

Strange Words

In carrying out the Great Commission of Jesus, we are to teach the gospel to the people around us. Over the past 50 years, many methods of teaching the Good News have been developed and used with success. From film strips to internet bible schools, there is no shortage of tools to help get the job of evangelism done. However, in my experience of sharing Christ with others there is one reoccurring problem. People who are not well read in the bible find much of the language and words found within the Scriptures to be unfamiliar and strange. On more than one occasion, I have seen that far away look in the listener's (or reader's) eyes after reviewing a passage of scripture that to us "church people" makes perfect sense. Here is a small sample of words found in the bible that many people (even Christians) don't understand or know their meaning:

- *Admonish or Admonition* – To warn or caution (*Colossian 3:16; Eph. 6:4*)
- *Baptism or Baptize* – To immerse or dip (*Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38*)
- *Iniquity* – sin, immorality (*Luke 13:27; 2 Timothy 2:19*)
- *Manifest* – To make known or to reveal (*John 14:21; Ephesians 5:13*)
- *Repent or Repentance* – To change one's mind (*Luke 13:3,5; 2 Cor. 7:10*)
- *Righteousness* – Living in a right manner, sinless (*Matt. 6:33; Rom. 5:17*)
- *Sanctify or Sanctification* – To separate or set apart (*Hebrews 10:10*)

As we prepare ourselves to study the bible with others, not only do we need to learn book, chapter, and verse, but we need to be able to assist the seeker with understanding what the will of the Lord is (*Ephesians 5:17*) by helping them to understand these strange words.

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