

# PROGRESSIVE REVELATION

## THE DANGERS OF QUOTING SCRIPTURE OUT OF CONTEXT

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These notes, composed from 2013 on, are based on taped lectures given between 1977 and 1997 by Dr. Ernest L. Martin, Ph.D., formerly the Head of Theology for the Worldwide Church of God; he resigned in January 1974 because of his unresolved doctrinal issues with the administration. Sadly Dr. Martin died in January 2002, a great loss to the world and to those who seek Biblical truth.

Passages of scripture quoted out of context have led to an enormous amount of misinterpretation and misunderstanding. For instance we have all heard many times that we should Philippians 2:12 “work out your own salvation with fear and trembling”, but this breaks the rule of context, as this verse only gives half of the thought that Paul is teaching.

Philippians 2:12 Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.

Remember, the chapters and verses marked off in our modern Bibles were not a part of the inspired text from God, they were inserted by men. The second half of the thought Paul is emphasizing is by far the most important part of the instruction!

Philippians 2:13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

We are NOT working out our own salvation at all! God is working it out within our hearts and minds as we respond to the teaching of His Holy Spirit leading us into all truth.

Ephesians 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

We are the workmanship of God! We are the product of His pleasure. Good works of believing in and loving God and our fellow man are the good works Christ wants us to be involved in as we do ‘the Father’s work’ in our lives. Not becoming entangled in the old works of the old Law which Christ came to update and reveal what He really wants us to spend our time doing.

PROGRESSIVE REVELATION THROUGH THE SCRIPTURES

Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, the first four books of the Law gave specific instructions concerning God's Law particularly in relation to the situation of wandering in the desert.

Deuteronomy gives many changes in the Law to make them more appropriate for town and city settled living.

Daniel said that there would be an increase of understanding in the latter days.

When Jesus Christ was born, preached the Gospel, died, was resurrected, judged faultless by the Father, and went to sit at God's right hand, everything changed. The Christian era was born, as Christ began to build His church which was foreordained before the foundation of the world.

The Old Testament, the Old Law, the Old Covenant passed into history and they were superseded and replaced by the New Testament, the New Law, and the New Covenant.

Christ mentioned the Law the Prophets and the Writings. The prophets gave more expansion and more details and understanding of the Law.

Christ taught the disciples new laws while he was with them. We stop at the sentence, 'not one jot or tittle shall pass from the law until all be fulfilled.' Ending in Matthew 5:19. Christ is talking of the past. How do we know? He goes on to say in verse 20:

Matthew 5:19 Whosoever therefore shall break one of these (the new ones I am giving you now, not those 'old ones') least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. 20 For I say unto you, **That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees**, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.

The new laws that Christ was now giving His disciples were requiring an 'increase in righteousness' as the laws of the heart are much more stringent than the old physical laws of the Mosaic code. Christ goes on to expand the Law, to change it dramatically, and make it honourable, of the heart and more spiritual.

Matthew 5:21 Ye have heard that **it was said of them of old time**, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment:

**22 But I say unto you,** That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire.

Matthew 5:27 Ye have heard that **it was said by them of old time,** Thou shalt not commit adultery: **28 But I say unto you,** That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.

Matthew 5:31 **It hath been said,** Whosoever shall put away his wife, let him give her a writing of divorcement: **32 But I say unto you,** That whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery.

Matthew 5:33 Again, ye have heard that **it hath been said by them of old time,** Thou shalt not forswear thyself, but shalt perform unto the Lord thine oaths: **34 But I say unto you,** Swear not at all; neither by heaven; for it is God's throne:

Paul was not taught by man, or men, or the Apostles. He was taught directly by Christ.

Galatians 1:1 Paul, an apostle, (not of men, neither by man, but by Jesus Christ, and God the Father, who raised him from the dead;)

Galatians 1:12 For I neither received it (the Gospel and his training) of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Paul goes on to say in one of his later epistles:

Colossians 2:16 Let no man (or organization of men, or ministers, or any other man) therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the Sabbath days: 17 Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body *is* of Christ.

We should not be heeding 'commandments of men' however they might appear to be quotations out of the Word of God.

Titus 1:14 Not giving heed to Jewish fables, and commandments of men, that turn from the truth (the new truths that Christ brought).

Verse 17 has been mis-applied. Verse 16 says let no man...and then verse 17 some ministers have said, but "let the "body *is* of Christ" or the 'church authorities' judge you" and tell you what to do with regard to those things. The word "is" is in italics in the KJV and is not in the inspired text. So it should read 'let the body of Christ judge you'.

1 Timothy 2:5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;

Since Christ died and was resurrected no minister or 'church' should not put themselves in the position of being 'mediators' between God and man. We, the ekklesia, are "in Christ", and we are all part of His body, not subject to any organization of men, but Christ's himself and His Word, and His 'church', His body should guide us into all truth.

In this era, we can rely on Christ, who wrote the inspired Bible, to teach us all we need to know via the means of the Holy Spirit which will open our minds and guide us into all truth.

John 16:13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

## THE REVELATION OF THE 'MYSTERY'

The final part of the Plan of God to be revealed by Jesus Christ to Paul was the revelation of the mystery in 63 A.D.

This was to reveal that our final destination as human beings is to become fully fledged members of the Family of God at the resurrection, when our bodies will be changed into Spirit and we become born children of God.

This was completely new teaching never known prior to 63 A.D. It is explained in the later epistles of Paul, Ephesians, Philippians and Colossians.

Ephesians 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:  
4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:  
5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,

All who have repented and believed in Christ are now part of His ekklesia, His 'church' of begotten children of God, awaiting our promotion to glory at the resurrection.

Paul warns not to become entangled again in the traditions of men, false teaching of a false Gospel which denies Christ and His sacrifice.

Colossians 2:8 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

This is the Christian era. The age of the Law, the Prophets, the Writings have been superseded by Christ and changed into the Royal Law of Love. We have now a glorious future unimagined in time past.