



TC's Thoughts for Discussion

www.DYPK.org

In March, 2006, nineteen multi-denominational believers met to form what was to become Bible Explorers Club, LLC. (See www.DYPK.org/about for more on that.) We were motivated by an awareness of the personal responsibility to study to show ourselves approved unto God, so that we'd never have to be ashamed or unnecessarily ineffective as His representatives. The fact is that we had each ABDICATED that responsibility. How? Whatever we respectively believed, then, about the Bible and Christianity had been gotten, not from the Scriptures, but from DERIVATIVE WORKS. Those were the sermons, books, videos and commentaries of denominational "experts."

Five of our original group were clergymen...four different denominations. If you're a seminary graduate (of any denomination, I think) your freshman year included derivative works—what "the church fathers" thought the Holy Scriptures mean. The inevitable result? Forever thereafter reading God's Word through the filters of those "church fathers" and the acquired denominational biases of your seminary professors. You may or may not be aware that theologians hold one another accountable to their respective "what 'we' believe" franchises...

Need more than that to become an Acts 17:11 Berean skeptic? Maybe this'll help: "In religion and politics, people's beliefs and convictions are in almost every case gotten at second hand, and without examination." —Samuel Clemens

The bottom line is this: God has given YOU the gift of a sound mind; remember? That's a terrible thing to waste! God did NOT give those "church fathers" *souder* minds than He has given you and me! Shouldn't you do something to take full advantage of YOUR generous gift? Shouldn't you do whatever it takes to put the proverbial horse in FRONT of that cart?

Few of the charter members of our larger Bible Explorers Club, LLC, were able to discard those denominational filters. All of us who're members of our smaller **Link1**^(TM) Bible Research Team have rejected the tendency to rely on "experts" to do our studying and critical thinking for us. The default mindset – driven by human nature; a.k.a. the sin nature – is to passively return to "what I've always been taught." Before the 20th Century, when literacy was the exception, that excuse might've been acceptable. Because you're reading THIS without a lot of difficulty, that excuse is really flimsy. It won't fly on Judgment Day.

So! If we occasionally disagree on interpretation of Scripture, that's okay! My understanding NEEDS to be challenged once in a while. Yours, too! That's among the things that prompt intelligent folk to dig a little more – seizing each new opportunity to gain more knowledge and understanding, as if they were rare treasure!

So, if you wish to lead me to Bible Truth about something, Show me the pertinent scriptures. Please don't direct me to a sermon, a book, a commentary or a video by a denominational "expert." No need to type each word of the collection of scriptures to support your current conclusion. Just tell me where they are. I'll find them.

Many are of the opinion that there is no place for DISAGREEMENT between Christians...that we're to always operate in complete harmony and unity. While that may sound incredibly "religious" to you, it does NOT enjoy the support of sound doctrine. The following may be acceptable to you, as supporting rationale:

"We've never had a cross word between us in sixty years of marriage." Ever heard anything like that? Did you believe it? Did you wonder silently, "Well, bless your old hearts, then how do you communicate?" In Christian fellowship, as in marriage, occasional disagreement is a very normal (and important) part of healthy interaction. If a relationship is to grow, occasional disagreement will be necessary. Follow this link to more on that topic: www.dypk.org/blog/0094.pdf. The diagram on page 2 may be helpful, too.

—T. C. Newsome 

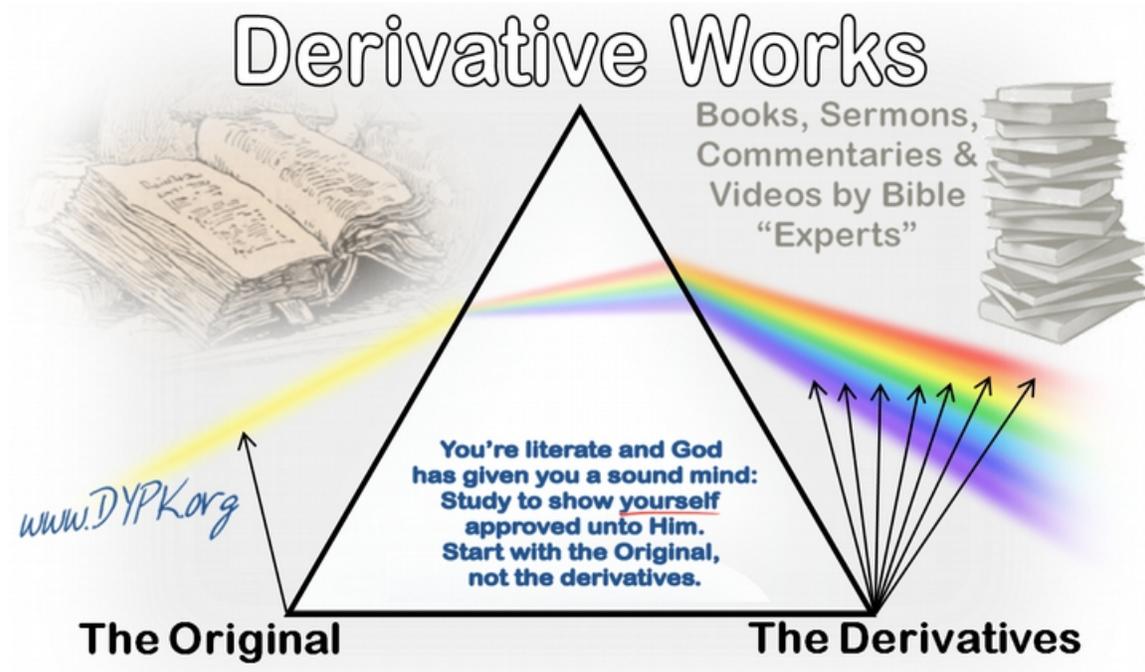
I was a successful Bible teacher for a LOT of years—big sanctuary classes.

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





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