

The Vine This Month
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HOM Editorial

I am reading a book titled, "Beyond the Basics" by David A. DeWitt. On page

67, he wrote:

"Many of those involved in the cults have confused people about the meaning of a particular passage of Scripture by violating the principle of context. First they attempt to set our minds to thinking according to the doctrine of their particular cult. Then they show us a verse in the Bible that sounds like it says what they have tried to program us to believe. So the context they want us to plug the verse into is the one they have built in their conversations with us, not the one offered by the Bible. That technique seems quite convincing, and the cults have used it to lead many astray."

He then gives 4 points on how to interpret the Bible:

1. Literally
Means to read it normally, if it is poetry, read it as poetry and if parable, than parable.
2. In Context
Read the paragraphs before and after the verse to establish its correct meaning.
3. According to what the Author had in mind
What the author mean to say to the people of that time.
4. According to Progressive Revelation
Not every command stayed the same. Some were discarded, eg. '*Do not mate different kinds of animals. Do not plant your field with two kinds of seed. Do not wear clothing woven of two kinds of material.*' This verse of Leviticus 19 does not apply today.

However, I am not recommending that you read this author's book because the topic of chapter 6 is "Does God do Miracles Today?" Basically, his answer is, "God regularly uses natural means to heal people", in other words, no supernatural healings.

It is good to read widely, but you will encounter authors with many different opinions that may rock your boat.

Martin Cheah