



TC's Thoughts for Discussion

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Most of us use the term, "expert," to describe a person who has refined and polished a special skill or studied to gain advanced knowledge in a given field. Experts in the knowledge arena are often seen as having authority over others who have not studied to gain equivalent knowledge and understanding. Because we live in The Information Age, many thinking people are deciding not to trust experts in any field...except for religion. Can that be good? What could be more important to an intelligent Christian than what he comes to believe about the Bible and Christianity? Samuel Clemens said this about that: "In religion and politics, people's beliefs and convictions are in almost every case gotten at second hand, and without examination." Regardless of what you think of Mr. Clemens, he was clearly objective in that observation.

The Information Age affords us access to all the same information that is/was available to the experts in *every* field. Here's the catch: Some of us are determined to learn, for ourselves, what we need to know and understand about things that are really, really important for us. Others continue to trust "experts" to do all their studying and critical thinking for them. Many of those they trust are con artists and many more of them simply haven't done their basic homework—especially in politics and religion. (Those who haven't done their homework typically trust other "experts" who behave as if they've done theirs.)

Christian? You're instructed to study to show YOURSELF approved unto God. Why? So that you won't risk fully-justified shame when engaging other intelligent people in conversation about your faith. Until the 20th Century, most church people had no choice but to trust denominational "experts" for Bible knowledge and understanding. Today, we are without excuse. The 21st-Century Information Age has yielded all the tools we will need to fulfill our scriptural challenge to search for knowledge and understanding—as if they were valuable treasure:

- > "My people are destroyed for lack of [sincerity?] [prayer?] [worship?] [holiness?] [righteousness?] [faith?] [regular church attendance?] [hyperspirituality?] [getting "truly 'saved'?"] [believing "what 'we' believe?"] knowledge..." —Hosea 4:6

The only current draw-back is that, "in church," people aren't learning how and where to find those tools—or even what to look for. At best, in some of today's visible churches, people learn WHAT to study...to confirm "what 'we' believe." The Bible Explorers Club, LLC, web site is dedicated to helping you discover HOW to study...to learn the 1st-Century Gospel truth. Yes; that's amazingly different from today's enormously popular "evolved" gospel message. (We published a fascinating article on that critical topic in July, 2015: www.DYPK.org/TCmonthly/TC0002.pdf.)

It will become important for you to know that we are not in the business of trying to convince you to change your beliefs to our beliefs. Here's some brief confirmation of that good news: www.dypk.org/we-believe.

Finally, whenever you encounter questions about any of our scriptural conclusions, please ask: www.dypk.org/contact.

—T. C. Newsome 



I was a successful Bible teacher for a LOT of years—big sanctuary classes.

I knew what my denomination believed and that's what I taught.

Yes, I should've checked it out to make sure it was true.

So why didn't I do that? Well, maybe I didn't do that for the same reason that you haven't really checked out what your denomination teaches. "In religion and politics, people's beliefs and convictions are in almost every case gotten at second hand, and without examination." —Mark Twain

