

## “TEXT,” “CONTEXT,” “EXTENDED TEXT”

*“Brother Allen, can you help me with the idea of “text,” “context,” and “extended text?”* There is a lot of material to consider before drawing a conclusion about what is being said. The following are some examples of these facts.

I shall designate these different **texts** by numbering each of them: **1. Rom. 10:17** --- This text tells us *“Faith comes by hearing,”* There is nothing in the **“context,”** or, the **“extended text,”** that teach different, no broadening or narrowing of this meaning, this definition of faith and how we get it stands true. Faith can **only** come from what is written; thus, what is heard from the word of God, **is faith.** **2. I Jno. 3: 4,** here it is stated, *“sin is a transgression of the law,”* KJV. There is not a different idea expressed in the **“context,”** nor, in in an **“extended context,”** thus, it stands as a definition of the word **“sin.”** **3. Col. 2:12,** in this text baptism is defined as a **“burial.”** There is not a change from this definition in the **“context,”** nor, the **“extended text,”** so the definition stands true. The idea of sprinkling and pouring for baptism cannot be added as a definition – such cannot be found in the **“text,”** **“context,”** nor, the **“extended text.”**

There are places in which the **“context,”** will alter a thought. **1. Acts 5:3-4.** In v. 3 this verse states they lied to **“the Holy Spirit,”** and in verse 4 we find the idea, *“thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God.”* From verse 3 and verse 4 we learn the Holy Spirit is God! Now, we have learned this is from the **“context,”** of Acts 5:3-4. **2. Jas. 2:1-13:** Here we have a discussion of **“respect of persons.”** There is introduced the poor man and the rich man coming into your meeting place and the fact the **“respect of persons”** is obvious – we learn this from the **“context.”** Also, we learn when one sins he is under condemnation of law, no matter what sin may be that committed. This lesson comes from the **“context.”** **Being a respect of persons is a sin!** This is from the **“context.”**

The **“extended text,”** often sheds light upon what happened: **1. Gen. 4:1-15,** states: *“God had respect to Abel and his offering,”* v. 4. The reason why God approved Abel’s offering is stated in Heb. 11:6, it is stated Abel offered **“by faith.”** Since faith comes by **“hearing,”** and hearing by the **word of God,** we now know God told him (Abel) what to do. Abel offered, by faith, and Cain did not; thus, Abel obeyed what God told him to do. You see, all this is learned from the **“extended text.”** **2. Matt. 19:24,** From this passage we find it to be hard for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of heaven. In fact it is easier for a camel to go through a **“needles eye”** than for the rich man to go to heaven. I understand the **“needles eye”** to be the eye of a sewing needle – that is impossible for a camel to do. Yet in **Mk. 10:24** Mark tells us it is the rich man that **“trust in his riches,”** that cannot be saved. The explanation of the text is found in the **“extended text.”** There have been many rich righteous men in life and they could go to heaven; but, the rich man who **“trust”** in his riches does not have a chance of going to heaven. This is learned by considering the **“extended text.”** **3. Gen. 2:24,** one draws the conclusion that Adam was the one who pronounced the law of marriage to man; but, when we read **Matt. 19:4-5** it was God who pronounced the marriage law – this is learned from the **“extended text,”** and thus illustrates the necessity of considering all that is said about a subject. We are required to consider the **“extended text,”** to obtain all of God’s truth.

The lesson we learn from the material presented is: We must consider the **“text,”** **“context,”** and the **“extended text,”** and thereby we have all that God has said about a certain subject. This is to take into consideration all that God has revealed about certain subjects – in so doing we have **all** that God has said about different subjects.

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