

As I was growing up in the faith I began studying with the mid-Acts group. Regarding the blessings in that time period; the Acts period, I found I had many questions that were not answered IMHO according to the text of the Word of God in those epistles. It seemed like to me, that the preachers would re-define the term New Testament (which should by all accounts be New Covenant) according to their own views instead of fully studying out even the Greek word "diatheke"... which IS the word used for both Testament and Covenant in the New Testament scriptures of the KJV.

I understood the need for Greek/Hebrew word studies by something I found by the Spirit in a study when I was but a child, using a lexicon/concordance in Gen.6. Part of the problem I believe, in non-discovery of these things is the new KJV ONLY tradition that teaches the English means exactly what it says, and oft they say no word studies should be done in the original languages. This I believe is ERROR. But this is often NOT the case with all words. If one studies "translating" it is complicated in that often times the English cannot always fully express the Greek/Hebrew words effectively. The English is a TRANSLATION or a TRANSLITERATION in which the translators often use other words to try to get the meaning across ...thus we have italics in the KJV. Hebrew especially, I found has all manner of beautiful poetic things like "Hebraisms" which is poetic language to get a meaning across. The Bible also uses FIGURES OF SPEECH, SIMILITUDES, ALLEGORY etc... This is totally lost in the English translations unfortunately. But it is very beautiful when one gets to glimpse it. I believe this needs to be said because of the complete lack of actual STUDY that only English presents.

We should consider Christ's command thru Paul to "rightly divide the word of truth" in 2 Tim.2 the whole chapter really, as it shews also the effects of one who does not rightly divide. Along with a great translation also like the KJV...we also have, a real gift of

concordances and lexicons which enrich our studies far beyond normal English only studies! And many are electronic, so they are simple to access! Such a blessing. The real gift is the Lord's Spirit who attends to each of us the saved and teaches us to discern the truth thru comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

We need to be careful of TRADITIONS. It is because of this one thing that many are blinded to the truth of NEW COVENANT doctrine in Paul's early epistles...the SPIRIT OF THE NEW COVENANT. One can study Jer.31, Ez.36 to see the beginning of this PROMISED covenant that Paul was bring forth to the Jew first and, also to the Greek that were joined with Israel as in old times Ex.12:48... And was during a very special period of grace that God, was holding forth to his Chosen people in the Acts period, that INCLUDED GENTILES... until Israels final rejection in Acts 28:20-28...

For this cause therefore have I called for you, to see you, and to speak with you: because that for the hope of Israel I am bound with this chain. Acts 28:20

Which ends with Israel's final departure from the scene until God once again turns to them for their ultimate salvation.

I long for the day when traditions are ceased, and the truth of God is plainly known to us all who shall see Him face to face!!

Until then may His grace be fully functioning in us, and until we all come into the fulness of the measure of the stature of Christ into the ONE NEW MAN!

HALLELUJAH!

With all my heart in the grace of God...

Bobbi Wendelin