

SIX WORDS THAT WORK

By

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I Corinthians 2

Words mean something. The more one identifies words and comprehends their meanings and usages, the greater ability one will have to ascertain the will and plan of God for the Church, and for one's personal life.

The second chapter of the New Testament book of I Corinthians contains six such words (either so stated, or suggested by some word, phrase, or concept). Grasping them will provide a spiritual impetus for comprehending more of God's plan during the Church Program.

Word number:

1. Mystery. A Bible Mystery (verse seven), is not after the fashion of Alfred Hitchcock, or Agatha Christie. It, rather, is defined in such passages as Colossians 1:26, and Ephesians 3:4- 6. Simply stated, it is something that in the Old Testament is concealed, but in the New Testament, revealed. Using your concordance, you will find approximately 11 different mysteries mentioned in the New Testament.
2. Inspiration. The English word is so translated in II Timothy 3:16, from a Greek word more literally translated, "God breathed." It is not found in our present location, but is suggested by the phrase, "Testimony of God." The correct doctrine of Inspiration is defined as, "plenary (i.e. fully), verbal (i.e. every word).
3. Revelation. The word is found in verse 10, and is better understood with the context of verse 9. Simply, it is something that one does not know, and cannot know, until God reveals (uncovers) it. There are now no new things being revealed by God. The Book titled, fittingly enough, The Revelation, the last Book of the New Testament, was the final revelation of God, until Christ returns to earth and reveals Himself.
4. Interpretation. If God is not revealing new things today, what is He doing? He, through the Holy Spirit, teaches us the things written by inspiration, and, in some cases, revealed. In order to understand those things, we must "interpret" the Word of God. That principle is found in verse 13. As we take words God has already spoken (i.e. The Bible), and by the wisdom of the Holy Spirit, "compare them together," or, from the literal Greek, "collate them," we come to understand what God meant by what He has said. A quote given many years ago, the author of which is not known to this author, says: "When the plain sense of scripture makes good sense, accept no other sense. "Therefore, take every word in its primary, ordinary literal meaning, unless the context clearly requires one to do otherwise." This leads to the Golden Rule of Interpretation (which authorship is

also unknown to this author): “When you get in your mind, what the bible writer had in his mind, when he wrote what he wrote, you have properly interpreted scripture.”

5. Illumination. If, as stated above, God is not now revealing new truth, then what does He do in order to aid us in our understanding? We have termed it, “Illumination.” The context of verses 13, 14 show that a “fleshly,” (i.e. either a carnal man, or an unsaved man) (i.e. person), cannot grasp the things of God. For the things received from God come through the Spirit of God, communicating with the spirit of a spiritual man. The unsaved man has no spiritual contact with God, and a carnal Christian is not going to be helped by God to understand (John 7:17). As with the Lil’ Henry comic-strip cartoons, of past years, God turns on the light that one might “see,” or, understand.

6. Application. In verse 15, the word “judgeth,” means, “To Scrutinize.” One who is spiritual searches the scriptures in every matter, to determine what is in, or not in agreement with God. It is taking the scriptures and “applying” them to our conduct, to insure that our actions please the Lord.

One must judge one’s own conduct, by applying the Word in one’s own life. However, one must also learn to discern, and distinguish between what is “Biblically Forbidden,” and what is only a “Personal Preference,” that one may not be found unjustly judging others (Romans 14:4; James 4:11, 12).