

F. Y. C.

For Your Consideration

❖ MAY 2019 ❖

‘Book, Chapter, Verse’

In teaching a Bible Class, I used the following illustration: Holding up a white sheet of paper with one small black spot on it, I asked the students, “What do you see?” Many answered, “A black spot.” They focused on the spot and overlooked the white paper.

‘Book, Chapter, Verse! We all have heard it, and said it often. (I’m so glad that we have verse and chapter numbers.) As helpful as they are, they can be used to misapply or abuse a phrase (or verse) that is isolated. ‘The point is we must not be myopic when looking at a favorite verse(s). They are not isolated statements. They are part of a greater whole: chapter and book. We must see the “paper” as well as the spot. It might help if we would see them from a different perspective: A **verse**, found in a **chapter** in a **book**.

VERSE, CHAPTER, BOOK

Start with your favorite verse, then read it in context. The context may be only a few surrounding verses, yet often the subject matter is extensive, including other chapters, even the book as a whole.

Dig a Little Deeper and Learn a Lot More

Be diligent (study KJV) to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.

2 Timothy 2:15

It’s good to study your Bible. Dig a little deeper. It’s being approved in all you do and all you profess and teach (word and deed).



Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

Revelation 2:10

One needs to always be faithful. Dig a little deeper. It’s remaining faithful while undergoing persecution that may result in death.



...not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some...

Hebrews 10:25

Christians need to assemble. Dig a little deeper. The full context is about what members are to do for each other and it can only be done when assembled.

Enrich your knowledge of these and other popular sayings by noting the context. You can enhance your Bible knowledge by “digging a little deeper.”



Friendships

(A LITTLE REFLECTION)

Bear with me in a little reflection on friendships. As I experienced one those birthdays that end in “zero,” I found myself reflecting on some of the mysteries in life. One mystery in particular is “friendship.”

Sometimes after meeting what seems to be a congenial person, one with which I would like to establish a close relationship, I put forth the effort to establish a friendship. But over time nothing develops. We know each other but never become more than acquaintances. This has caused me to ask the question, “Why?”

Looking back on such endeavors, I have come to realize that true friendships just happen. They are not planned, nor the result of my efforts. True and lasting friendships seem to be based on a mutual admiration of inward qualities, which are not easily discernable early on. Over time they grow and thrive despite hardships, separation, and other circumstances. Outward appearance is not part of the equation. We look past the “cover” and see the “content.” We admire the person inside, not the body that houses the soul.

I am thankful for the friendships that have developed over the years—and continue to develop. I am thankful there are those who saw something in me that they considered worthy of friendship. Blessed is the person who has true friends, even if they are only a handful.

Friendships just happen. That’s the only way I can explain it! Thank God for friendships that last for years, decades, even a lifetime.



However, there is a friendship that was planned, not by me, but for me. It was someone who saw something in me that He considered worth dying for. It is this friendship I treasure most—the one that has developed between the Lord and I. I see in Him a love that surpasses knowledge. I love Him because He first loved me. “My Lord and I”—that’s the greatest friendship one may have. I thank God daily for it. This is a friendship that anyone may have—it’s up to you.

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 5:8

“This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends. You are My friends, if you do what I command you.”

John 15:12-14

– reprint from *Selected Thoughts, Special Edition*, page 26
eBook is available at <http://www.ra10ar.com/booklets.html>

*Just
Thinkin’*

- Friendship is a living thing that needs to be nourished by kindness, understanding, sympathy, and love.
- Gossip is a torpedo that has sunk many friendships.
- Flattery looks like friendship, just as a wolf looks like a dog.

Fact

Information presented as objectively real.
– American Heritage Dictionary

One may not agree with it.

Disagreeing does not void it.

One may not believe it.

Personal belief does not invalidate it.

One may feel differently about it.

Feelings do not alter it.

One may see it differently.

A different perception does not nullify it.

The fact is ... well, facts are just that:

FACTS!



Can't Deny It!

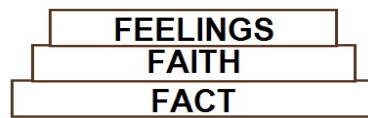
“What shall we (rulers, elders, scribes, and the high priest) do with these men? For the fact that a noteworthy miracle has taken place through them is apparent to all who live in Jerusalem, and we cannot deny it.”

Acts 4:16

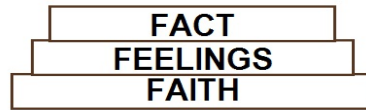
Futile Attempt at Denial

Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard, and a servant-girl came to him and said, “You too were with Jesus the Galilean.” But he denied it before them all, saying, “I do not know what you are talking about.” When he had gone out to the gateway, another servant-girl saw him and *said to those who were there, “This man was with Jesus of Nazareth.” And again he denied it with an oath, “I do not know the man.” A little later the bystanders came up and said to Peter, “Surely you too are one of them; for even the way you talk gives you away.” Then he began to curse and swear, “I do not know the man!” And immediately a rooster crowed. And Peter remembered the word which Jesus had said, “Before a rooster crows, you will deny Me three times.” And he went out and wept bitterly.

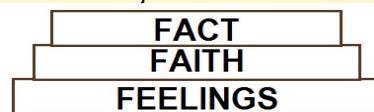
Matthew 26:69-74



FACTS are to be the foundation for FAITH which support one's FEELINGS.
“The Bible says, I believe, I rejoice.”



FAITH is **not** to be the foundation for FEELINGS supporting FACT.
“I believe it to be true ...” is not an acceptable foundation.



Personal FEELINGS are **not** to be the foundation for FATH supporting FACT.
“I feel it in my heart ...” is not an adequate foundation.

In each instance the feelings may be the same, but only FEELINGS based on FAITH anchored on FACT will hold up.

“Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine, and acts upon them, may be compared to a wise man, who built his house upon the rock. And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and burst against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded upon the rock. And everyone who hears these words of Mine, and does not act upon them, will be like a foolish man, who built his house upon the sand. And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and burst against that house; and it fell, and great was its fall.”

Matthew 7:24-27



Lesson In a Nutshell

Taught, Caught, Bought

How then will they **call** on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they **believe** in Him whom they have not **heard**? And how will they hear without a preacher? ... So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.

Romans 10:14, 17

TAUGHT

Teach the Good News

CAUGHT

Hear the Good News

BOUGHT

Believe the Good News

The Good News

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "BUT THE RIGHTEOUS MAN SHALL LIVE BY FAITH."

Romans 1:16-17

Hold Fast the Good News

Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain.

1 Corinthians 15:1-2



This you know, my beloved brethren. but everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger; for the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God.

James 1:19-20

PROCEED SLOWLY

The often quoted saying, "Fools rush in where angels fear to tread," is from AN ESSAY ON CRITICISM by Alexander Pope in 1709. And there are several verses in the Book of Proverbs that point out the foolishness of being in a hurry without due regard for inevitable consequences.

*He who is slow to anger has great understanding,
But he who is quick-tempered exalts folly.*

Proverbs 14:29

A hot-tempered man stirs up strife, But the slow to anger calms a dispute.

Proverbs 15:18

*He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty,
And he who rules his spirit, than he who captures a city.*

Proverbs 16:32

A man's discretion makes him slow to anger, And it is his glory to overlook a transgression.

Proverbs 19:11

BE LIKE HIM

The LORD is compassionate and gracious, Slow to anger and abounding in lovingkindness.

Psalms 103:8

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Bible references are from the NASB except where another translation is referenced.

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