

# CORRECTING FREQUENTLY MISUSED PASSAGES

Week 4

## Psalm 118:24

**Psalm 118:24** ~ This is the day which the LORD has made; Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

### The Abused Interpretation

- This is another well-known verse in Scripture, often seen on bookmarks and Christian posters...often stitched on throw pillows with a beautiful nature scene
- When quoted, it is usually used in reference to how beautiful a day it is...i.e. when you wake up on a quiet morning, sipping your coffee, seeing the beauty of a summer sunrise and meditating on the fact that God has made this day and we should be happy in it
- The assumption is that this verse can be applied to any day



- The kids song *This is the Day*
- So when most Christians quote this verse, they usually mean that God has made every day and what comes with it, and that we should therefore rejoice in what happens on that day
- Certainly, this is a biblical thought, and we would do well to remember it
- But we shouldn't use this verse to support it

### The Correct Interpretation

- Once again the context of this text gives us wisdom and insight into the proper meaning of it
- Psalm 118 is one of the Hallel (literally "praise") Psalms (Psalm 113-118)
- These psalms were sung on the great feast days (Passover, Pentecost, and Tabernacles) but especially at the Passover festival which celebrated the Jews' deliverance from Egypt
- Traditionally, Psalms 113-114 were sung before the meal began and Psalms 115-118 were recited at the close of the meal

- Christ Himself most likely led the disciples in singing Psalm 118 before they left the Upper Room the night He was betrayed

**Matthew 26:30** ~ After singing a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives

**Mark 14:26** ~ After singing a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

- So in all probability, Psalm 118 was the last song Christ sang before His death
- The reason for that is because it is intensely Messianic (and thus the most quoted Psalm in the NT)
- What “day” is this verse referring to? → it is a “day” when the Lord has brought victory when all hope was lost
- The Psalmist (maybe Moses referring to Israel’s deliverance from Egypt in the Passover) indicates that he was in anguish, surrounded by foes, and experiencing discipline from the Lord, yet the Lord delivered him:

**Psalm 118:5-6** ~ From *my* distress I called upon the LORD; The LORD answered me *and set me* in a large place. 6 The LORD is for me; I will not fear; What can man do to me?

**Psalm 118:7-9** ~ The LORD is for me among those who help me; Therefore I will look *with satisfaction* on those who hate me. 8 It is better to take refuge in the LORD Than to trust in man. 9 It is better to take refuge in the LORD Than to trust in princes

**Psalm 118:10-11** ~ All nations surrounded me; In the name of the LORD I will surely cut them off. 11 They surrounded me, yes, they surrounded me; In the name of the LORD I will surely cut them off

**Psalm 118:18** ~ The LORD has disciplined me severely, But He has not given me over to death

- This psalm was a song for praising the Lord’s loyal love and victory against overwhelming odds...the psalmist recounted how the Lord triumphed over all the nations surrounding Israel...and he exulted in the fact that their salvation was God’s marvelous work
- Vs. 19-21 describe the Psalmists triumph with the Lord’s help
- Vs. 22-26 describe the significance of the triumph

**Psalm 118:22** ~ The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief corner *stone*.

- If Moses is the author, this could mean that Moses (the stone) was rejected by the Jews (the builders) as their God sent the deliverer (the chief cornerstone)
- If David is the author, this could mean that the men of power in that day rejected him, but he became the capstone
- Or it could be a reference to the fact that the great nations of the earth discounted Israel as a nation, yet the Lord took that “stone” (Israel) and made it “the capstone” of His rule on earth
- This was clearly a work of the Lord

**Psalm 118:23** ~ This is the LORD’S doing; It is marvelous in our eyes

- Regardless what it referred to in its original setting, the NT gave special meaning to it in reference to Christ
- The ultimate instance of this is found in Jesus Christ, rejected by his own creatures, yet chosen of God, the ultimate building-stone

**Matthew 21:33-43** ~ Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who PLANTED A VINEYARD AND PUT A WALL AROUND IT AND DUG A WINEPRESS IN IT, AND BUILT A TOWER, and rented it out to vine-growers and went on a journey. 34 When the harvest time

approached, he sent his slaves to the vine-growers to receive his produce. 35 The vine-growers took his slaves and beat one, and killed another, and stoned a third. 36 Again he sent another group of slaves larger than the first; and they did the same thing to them. 37 But afterward he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' 38 But when the vine-growers saw the son, they said among themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and seize his inheritance.' 39 They took him, and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. 40 Therefore when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those vine-growers? 41 They said to Him, "He will bring those wretches to a wretched end, and will rent out the vineyard to other vine-growers who will pay him the proceeds at the *proper* seasons." 42 Jesus said to them, "Did you never read in the Scriptures, 'THE STONE WHICH THE BUILDERS REJECTED, THIS BECAME THE CHIEF CORNERstone; THIS CAME ABOUT FROM THE LORD, AND IT IS MARVELOUS IN OUR EYES'?" 43 Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people, producing the fruit of it."

**Acts 4:10-11** ~ let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by this *name* this man stands here before you in good health. 11 He is the STONE WHICH WASREJECTED by you, THE BUILDERS, *but*WHICH BECAME THE CHIEF CORNERstone.

**Romans 9:30-33** ~ What shall we say then? That Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, attained righteousness, even the righteousness which is by faith; 31 but Israel, pursuing a law of righteousness, did not arrive at *that* law. 32 Why? Because *they did not pursue it* by faith, but as though *it were* by works. They stumbled over the stumbling stone, 33 just as it is written, "BEHOLD, I LAY IN ZION A STONE OF STUMBLING AND A ROCK OF OFFENSE, AND HE WHO BELIEVES IN HIMWILL NOT BEDISAPPOINTED."

**1 Peter 2:6-8** ~ For *this* is contained in Scripture: "BEHOLD, I LAY IN ZION A CHOICE STONE, APRECIOUS CORNERstone, AND HE WHO BELIEVES INHIM WILL NOT BEDISAPPOINTED." 7 This precious value, then, is for you who believe; but for those who disbelieve, "THE STONE WHICH THE BUILDERSREJECTED, THIS BECAME THE VERY CORNERstone," 8 and, "A STONE OF STUMBLING AND A ROCK OF OFFENSE"; for they stumble because they are disobedient to the word, and to this *doom* they were also appointed

- The fact this ultimately refers to Christ is underscored by the fact that Psalm 118:26 was fulfilled when Christ entered Jerusalem during Passion Week

**Psalm 118:26** ~ Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD; We have blessed you from the house of the LORD.

- This is exactly what happened on that first Palm Sunday when Jesus rode on the colt into Jerusalem

**Luke 19:37-38** ~ As soon as He was approaching, near the descent of the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the miracles which they had seen, 3 shouting: "BLESSED IS THEKING WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD; Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"

- The Jewish leaders (the "builders"), however, and the city as a whole repudiated this response, and it soon became evident that they would seek to destroy Him (the "stone")
- Thus, Psalm 118:24 refers not to every day but to a particular, momentous day...the day when the Lord made the rejected stone the cornerstone (Christ's death, resurrection, ascension, etc.)
- So in vs. 24, the Psalmist calls his hearers to celebrate the prophetic day when God exalted Jesus, rejected by the chief priests, as the cornerstone of His new temple

**Ephesians 2:20** ~ having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner *stone*

- When understood in its context, then, this verse points to a truth far more glorious than merely the common notion that each day is a made by the Lord
- It points to the greatest act of God on our behalf when Jesus our Lord died and rose again for us
- So while in the psalmist's immediate lifetime there was reference to a day of deliverance, in light of the New Testament references, "the day" takes on a greater prophetic meaning and refers to "the day" when deliverance from bondage to sin and death was accomplished by the Messiah
- Indeed, THIS is the day to rejoice and be glad in!

## 1 Corinthians 11:5-6

**1 Corinthians 11:5-6** ~ But every woman who has her head uncovered while praying or prophesying disgraces her head, for she is one and the same as the woman whose head is shaved.<sup>6</sup>For if a woman does not cover her head, let her also have her hair cut off; but if it is disgraceful for a woman to have her hair cut off or her head shaved, let her cover her head.

### The Abused Interpretation

- Several views have been suggested for this passage:
- View #1 – This text has no relevance at all for women today; thus, women may disregard these verses altogether as having no application to them (neither the cultural situation nor the principle behind it are repeatable)
- View #2 – This text has complete relevance for women today; thus, women should wear shawls or a real head covering in church as a sign of their submissiveness to their husbands (the cultural situation and the principle behind it are both repeatable today)

Within this view are two basic sub-views:

- The head covering is to be worn by all women in the church service
- The head covering is to be worn by women in the church service only when praying or prophesying publicly
- View #3 – This text has a similar relevance for women today; thus, women should wear hats (or some other appropriate symbol; i.e. wearing of a modest dress) in church as a sign of their submission to their husbands (the situation is partially similar to our culture today and the principle is transferrable and permanent)
- The number of different views on this passage reflects the difficulty in bridging the cultural gap when interpreting Scripture





## THE HEART OF HEADCOVERING

### the meaning behind the symbol

Every symbolic object (or action) is designed to communicate. A heart can symbolize love. A high-five shows affirmation. Something physical is used to represent an invisible reality.

In 1 Corinthians 11, Paul promotes the symbol of Christian headcovering. But what does headcovering symbolically point to? In verse 12, Paul connects the practice of headcovering to the topics of gender. He teaches that man is "the glory of God" and "woman is the glory of the church."

**The purpose of headcovering is to represent a focus on the church.**

<h3>WHEN I GOT MARRIED</h3>  <p>When I got married, I put on a wedding ring. By wearing my ring, I am making a statement (symbolically) that I have a commitment to my spouse.</p>	<h3>WHEN I WAS BAPTIZED</h3>  <p>After I was baptized, I made a statement (symbolically) that I committed myself with Jesus.</p>
<h3>WHEN I PRAY</h3>  <p>When I pray, I take my hat off in order to make a statement (symbolically) that I am submitting to God.</p>	<h3>WHEN MY WIFE PRAYS</h3>  <p>When my wife prays on a covering in order to make a statement (symbolically) that she is submitting to me.</p>

\*<http://www.headcoveringmovement.com>

### The Correct Interpretation

- View #4 – This text requires women to be submissive to their husbands but no type of head covering is needed in church (the cultural setting today is entirely different from the original cultural setting but the principle is transferrable...principle is the same, practice is different...function is same, form is different)

- The context of the entire passage of 1 Corinthians 11:3-16 is submission to the God-given order and "chain of command:" God the Father → God the Son → the man/husband → the woman/wife
- The veil or covering on the head of a believing Corinthian wife showed that she was under the authority of her husband, and therefore under submission to God.
- The key verse of this passage is 1 Corinthians 11:3~ But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God
- Paul uses the pattern of authority/submission within the Godhead as evidence that there is a God-ordained order which has designed the woman to submit to the man's authority
- (It must be stated, however, that women are not inferior to men in terms of personal worth, intellect, or spiritually: Galatians 3:28 ~ There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus)
- The rest of this passage describes the fact that a woman is to come under her husband's authority

**1 Corinthians 11:4** ~ Every man who has *something* on his head while praying or prophesying disgraces his head

- Apparently, some men in Corinth began wearing head coverings and Paul tells them that it is disgraceful for a man to do so
- In that culture, a woman expressed her submission to her husband by having her head covered and a man expressed his authority over his wife by having his head uncovered
- Thus, for a man to cover his head constituted a reversal of roles

**1 Corinthians 11:5-6** ~ But every woman who has her head uncovered while praying or prophesying disgraces her head, for she is one and the same as the woman whose head is shaved. 6 For if a woman does not cover her head, let her also have her hair cut off; but if it is disgraceful for a woman to have her hair cut off or her head shaved, let her cover her head

- Since a woman signified her subordinate relationship to her husband by covering her head while worshipping, if she failed to do so, she brought shame upon herself
- There is nothing spiritual about wearing or not wearing a head covering...God's Word makes no moral judgment on that issue
- But acting contrary to a culture's symbol of the God-ordained male and female roles is prohibited
- So, in that culture, a woman who did not cover her head was disgraceful, similar to the shame on prostitutes and feminists in that culture who shaved their heads

**1 Corinthians 11:7** ~ For a man ought not to have his head covered, since he is the image and glory of God; but the woman is the glory of man

- Both men and women equally bear the image of God; however, men uniquely reflect the glory of God in that they function as the earthly sovereign over God's created order (creation, the family, the church, etc.)
- Man reflects the glory of God by exercising His (God's) delegated authority; woman reflects the glory of man by exercising his (the husband's) delegated authority

**1 Corinthians 11:8-9** ~ For man does not originate from woman, but woman from man; for indeed man was not created for the woman's sake, but woman for the man's sake.

- The fact that God has called men to exercise headship and women to submit to that is reflected in the fact that Adam came from God and Eve was created from Adam (not vice versa)
- Also, Eve was created FOR Adam (not vice versa)...Genesis 2:18 ~ I will make him a helper suitable for him
- This is reflected in the fact that Adam named Eve, not vice versa (Gen 2:23)

**1 Corinthians 11:10** ~ Therefore the woman ought to have *a symbol of* authority on her head, because of the angels

- Because of this divinely-ordained order in the male-female relationship, women (in that culture) were to reflect their submission to their husband by wearing a “symbol of authority”
- “because of the angels” – The relationship of God with men is something that angels watch and learn from (1 Peter 1:12)
- Therefore, a woman's submission to God's delegated authority over her is an example to angels who are watching the church (Eph 3:10)
- The holy angels, who are in perfect and total submission to God, expect that believers would do the same

**1 Corinthians 11:11-12** ~ However, in the Lord, neither is woman independent of man, nor is man independent of woman. 12 For as the woman originates from the man, so also the man *has his birth* through the woman; and all things originate from God.

- Although the woman is to submit herself to the man, that does not mean that men are superior to women
- Though men and women have different roles, they are all equal in the Lord

**1 Corinthians 11:13-15** ~ Judge for yourselves: is it proper for a woman to pray to God *with her head* uncovered? 14 Does not even nature itself teach you that if a man has long hair, it is a dishonor to him, 15 but if a woman has long hair, it is a glory to her? For her hair is given to her for a covering.

- Paul says that it is self-evident that women should not worship with their heads uncovered
- He then cites the natural differences between men and women as proof that women come under man: A woman who is wearing her hair longer marks herself out distinctively as a woman and not a man
- In most cultures, women typically have longer hair than men and keep it longer than men
- Paul is saying here that in the Corinthian culture, when a wife's hair was longer than her husband's, it pointed to her femininity and showed her submission to his headship
- The roles of the male and female are designed by God to portray a profound spiritual lesson, that is of submission to the will and the order of God
- So in the Corinthian culture, a woman who wore a head covering demonstrated her submission to her husband
- Today, however, we no longer view a woman's wearing of a head covering as a sign of submission
- In most modern societies, scarves and hats are fashion accessories
- Thus, a woman has the choice to wear a head covering if she views it as a sign of her submission to the authority of her husband
- However, it is a personal choice and not something that should be mandated from this passage
- The real issue here is the heart attitude of obedience to God's authority and submission to His established order “as to the LORD” (Eph 5:22) as God is far more concerned with an attitude of submission than an outward display of submission via a head covering.

**1 Timothy 2:9-10** ~ Likewise, *I want* women to adorn themselves with proper clothing, modestly and discreetly, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly garments, 10 but rather by means of good works, as is proper for women making a claim to godliness

Should women today wear shawls on their heads in church? No, because the significance of women wearing shawls in the Greco-Roman world no longer holds true in our culture. The act does not carry the symbolism it once had. But is there a principle here to be followed, and to be expressed in a modern-day cultural equivalent? The principle of subordination (not inferiority!) of the wife to her husband still holds because that truth is stated elsewhere in Scripture (e.g., Eph 5:22-23; Col 3:18; 1 Peter 3:1-2). A possible modern cultural parallel, some have suggested, is the wife's wedding ring (and changing her last name to that of her husband) which shows that she is married and thus is under her husband's authority.

Roy Zuck, *Basic Bible Interpretation: A Practical Guide to Discovering Biblical Truth*, 97