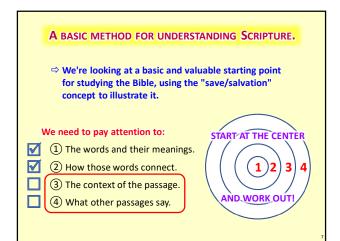


⇒ OTHERS who selected the <u>same</u> verse **THAT VERSE RUINED** may end up being miserable failures. MY LIFE ... ⇒ Others may receive terribly wrong guidance.. I GUESS GOD WANTS Then Judas threw the silver ME TO DONATE ALL coins down in the Temple and MY MONEY TO THE went out and hanged himself. CHURCH, AND THEN... Matthew 27:5 (NLT) ⇒ At other times, it will be a matter of pure speculation, guesswork and imagination. ... his son Amaziah, his son MAYBE GOD WANTS Azariah, his son Jotham, ... ME TO HAVE LOTS OF 1 Ch 3:12 (CSB) CHILDREN? $\, \Rightarrow \,$ Finally, some will keep picking verses until they find one they like.

Scripture shows us HOW to use Scripture! IT INVOLVES: ✓ The use of one's mind, to find out what Scripture says. ✓ A willingness to change one's values and actions, based on what Scripture says. IT WILL RESULT IN A BIBLE-CONTROLLED LIFE: ✓ Scripture will define our perception of truth and reality. ✓ We will pay attention to the moral obligations revealed in Scripture. ✓ Biblical principles will guide us in matters that are not controlled by moral commands.



These are similar. We could describe them as "near context" and "far context."

We have briefly looked at both of these, while examining the first two principles. (It's difficult to completely separate them.)

NOT paying attention to these is a common problem.

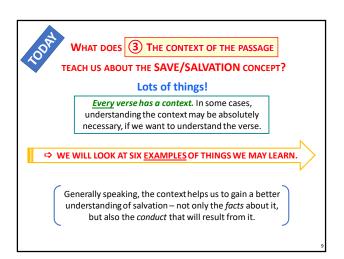
EXAMPLES:

✓ Any time emotions overrule the mind – sentimental and trite sayings, false encouragement, etc.

✓ Shallow and one-sided teachings.

✓ Saying things that people want to hear.

✓ Attempts to "adapt" the Bible to the world's teachings.



THE TYPE OF SALVATION.

[NONE of these examples are about eternal salvation!]

... we finally gave up all hope of being saved.

Acts 27:20b (NIV)

Did they expect to go to hell? NO! The context shows us that they were expecting the ship to sink and they would drown.

"Receive your sight," Jesus told him. "Your faith has saved you."

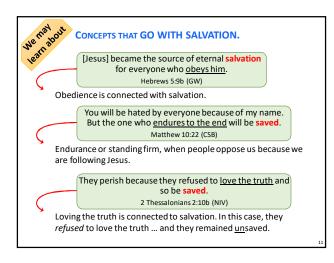
Luke 18:42 (CSB)

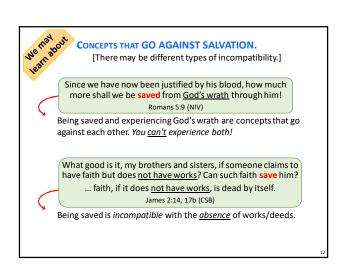
A reference to physical healing. (Many translations use "healed you" or "made you well.")

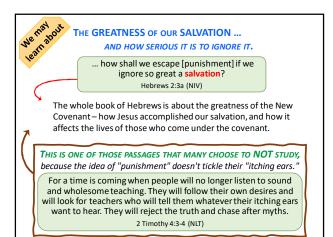
For I know that this shall turn to my salvation through your prayer, and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, ...

Philippians 1:19 (KIV)

Paul was talking about being delivered from prison. (Other translations tend to use "deliverance" or "set free.")







THINGS THAT ACCOMPANY (OR BELONG TO) SALVATION ... AND THINGS THAT DON'T. [This will recommend.]

Even though we speak like this, dear friends, we are convinced of better things in your case—the things that have to do with salvation. Hebrews 6:9 (NIV)

The context shows us that certain characteristics are NOT evidence or proof of salvation... and other characteristics ARE.

- Verses 1-6: Experiencing the "basics" of salvation is NOT a guarantee of salvation. Even faith can be temporary. [The things mentioned here are present in the lives of saved people... but they are not proof of salvation.]
- Verses 10-12+: Some of the characteristics that ARE related to salvation. This includes love and action ("work") - done as an ongoing expression faith; and done with patience (especially when it results in persecution - see 10:35-39).

HOW TO UNDERSTAND DIFFICULT VERSES ABOUT THE NATURE OF SALVATION.

And this [water of Noah's flood] prefigured baptism, which now saves you—not the washing off of physical dirt but the pledge of a good conscience to God—through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ...

1 Peter 3:21 (NET)

Does the baptism cause the saving? Peter clarifies it in what follows. This EXTERNAL action (baptism) is a reflection of INTERNAL changes - a heart/mind change [= an aspect of repentance]. This change is made possible by what Jesus did.

Verses like this may also require the last step of this Bible study method: (4) What other passages say.

THERE IS SO MUCH WE CAN LEARN, BY JUST PAYING ATTENTION TO THE **CONTEXT** OF THE "SALVATION WORDS."

> Learning how to be saved.

.. the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

2 Timothy 3:15b (NIV)

> Learning how to live as a saved person.

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NIV)

THINGS I LEARNED 0 LAT HY (HIN) HIM INTHIM HIMMIM 0 944-144 MIN MAKININ WITH WHIM 0 MHH HH HH MI HI HI HI HI HIM HITHITH MITHINE ML1

Your MISSION:

Learning about salvation includes:

· Learning about FACTS - to influence your THINKING.

.. be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is... Romans 12:2b (NASB)

• Learning about OBLIGATIONS - to influence your CONDUCT.

For the grace of God ... teaches us ... to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives ... Titus 2:11a, 12a (NIV)

Embrace this learning!

Embrace this learning!

♦ It's a part of being saved!

· There are many COMMANDS that involve the use of one's MIND.

> You were taught ... to be made new in the attitude of your minds. Ephesians 4:22a, 23 (NIV)

· Many statements in Scripture show us that the righteous person values this focus.

> But his delight is in the Law of the LORD, And on His Law he meditates* day and night. Psalm 1:2 (NASB)

* (In the Bible, "meditate" refers to thinking about its meaning and how it applies to life. It has nothing to do with the world's mind-emptying "meditation.")

Embrace this learning!

⋄ It can be done in a way that fits your gifts and abilities!

- · Different people have different ways of learning.
- Even those who cannot read can learn and be blessed!
 - ✓ In the New Testament era, others could help by reading the Bible to them.

God blesses the *one who reads* the words of this prophecy to the church, and he blesses all who listen to its message and obey what it says, for the time is near. Revelation 1:3 (NLT)

✓ Today, we can listen to audio recordings of God's Word.

Embrace this learning!

lt demonstrates what is in your heart - your priorities!

- In Paul's day, even busy *slaves* took time to grow in their
- Today, with all our time-saving technology, we have no $\underline{\textit{legitimate excuse}}$ for NOT taking the time to grow in our salvation.

Our actions prove what our <u>real</u> values are. Many <u>claim</u> to follow Jesus ... but their actions are <u>proof</u> of who they serve. No one can serve two masters.

Matthew 6:24a (NIV)

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