
THINKING ACCORDING TO SCRIPTURE

Here comes the Apostle Paul down the road. How do we address him? Let's use them all. "Good morning Reverend, Right Reverend, Father, Monsignor, Papa; Your Holiness, Paul."

Without so much as a look our way, Paul says, "Go read what I wrote in Romans 12:3 and 1st Corinthians 4:6."

On the very next day, we meet again. "Good morning, sinner-saved-by-grace, Paul."

This time, Paul looks up, extends a hand and says, "Keep reading and doing what I have written."

As we walk away, Paul turns and says, "Shalom, sinners-saved-by-grace." We walk on. There is a broad smile covering our faces.

AS IT IS WRITTEN applies to believers. It was so in Paul's day and, to be sure, in our day, as well. And, what's so good about it, Paul wrote most of the New Testament. In his epistles to the churches, Paul cited Old Testament Scripture, again and again. So, get out that trusty concordance, turn to the letter "W" and, go to: "*written*."

"As it is written, 'But the righteous man shall live by faith,'" Ro 1:17.

Taken from Habakkuk 2:4, Paul adds this verse to bolster the message of the gospel in the previous verse of Ro 1:16. He means that the power of God for salvation, to the Jew and Gentile (Greek), come by receiving the gospel message. He was **"eager to preach"** it (1:15), and he was **"not ashamed of the gospel"** (1:16).

"There is none righteous, not even one," Romans 3:10.

From Psalms 14:1-3, Paul explains that man never changes. The "Fool" says, **"There is no god."** An entire nation of "fools" try to legislate all references to God. And, when the LORD looks down from heaven, He sees, **"...all turned aside; together they have become corrupt; There is no one who does good, not even one."**

The Apostle explains how righteousness comes to man. **"That the Gentiles, which followed not after righteousness, have attained to righteousness, even the righteousness which is of faith: but Israel, which followed after the law of righteousness, hath not attained to the law of righteousness. Wherefore? Because they sought it not by faith, but as though it were by works. They stumbled over the stumbling stone. Just as it is written, BEHOLD, I LAY IN ZION A STONE OF STUMBLING AND A ROCK OF OFFENSE, AND HE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED."** Romans 9:30-33.

This reference comes from Psalms 118:22 & 23, It further says, "**The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief corner stone. This is the LORD'S doing; It is marvelous in our eyes.**"

What a wonderful joy to read God's recorded Word. It reminds us that, like God, His word never changes. The Old Testament history speaks things that are hard to understand, at times. But, a new and refreshing view is given again in the New Testament.

While, Jesus prophesized of destruction for the physical city of Jerusalem - which, was carried out by the Romans; yet, He was laid down, as the chief corner stone of God's building, today.

On the foundation of Christ, we - "**as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ,**" 1st Peter 2:5.

As we are built up, we also build; as Paul said, "**taking heed how we build,**" 1 Corinthians 3:10.

The complete Bible (Scripture) is profitable, "**for teaching, reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,**" 2 Timothy 3:16. Everyone, that means: you and me, should control our lives by reading and following what it says.

Knowing what is written informs us of a proper greeting when we meet and address our brothers; whether his name is Paul, or Jim. That's a very important ethical and spiritual thing to know. We will meet again, you know. This time, in the city of New Jerusalem. Not everyone, however, "**but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life,**" Revelation 21:27.

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