



FIRST WEDNESDAY: How to Understand Scripture

March 6, 2024 | Pastor Kirk Walters

Mount Paran North

- Context
 - Who is writing or speaking?
 - To whom is it written or spoken?
 - Who is present in the writing?
 - What are the extenuating circumstances?
 - What are the challenges being addressed or faced?
- What is the truth that is communicated?
- How does that truth apply to my life?

1. Caesarea Philippi - The Gates of Hell

A. Background

- Located at the foot of Mount Hermon.
- In Old Testament times there was a shrine dedicated to Baal.
- The Greeks later built a shrine to Pan - the god of nature.
- Herod Philip enlarged and beautified the place and renamed it to gain favor with the Roman emperor, Tiberias Caesar.

B. Significance Scripture

- Place where Jesus taught the disciples about the church and His redemptive role - Matthew 16:13-28
- Caesarea Philippi is the center of pagan worship in Israel.
- Jesus examines their beliefs regarding Him.
- Simon Peter proclaims that Jesus is the Messiah and the Son of God.
- Jesus gives a promise of the church's power and authority.
- Binding and loosing is a promise of understanding and interpreting the will of God. (see Matthew 6:9-13).

2. Paths of Righteousness - Psalm 23

A. Scripture

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I lack. He lets me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters. He renews my life; He leads me along paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

B. Significance

- Paths of righteousness were paths previously used by other animals.
- Paths of righteousness always led to either water or safety.
- When God leads me in paths of righteousness, it always leads me to a place of refreshing and safety.
- God leads me for His name's sake, which means it is always for my good.
- God only leads me where He has already been.