



DATE	June 26, 2016
SPEAKER	Paul Clark
TITLE	If...My People
SERIES	The Bible is full of wisdom, and many of us have favorite verses. But many of the sayings hanging on our walls and wrapped around our coffee cups are taken out of context. They may inspire or encourage us, but their meaning is distorted. Let's clarify some of the most misused verses in the Bible.

Introduction

In our current sermon series we are learning how some of scripture can be “Distorted” from its actual meaning. As you reflect on your own journey, how has your perspective on discerning Bible passages changed?

How are you growing in your study of Scripture by analyzing a passage's historical and cultural setting and the author's intent and audience? What online tools have you discovered to enhance your study of the Bible?

One tool for this purpose is a summer Bible reading guide on the Fairhaven website. Do you know about any additional lessons or seminars that will aid your ability to study the Bible?

Exploring Scripture:

In this last sermon in the “Distorted” series Paul Clark used the example of Solomon’s building of the temple in 2 Chronicles 7. Verse 14 states “...if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.” Good scriptural interpretation is vital. Why does this verse not apply to modern day Christians? What is another example from scripture that may be mis-construed if taken out of context?

Read the surrounding chapter for each verse and answer the following questions

John 17:3 “Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.”

Psalms 19:7 “The law of the Lord is perfect, refreshing the soul. The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple.”

What is the general historical setting in which the writer speaks?

What is the specific historical-cultural context?

What is the immediate context around the verse under consideration?

Application:

If we are tempted to apply individual scripture verses to current personal, local, or national discussions how should we prepare, as Paul Clark illustrated, to properly assure we are honoring God's intent?

What daily activities prevent you from diving deeper into Scripture? Are these unidentified idols in your life?

How much growth have you had in the past year with respect to Biblical knowledge? Does it clearly demonstrate a growing pattern of understanding and a deep love for God's Word?

Are you developing a deeper, growing passion for the Lord Jesus Christ and can you safely claim that He "knows" you? (I John 5:11-13) One Hebrew scholar defined "know" as a "co-mingling of the souls". Is your soul woven tightly into Christ's?