



“No Cross,
No Crown”

The Cross and Crown

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One of the most important things to keep in mind when we read the Bible is context. An improper understanding of the context of the passages we read makes us vulnerable to grave error.

There are two kinds of context to consider. First, we must be aware of the historical context, keeping in mind the audience for whom the passage was originally written. The internet has a wealth of resources to help with that. However, while it's important to understand the original intent, we must also remember that God's Word is eternal – living and active – and is just as valid for us today as it was at the time then, for the original audience. Although some Scripture passages might make us uncomfortable, we can't simply write them off because they were written in a different time and culture.



The second and most important consideration is the biblical context. The Bible is internally consistent: *Every* Scripture is in agreement with *all* of Scripture. Although the Bible was written over the course of centuries, by multiple human authors, the Spirit who inspired those authors ensures that they all line up together. We can be tricked into grossly errant doctrine if we ignore biblical context. Imagine having ten pieces of a 5,000 piece puzzle. Those few pieces may fit together and form a clear image, but the other 4,990 pieces, we can come up with an image that

bears almost no resemblance to the original. In order to understand Scripture in context, we need to be familiar with all the Bible – reading it regularly and in its entirety – and we need to meditate on the passages we read, giving the Holy Spirit time to make them clear to us.

The ultimate context of Scripture is to point people towards God. When we read, we should expect to hear from God, words of “teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness” that align us with his will and that inspire and empower us to share the cleansing, healing Word with those around us.

The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of the Lord endures forever.

(1 Peter 1:24,25)

Thanks for Praying!

We are so grateful for all that God is doing among us in response to your prayers! Thank you for committing to pray with us for

- summer ministries to kids and families, including VBS, Daily Bible Power Hour and Performing Arts Camp,
- the wisdom and ability to train the next generation of leaders, and
- financial provision to sustain our ministries.







Our friends from Bellerose, NY returned to lead Vacation Bible School.

We're praying with you!

If you're on our mailing list*, you're on our prayer list! If there's anything specific that we can join you in praying about, please let us know.

And thank you to those who keep in touch! We do love hearing from you.

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* **Important:** If you'd rather not be on our mailing list, we understand! Just call or drop us a note, and we'll remove you. (We'll still keep you on our prayer list!)

If you'd rather receive this letter via e-mail, please let us know!

Did you know?

Our dear sister, Betty Roberson, is celebrating a birthday this week! Sis. Betty has been a part of Highway since her father, W. Howard Roberson, became our pastor in 1955, and, even though she now lives on the other side of the continent, she still actively supports the church and maintains contact with many of the Highway alumni. Happy Birthday, Sis. Betty! We love you and thank God for you!

“A woman who fears the Lord is to be praised. Honor her for all that her hands have done, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate.” (Proverbs 31:30,31)



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