



Dave & Putter

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WORLD CULT EVANGELISM

Reaching The Unreached At Your Doorstep And Around The World

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JESUS RECEIVED NO MORE QUESTIONS

And no man was able to answer him a word, neither durst any man from that day forth ask him any more questions.

Matthew chapter 22 is the background for the conversations that Jesus had with the Sadducees and the Pharisees. Both of these Jewish sects had wrong interpretations of God's Word. Matthew chapter 4 gives another glimpse of how Scripture can be distorted when the rules of hermeneutics are not used when interpreting it. Satan used verses taken out of their setting to force an application that was not in agreement with the context or the will of God. Without the rules anything goes. With the rules there is a way to test anyone's view of Scripture and determine if it is right or wrong, true or false.

I remember receiving a call from a Baptist pastor in NC who recently had taken a struggling church. The former pastor had been challenged by a JW elder, who knocked on his door, to have a Bible study. After six months, he left that church and took half of his congregation with him and joined the Watchtower's Kingdom Hall. This is only one story of many equally sad stories that

could be told concerning people who have little or no knowledge of hermeneutics. Following the example of Jesus is the surest way of maintaining integrity and knowing how to use the rules of interpretation. Jesus told the Sadducees that they erred, not knowing the Scripture or the power of God. He also proved this with the Pharisees when He asked them, "What think ye of Christ, whose son is he?" They replied, "The son of David." Then Christ quoted Ps. 110:1 and asked them this question: "If David then call him Lord [God], how is he his son?" Not wanting to acknowledge that the Messiah was both human and deity, they answered the Lord not a word. Perhaps for the first time, this Scripture was rightly divided by the Author Himself, yet it was denied. Lord, give us hermeneutical soundness to speak Your Word!

Basic Hermeneutical Principles 101 by Dave Weeks

Hermeneutical principles are the rules that govern how any written text is to be understood. When applied to Scripture, these rules preserve the authority of God's Word and expose the errors of those who may not know them and apply them.

1. Context Principle - The applicable meaning of a word, phrase, sentence, paragraph, chapter, or book of the Bible is taken from its circumstances and conditions which surround it; i.e., in John 10:30 why did Jesus say that He and the Father are one?
2. Harmony Principle - A truth that is God given will always be in harmony with the whole of God's Word; i.e., Gen. 3:21 Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them.
3. Language Principle - The awareness of which language is being used in the verse, i.e., literal, figurative, or symbolic and the grammatical functions that apply to each part of speech. John 8:58 Jesus said, Before Abraham was, I am. John 10:9 I am the door... Rev. 8:6 And the seven angels which had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound. Trumpet: symbol for judgment.
4. Grammar Principle - Every verse of Scripture must be interpreted in agreement with its grammatical structure.
5. Double Reference Principle - A statement that has more than one application or fulfillment, i.e., Ps 22:1 My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? Matt 27:46 And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying...My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?
6. First Reference Principle - Sets forth a truth at its first usage that is consistent throughout the whole Bible, i.e., Gen. 2:17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.
7. Progressive Revelation Principle - Is a truth that requires additional information to make it clear, i.e., Gen. 3:15; And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel. Isa. 7:14 & 9:6; Matt. 1:21; Rev. 1:7-8.
8. Main Revelation Principle - Is a book, chapter or verse where a certain truth is fully revealed, i.e., 1 Cor. 15, The Resurrection; vs. 4 ...he [Jesus Christ] rose again the third day according to the scriptures: 1Cor 15:12 Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead?

WHAT'S HAPPENING ON THE FIELD

AJW'S LONG WAY HOME

The last two months have been almost unbelievable and all of it positive. It started with the meeting with Michael actually taking place on schedule. We met for nearly three hours. It was both heartwarming and heart breaking. Leaving the Watchtower (WT) can be very cruel because of their shunning rules. When Michael left the WT, a divorce resulted and his wife was very bitter. His only child, a daughter who is now in her early 20's, was married two weeks before we met and he had no knowledge of any of it. He was simply heartbroken and grieving in his soul. The WT's cruel shunning practices are one reason that it has the highest rate of suicide of any religious denomination. Most people have no idea why it takes an average of seven years for a JW to end his ties with this cult. It's not easy!

On the positive side, he was glad to see us again and to hear more about the Christian faith and the true Jesus of the Bible. He said that he could never go back to the JWs, but still had a number of questions to which he needed answers before he could be at peace in receiving Christ and giving his life to Him. He said that at our next meeting he would have a written list of questions to discuss. I am praying that as soon as I am released from therapy for the surgery I am having Nov 5th, we will be able to set a meeting date and travel to North Carolina.

A JW hotline caller named, Mark, contacted us early in September. During our phone conversation he spoke of his faith in Jesus Christ. He had the right understanding of the Trinity and the way of salvation, but his contacts with a Pentecostal preacher will most likely have the greatest influence on where he will go next. We are praying for him to keep in touch.

MORMON CHECKMATES

During our fall road trip to visit some of our churches in northern states, we met with four Mormons. This was set up by our youngest daughter, Jessica, who lives in Virginia. Our goal for the meeting was a definite "checkmate" with all exit doors closed. Three young Mormon missionaries showed up at the appointed time with a senior Mormon, a man in his mid-forties. With my copy of the Mormon's *Gospel Principles* book on the table and the Bible opened to John 1:3, we began our conversation. After discussing the Mormon Jesus and the Mormon god, who both had a beginning, and the Jesus of the Bible, who is eternal and the Creator of all things, we closed the session with the contrast and conflicts clearly seen. Then one of the young missionaries started to "bear his testimony." This is called *the burning of the bosom*. The person is told to pray, after reading the Book of Mormon for God to vindicate that it is true. A feeling of burning in one's chest is the sign of confirmation.

If this exit door is not closed, the Mormon will never believe that he is lost without any hope. Once our signs of the times dialog was finished, none of them had anything more to say about that subject, including the older man who was sent to be their spiritual backup.

Each of them accepted a copy of "CHEDKMATE ..." and they left with soberness that is often seen when people are under conviction.

The last weekend in October we visited a church in South Georgia. The pastor had arranged for us to visit Mormons and JWs during Saturday visitation. What a day that was. To be continued ...

'PUTTER'S PEN'

Prov. 16:31 "The hoary (gray) head is a crown of glory, if it be found in the way of righteousness."

It is fall in Georgia. Cool mornings, warm afternoons, and cooler evenings; not to mention the beautiful colors. I love driving around our neighborhood and seeing the fall colors arrive on the trees. The bright golden yellows to the vibrant reds are such a testimony to the handiwork of God. The world is so pretty in the fall.

I wonder if that is why the Lord made gray hair. After all, in the fall of life most of us are starting to see the color change. Right? I admit that lately the gray hair came faster than I could make a hair appointment to cover it, so I decided to stop fighting it and let the natural process take place. Of course my girls keep looking at me like they are trying to figure out how to duct tape me to a chair and get their hands in my hair, even my 6-year-old grand daughter, Bella, informed me, "Mamaw, you may want to color your hair again because there is a lot of white in it!"

I must remember to tell them it is not gray hair, but a crown of glory!

Until next time, Jehovah,
"Putter"

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Isa. 41:10

