Always remember the CONTEXT!

- Every word in the Bible is part of a verse, every verse is part of a paragraph, every paragraph is part of a book, and every book is part of the whole Scripture.
- No verse can be, or should be, divorced from the verses around it.
- Taking a verse, or thought, out of context can lead to many types of errors and misunderstanding which leads to a misunderstanding of who God is and what His Word really is teaching.
- We all have a tendency to use a verse out of context to help support our own point of views or "ideologies" of God – which can be very dangerous.

Time for some BIG words:

EXEGESIS & EISEGESIS

Exegesis – the practice of discovering the meaning of a text in its original cultural, historical, literary, and theological texts….what the text ACTUALLY means.

Eisegesis – examining one's preconceived notions, biases, and understandings into the text and giving it a meaning that doesn't exist…what "I" "think" the text means, or should mean.

Exegesis includes:
- Observation – what does the passage say?
- Interpretation – what does the passage mean?
- Correlation – how does the passage relate to the rest of the Bible?
- Application – how should this passage affect my life?

Eisegesis includes:
- Imagination – what idea do I want to present?
- Exploration – what Scripture passage seems to agree with my idea?
- Application – what does MY idea mean?