



# TRUTH APPLICATIONS

Articles

## Discovering the Wheel

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A few years ago, Paul McCartney was featured in promotions for the Grammy Awards telecast and given two performance slots on the show, one more than any other artist.

Many need me to say no more to understand why the producers would feature McCartney. Even if you weren't a fan of the Beatles in the 1960s, Wings in the 1970s, or other things he's done since (including a 1980s song co-written and sung with Johnny Cash and Tom T. Hall), you probably know who Paul McCartney is.

But not everyone does. After the show aired, my son read a Facebook thread in which the theme was, "Who is Paul McCartney? Has he done anything else?"

There are more important things to know. Sadly, many don't know them either. They live so much in the moment that they convey that if it hasn't happened in their lifetime, if not their presence, it cannot be worth knowing. We've met some who are even more deeply immersed in the now; if they've not seen or heard it, they're not sure it happened at all.

No one's life, however rich and full it may seem, can do without the perspective gained from knowing the struggles, triumphs, and failures of others, both present and past. People are people in any era and have left records that teach lessons from both their triumphs and disasters. We are the worse if we know nothing about them.

That's why Scripture often calls us to remember. It's why we should go to the trouble to learn about our heritage, both ancient and recent. We need to consider what it means that other believers also lived in pluralist and decadent societies, that what some take to be new battles are variations on old ones.

In *Your Mind Matters*, a short book he wrote nearly fifty years ago, John Stott quoted Canadian commentator Mordecai Richler who, in a 1970 play review, wrote, "What scares me about this generation is the extent to which ignorance is their armour. If know-nothingness goes on much longer, somebody will yet emerge from a commune having discovered ... the wheel" (IVP Classics edition, 14-15).

Let us do all we can to avoid being among them.

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