

## Emmaus Chapter 7 – Mike Baran

### Grasping God's Word – Chapter 7

#### Assignment 7-1

In three or four pages, describe your family background in regard to cultural influences. Discuss as well as you can both your mother (and her family) and your father (and his family). Include any other families that may have influenced you as well. For each, discuss attitudes and views toward religion, family, work, education, and wealth. Describe the socioeconomic location of your family and its religious context. Also, how do members of your family tend to relate to each other? Does your family tend to be warm and “huggy” or cold and distant? Finally, try to relate your family background to your own set of values and outlooks. What have you retained? What have you rejected?

*Note:* This assignment is not meant to pry into your personal life. Feel free to omit anything in the written assignment about which you are sensitive. But be sure to *think* about those things you omit so that you are aware of their influence on your study of the Bible. This exercise is a self-analysis; it is for your benefit and not ours.

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This is a good exercise in self-analysis on the variety of family and societal influences that have impacted – helped to form or vary – our values and outlook, especially our religious beliefs and study of the Bible.

However, I feel that this exercise should not be for written public accounting, rather, it should be for personal reflection. As such, I will not be discussing in writing any of the points that would otherwise make up the completed assignment, even though I have reflected on the suggested discussion topics highlighted in this assignment. Nevertheless, a verbal rather than a written summary of some, but not necessarily all, of the key points in the assignment would be an acceptable approach for me to complete this assignment.

However, as a partial completion of this assignment, suffice it to say that I was born into a Catholic family. I first came across a New Testament as a gift from the Gideons when I was in High School. I read a complete copy of the Bible at around age 20 when I discovered that, as a practicing Catholic, I was actually a practicing pagan idolater and so gave up Catholicism. I researched various religions and was baptised at age 39 when I became a practicing Sabbath keeper and Holy Day observer. Thereafter, I became interested in theology, which became something of a passion for me from that time till now. At a particular time in my Christian walk I realised that to better understand Scripture I needed to be able to work through Greek and Hebrew and so learned how Greek and Hebrew grammar works. With available computerised resources I have been able to better understand some difficult Bible doctrines, some of which I discovered were at odds with common Christian teachings.

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