

## The Bible and Its Cultural Context

Evangelicals are people of the Book. That book, written by numerous human authors (and one Divine Author) over thousands of years in three languages and translated into every mother tongue wherever it goes, is essential for the transformation of individuals and cultures into what God wants them to be. Christians apply the Bible to their cultures at many times and in various ways, but not always wisely, especially in these last days.

In this issue of AJET five African authors examine several issues in Africa (which are also found many other places in the world) from a Biblical perspective. Each uses the Bible and Biblical principles, but in various ways.

Joel Hamuli Songela engages in a detailed examination of the issue of *Divorce and Remarriage in Scripture*. Using Deuteronomy 24:1-4 and its interpretation by Jesus in Matthew 19:1-12, he covers these passages in some depth and relates them to other relevant passages as well. He concludes that, though it is difficult in this present age, the Biblical position requires a high view of marriage.

Kojo Okyere, in *The Pedagogy of Sexual Morality in Proverbs Five*, seeks to uncover the educational principles in the wisdom of Proverbs 5, which is about avoiding the adulteress. How does the teacher teach and how does the learner learn, especially in this deeply emotional area of sexual morality?

Joel K. T. Biwul, in *Preaching Biblically in the Nigerian Prosperity Gospel Context*, tries to persuade readers that Biblical preaching is a dying art in Nigeria. This is because so many Christian preachers are so attracted to the Prosperity Gospel, which he states, agreeing with Femi Adeleye, *Preachers of a Different Gospel*, is indeed a “different gospel” (Gal. 1:6-8). He points out how this false gospel creates and takes advantage of wrong motivations for preaching. The results are deadly for African Christians.

Luvuyo Ntombana, in *Reconciliation between the BCSA and the BUSA from a Biblical Perspective*, tackles in some detail one example of attempts at Christian reconciliation in two Baptist denominations in South Africa. It is fitting that, in the year that Nelson Mandela died, AJET is publishing an article on reconciliation in South Africa. The reconciliation attempts in this denomination were only partly successful, but even this teaches us some important lessons.

Emmanuel Amofo's article, *Improving African Christian Leadership: A Biblical View*, returns to the topic of our last issue, African Christian Leadership. He examines some useful aspects of a Biblical view of leadership.

The marriage relationship, teaching sexual morality, the importance of Biblically oriented preaching in the face of the overwhelming tide of false teaching, reconciliation between Christian denominations which used to be one, Christian leadership – God, through the Bible, will continue to help His people, His Church, become more like Jesus in all of life, if we pay attention.