

WORD STUDIES

LESSON ONE

What is the Importance of Word Studies?

Read these verses: Matthew 4:4, I Timothy 6:3-4

Consider the importance of understanding the meaning of these words: Faith, Believe, Justify, Redeem, Holiness

We need to leave behind our practice of leaving the meaning of the words of God to others in professional ministry. Do you have an understanding of the words above based on the original, intended meaning of the text or what your church tradition teaches you?

Some Simple Examples

1. Read this familiar passage of scripture: John 21:15-17

two different words for love are used and two different words for feed are used:

1. verse 15 Jesus asked Peter do you “agape” (love) me
Peter replies I “phileo” (love) you

2. verse 15 word for feed is “bosko”, but in verse 16 it is
“poimaino”

Why does the conversation go this way? What is the importance of the different words (remember inspired by the Holy Spirit)?

* this also serves as a good lesson in reading the Bible in several translations-----read these verses in the KJV and then in the ESV

2. A word will not always have the same meaning everywhere it occurs in Scripture, sometimes even within the same book:

Read these verses: Romans 1:3, 2:28, 3:20, 7:5, 8:13

Everyone of these verses contain the word “sarx”, which is often translated flesh.

Yet, here are the meanings of this word in these verses:

1. Romans 1:3 = human nature
2. 2:28 = physical body
3. 3:20 = human being or man
4. 7:5 = unregenerate self
5. 8:13 = the sinful nature of man

*this is the importance of context which we will discuss in two weeks

Can you name some reasons to not assume your pastor/teacher will have done the necessary study work to preach/teach an expositional sermon/lesson from a particular passage?

3. A word in English may not convey the entire meaning of the Greek word. Read this familiar verse: John 16:7

KJV = Comforter	NIV = Counselor
NLT = Counselor	NASB = Helper
ESV = Helper	ASV = Comforter

Let's go to the Blue Letter Bible and see why this might be:

Blue Letter Bible to John 16:7 and click on "C"

see the Greek word is "parakletos"

click on Strong's number which is 3875, remember Strong's can give me all the places this word appears in Scripture

in this case it is only 5 times and I can see in I John 2:1, it is translated "advocate"

Read Vines entry and here I can see why it is translated in so many different ways: "Christ was this to His disciples"

The Holy Spirit's job is to be everything to God's children that Jesus was to His disciples--to truly have the presence of Christ that the disciples had---to teach, supply, comfort, advocate, help, counsel

click on "view entry in its context: this gives all the related Greek words:

A-5 is our word

look at A-1, a closely related word, note it is found in Rom 15:4

here we see that the Scriptures are also given to us by the

Lord in order to aid the Spirit's work (see the word comfort)

4. The word in

English may carry a completely different meaning to us today than its use in the Greek world. Read this verse: I Timothy 2:11

What does the word silence mean? What does verse command?

Go to the Blue Letter Bible, I Timothy 2:11

click on Ἠσυχία, silence = “hesychia” and is Strong’s number 2271
find it does mean quietly, but note the definition means to “not meddle with the affairs of another”, it is found only 4 times and it is related to the very next verse in I Timothy 2:12, read that verse

There is some relationship between learning in silence, not meddling in the affairs of others, and not having authority in teaching over men

* the point is that silence does not simply mean not speaking, but has some meaning related to teaching authority and proper roles

AS YOU BEGIN TO STUDY YOUR BIBLE USING THESE TOOLS, YOU WILL FIND YOURSELF BEING MUCH MORE INTERESTED IN WHAT THE SCRIPTURES ARE SAYING TO YOU PERSONALLY!

NEXT WEEK, WE WILL LOOK AT HOW TO DO SOME WORD STUDIES IN MORE DEPTH.