief on cross - before cross

Is subject same as isolated passage seem to indicate

Called who? **2Thessalonians 2:14**

What was the purpose to be accomplished?

Most passages that require careful consideration have a special object to accomplish. It may be to prevent error or to correct one

Revelation to assure Christians truth and right would be victorious over error, thereby giving them hope and patience needed to endure

Gain A Knowledge Of The Background Of Text

Learn about history of times and geography of country

Fact Romans conquered Jews, Judea had dual government in time of Christ helps us understand Jesus' trial and other events of N.T.

Observe the geography of country: Paul's journeys

Consider existing laws, customs, or popular opinions

Roman law prohibited Jews from using death penalty, not God's Law to Israel. **John 18:31; Leviticus 24:16-17**

Roman law required sleeping guard be put to death, thus Jews promise to keep soldiers guarding Jesus' tomb "out of trouble **Matthew 28:14**

Consider Words Themselves Compare Parallel Passages

Examine meaning of each word, sentence & paragraph

Each word has a purpose. Some words, pronounced alike but spelled differently may cause confusion (Often solved in newer translation)

"Strait" = restricted or difficult (narrow) **Matthew 7:13-14**

"Straight" = upright, not crooked or bent **Hebrew 12:13**

After learning meaning of each word, determine the idea expressed in sentence or paragraph as a whole

Compare all parallel passages

Confirm proper interpretation difficult. Truth doesn't contradict self

Example: Can a rich man go to heaven? **Matthew 19:24; Mark 10:25**

Those will be rich & trust in riches **1Timothy 6:9-10**

If used wisely can be saved **1Timothy 6:17-19**

Songs

Our God, He Is Alive #1

Verse 3 "tho' men may search, they cannot find"

We can search His Word and find eternal life.

Context is Creator & His amazing power

Verse context is "germ" of life not eternal life. Man cannot create life.

Scientists tell God they can create life; reach for dirt to begin; God says "Get your own dirt!"

To God Be The Glory #27

Verse 1 "all may go in." (not "all can go in")

Key is to understand how words relate to one another.

Some focus on "all" and feel it is wrong, because not everyone will be saved.

But "may" tells us that opportunity to enter is available to all.

The "lifegate" is open to everyone willing to take advantage of the opportunity made available by Christ.

I Know Whom I Have Believed #278

Verse 4 "Nor if I'll walk the vale with Him, Or 'meet him in the air.'"

Have difficulty myself seeing why one would have a problem with this.

Song is statement of assurance of salvation. Context "I know I'm saved."

This stanza is a reference the encouragement Paul offered to the Thessalonians in **1Thessalonians 4:12-18**. Note **verse 17** particularly.

"Walk the vale" is a poetic reference to death, thus, I don't know if I will die in Him or be alive to meet Him when He returns.

There is no doubt regarding being with Him, just about when it will come. Not if, but which!

Suggestions made in study may require additional helps

Exercise caution. Work of uninspired men may be incorrect

Follow rules, examine from every angle think for yourself. Don't let anyone to tell you what Bible says.

Read it for yourself **Acts 17:11**

Jerry Henderson