

Oaks-West church of Christ

Sunday Worship Service: 9:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. • Bible Study: Following 1st Service
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:00 p.m.

Services are live-streamed to our website: oakswestchurchofchrist.com

April 6, 2025

Don't Twist The Scripture

by Ken Weliever

Paula White is a self-proclaimed pastor, the television host of Paula Today, the president of Paula White Ministries and the National Faith Advisory Board, and the leader of the White House Faith Office.

In recent post online at Christianitytoday.com contributor Carmen Joy Imes writes that White "misappropriates God's promises to ancient Israel in Exodus as a prosperity gospel for today."

Apparently White released a video last week "encouraging Christians to celebrate Passover in order to unlock seven supernatural blessings."

Based on Exodus 23:14-30 White says God will (1) "assign an angel to you," (2) "be an enemy to your enemies," (3) "give you prosperity," (4) "take sickness away from you," (5) "give you a long life," (6) "bring increase and inheritance," and (7) "give a special year of blessing."

Though not implicitly stated the video implies that by contributing up to \$1000 to White's ministry you will receive these blessings.

Imes refutes White's pronouncement in great detail pointing out that God's promises in this text are given to ancient Israel as they were leaving Mt. Sinai and beginning their journey

toward the promised land of Canaan. They were not given to New Testament Christians. Nor has God promised unconditional health and wealth to those who follow Jesus.

On the contrary, we're told that we may endure suffering, persecution, and trials for Jesus' sake (Matt. 5:11-12; 1 Pet. 4:15-16; Jas. 1:2-4). The apostles never preached a "health and wealth" gospel. In fact, Peter was imprisoned. James was beheaded. Paul suffered "a thorn in the flesh." And the last time we read about the beloved John, he was exiled on the island of Patmos as a "companion in the tribulation" (Rev. 1:9).

White's outlandish assertions reminds us of Peter's warning about false teachers who are "ignorant and unstable" and "twist the scriptures to their own destruction" (1 Pet. 3:16).

The word "twist" means "to distort." Thayer says the word literally means "to torture" or "to put to the rack."

Dr. Clinton D. Hamilton in his commentary offers this insightful comment on the word "twist."

"The metaphor is graphic and descriptive. As those who would put another on the torture rack to twist it to the point of making the person say what they want to

Welcome!

When you visit our assemblies, you will be received friendly, kindly and courteously. We believe this to be the natural attitude of those who truly love God and mankind. Though you may at first be among strangers, we hope that you will come to know us well and count us as your friends. We offer Bible studies as well as correspondence courses for those interested in learning more about what God expects of us.

Important Dates

Ladies' Class – April 8

Gospel Meeting – Lost Pines church of Christ, Bastop, April 13-16 with Terry Sumerlin

Our Next Gospel Meeting with David Watson is scheduled for May 4-7

If you know of upcoming events, please inform Darrell so they can be included here.

hear, so it is that these erroneous instructors twist and torture Scripture to their own ends.”

“They twist, pervert, strain or torture Scripture to make it support what it is they want to teach and do. It is not surprising that in our day there are all sorts of false teachers and cults to pervert and twist the Scripture to fit what they want to say. Never mind the fact that their interpretation contradicts the context, the language and other Scripture!”

When Dr. Hamilton was my Bible professor at Florida College, I recall him warning us preacher boys with words to the effect, “A text apart from the context is a mere pretext.” In other words don’t isolate a verse, phrase, or even an entire text from the historical setting and the circumstances surrounding it. He often talked of the importance of proper exegesis (drawing meaning from the text) as opposed to eisegenis (reading our own interpretation into the text).

Here are some simple guidelines to prevent perverting the scriptures by asking these questions:

1. Who is speaking? Who is the author?
2. To whom is the text spoken to or written to?
3. When was it written?
4. Where was it written?
5. Why was it written or spoken?
6. Is the language obviously literal or figurative?
7. What does God want me to understand? To believe? To desire? To do?
8. What is the main point of this passage?
9. What is the cultural or historical context?
10. How does this text connect or relate to other Bible passages?

These questions help us to fulfill Paul’s command to Timothy. “Be diligent to present

yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth” (2Tim. 2:14). To handle the word accurately is to, as other versions express it, “to rightly divide” or “correctly handle the word of Truth”

On a fundamental level this means to understand the difference between the Old Testament and the New Testament, often referred to as the Old Law and the New Law, or the Law of Moses and the Law of Christ. To realize that God has used various means and methods to reveal His Word to people through the ages, but today speaks to us through Jesus Christ, as revealed in the New Testament (Heb. 1:1-3).

Don’t be guilty of twisting the Scriptures to fit your preconceived ideas. Don’t expect God’s promises to the Exodus Israelites to be realized in your life. Oh, and don’t send Paula White any money. *{used with permission from thepreachersword.com}*

Prayer Requests

Jack Wilson is still struggling with pain and limited mobility.

Jimmy Stinnett is struggling from his leukemia and is under treatment.

Dinah Williams is having some issues with her legs from diabetes.

Dorthy Steadman finished her radiation treatment.

Wilma Shipley had a mini-stroke this past week.

Audria Trammel will have surgery April 15 for breathing issues.

Shut-ins: Don and Alene Simmons, Dinah Williams, Marcia Neuhaus, Shirley Perkins

If you know of someone that needs to be on this list, please tell Darrell (email preferred) and provide updates so names stay on the list as long as needed.

The Oaks West church of Christ is a group of individual Christians who have been added to the Lord’s body through baptism (Acts 2:38, 47; Gal 3:26, 27), and have joined themselves together (Acts 2:42ff) in an effort to do the Lord’s will.

We are not a part of any larger organization – we do not follow any man-made creeds and we do not answer to anyone other than the Lord.

Our standard of faith and practice is the Word of God. We believe in the God of revelation (Eph 3:1-7; 2 Tim 3:16-17) and follow his instructions in an effort to have an ongoing relationship with him (1 John 4:7-11; 5:3).

Our times of study and worship are open to all, and our members are happy to meet with interested individuals or families for study.

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