

ALL Scripture Still Speaks

By: David Burruss

There's something I've been noticing more and more, especially in conversations about faith today. When people come across passages of Scripture that feel heavy or uncomfortable, like Matthew 7:21-23 or Hebrews 10:26-27, there's often a quick move to explain them away. Instead of sitting with what the text is actually saying, the response becomes, "That wasn't written to Christians," or "That only applied to a specific group at that time."

At first, that can sound thoughtful. It can sound like someone is taking context seriously. But sometimes, if we're honest, it feels more like an attempt to avoid what the passage is pressing on in the heart.

Context absolutely matters. It really does. Understanding who a passage was written to, why it was written, and what was happening at the time is an essential part of reading Scripture correctly. But context is meant to clarify meaning, not remove it. When it's used to completely disconnect a passage from our lives, it's no longer serving its purpose.

Take Matthew 7:21-23. Jesus says, "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven." That's not a light statement. It presses in. It makes you pause and really look at your life.

And yet, this is one of those passages people are quick to push aside by saying, "That wasn't written to Christians." But when you slow down and actually look at the context, that reasoning doesn't hold up. The people Jesus was speaking to believed they were followers of God. They weren't outsiders. They were religious. They were confident. They called Him "Lord." In their own minds, they were right with God.

And that's exactly the point. Christianity as we know it had not even been established yet, since this was before Jesus' death and resurrection. But what Jesus is exposing goes deeper than a title or a time period. He is addressing the danger of thinking you belong to God while living in a way that does not align with His will. That reality did not end at the cross. If anything, it speaks just as clearly now.

Because today, there are still many who identify as Christians, who say the right things, who genuinely believe they are in right standing with God, and yet have never truly submitted to Him. The same warning applies. The same danger exists.

So when someone says, "That doesn't apply to us," they are actually overlooking the very context they are trying to use. This passage is not less relevant because of its original audience. It is more revealing. It shows us that it is possible to be sincere and still be mistaken.

Hebrews 10:26-27 carries a similar weight. "For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins..." That's not easy to read. It speaks to responsibility. It speaks to what it means to know the truth and still choose another path.

And again, instead of letting that settle in, many try to distance themselves by saying it was written to a different group under different circumstances, as if that removes its relevance. But that raises a serious question. If we can dismiss warnings like this, what keeps us from dismissing anything else that challenges us?

This is where 2 Timothy 3:16-17 brings clarity. "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." All Scripture. Not just the parts that feel encouraging. Not just the verses that align with what we already believe. Even the ones that confront us and expose things we would rather not face.

When we begin to dismiss difficult passages, we quietly step into a place where we decide what applies and what doesn't. And once that happens, Scripture is no longer the authority shaping us. We are shaping it.

It's important to remember that while the Bible was written to specific people in specific moments, it was preserved for all of us. The original audience helps us understand the message, but the truth itself carries forward. It reveals the character of God and His expectations for His people across every generation.

Sometimes when people say, "That warning doesn't apply today," what's really happening is a removal of weight. It becomes easier to move on without letting the passage really examine the heart. But Scripture was never meant to only make us feel comfortable. It was meant to transform us.

And transformation is not always easy. It involves correction. It involves being confronted with truth. It involves seeing areas in our lives that need to change. That's exactly what Paul is describing. Scripture is not just something we read. It's something that works on us.

If we only hold on to the parts of the Bible that encourage us and quietly ignore the parts that challenge us, we end up with something incomplete. A version of faith that feels good, but lacks depth. One that comforts without correcting. One that speaks of salvation but avoids surrender.

The warnings in Scripture are not there to be dismissed. They are there to guide us. They act like guardrails, keeping us from drifting. They remind us that faith is not just about what we say, but how we live. They call us to examine ourselves honestly and to align our lives with God's will.

Maybe instead of asking, "Does this apply to me?" we should be asking, "What is God showing me through this?" That small shift changes everything. It moves us from avoiding the text to engaging with it. It opens the door for Scripture to actually shape us.

At the heart of it all, this isn't just about interpretation. It's about the condition of the heart. Are we willing to let God's Word speak into every area of our lives, even when it's uncomfortable? Or are we filtering it, keeping what feels good and setting the rest aside?

The truth is, if all Scripture is inspired by God, then all of it carries weight. And if it carries weight, then it calls for a response. So when you come across a passage that feels difficult, don't rush past it. Sit with it. Read it again. Pray through it. Let it speak. Because sometimes, the very passages we are most tempted to avoid are the ones we need the most.