

What About ... Twisters?

BY R J REGAN

The battleground has always been and always will be against God's Word. And this war against God's Word is very much alive and well today. We are surrounded by Scripture twisters.

Crafty individuals like Satan, the Pharisees, and false teachers have tried to take advantage of naïve believers since the beginning of time. Ever since the crafty serpent suggested to Eve that (a) God didn't really say what He said and (b) that He didn't really mean it, we have been subject to intense manipulation. After all, once a tactic like this works, why stop using it? This tactic has been used against the godly throughout history and remains just as strong today as it did 5778 years ago (according to the "Jerusalem Post") in the Garden of Eden. Did God really say what He said? Did God really mean it? .

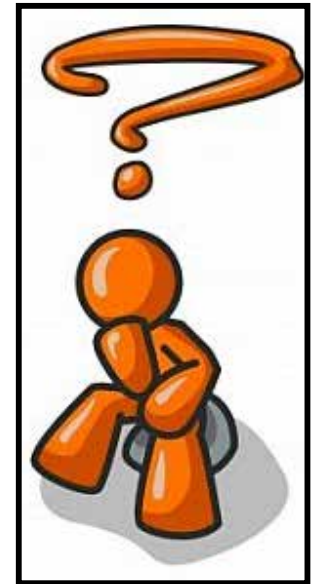
For example, look at this cartoon from June 2018.

Seriously!?! Since when did the media become Bible experts? First of all, they cite the wrong verse. This is a muddled use of the NLT translation of verse 45 (not verse 40). Verse 40 is commending good people for helping the tribulation saints. Just the opposite of the of the point of the cartoon. Also, the context is eternal judgment (*the eternal fire* verse 41). Like all judgment passages, it's about judging the character of the helper, not advancing the condition of poor people.

Where is the cartoon depicting Jesus' teaching against homosexuality and divorce, one man/one woman marriage, announcing eternal judgment, that He is the way the truth and the life, and that He is the only way to God (Matthew 19:4-5; Matthew 8:12; John 14:6)?

We all know that the media, and other progressives hate the Bible. But, when they see a particular verse that seems to support their particular viewpoint, they become Bible twisters, using a verse to manipulate low-information people.

This is a common occurrence, not just reserved for political purposes either. Many church leaders, pastors, and televangelists use this tactic, as well, to advance their own personal agenda. So, we must be wary. Jesus reminded us in Matthew 10:16 that He is sending us out among the wolves, so we must be shrewd.



Here are some ideas about protecting yourself against the wolves who want to devour you and this kind of manipulation:

1. Handle the Word properly. The Word is a two-edged sword (Hebrews 4:12). Very sharp, in fact. How would you handle a sharp knife? Carefully. Would you let a child use the knife alone? No, you would guide the child on how to use the knife safely and correctly. You would teach them what is ok to cut and what isn't.
2. Apply logic and reason, not mysticism and hocus-pocus. Christianity is a thinking person's religion, as Isaiah proclaimed in Isaiah 1:18 and Paul taught in Acts 17:2-4, 17 and 18:4.
3. Apply Scripture accurately: Observe what it says, interpret what it says and apply what it means for today's living.
4. Test (i.e. judge) what is being said just like the Berean's did (Acts 17:11).
5. Finally, be like the sons of Issachar, understand our times and know what to do (1 Chronicles 12:32).

Remember, *All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness* (2 Timothy 3:16). Beware of twisters who use Scripture to support their own biases and agendas.