

Gen 11:7-8 "Communication" ← "common" (human or divine)

Words are the vehicles used to convey thoughts between two persons. However, the vehicle, or "bus," may carry several meanings, or "passengers." If the wrong passenger gets off, no communication!

I. "Words are Vehicles..." Illustrated

A. "Baptism" **Mt 28:19**

- Sprinkling, Pouring
- Immersion

B. "Church" **Eph 4:4; 1;22-23 vs. Rom 16:16?**

- Building for worship
- Denomination
- Clergy
- All saved viewed collectively
- Congregation

C. Marriage/Divorce/Fornication/Adultery...!

E.g. "Adultery" **1 Co 6:9**

- Breaking covenant
- Lusting after a woman not lawfully married to
- Unlawful sex with one person *while married* to another
- Unlawful sex act with one person *while bound by law* to another

D. "Bless" **Mt 26:20**

- "to make or declare holy by a spoken formula or sign" WNWD
- "to ask divine favor for [the minister *blessed* the congregation]" WNWD
- "to praise or glorify [to *bless* the Lord]" WNWD ["*bless* your heart" MWCD]
- "to make the sign of the cross over or upon" WNWD
- "to confer well being or prosperity on" AHD

II. How Discover What Passengers are on the Bus?

A. English Dictionaries

1. Differences (Good to have more than one)

- Arrangement - some put oldest defin. first; some commonest defin. first
*** *Read preface*
- Exactness - some precise; some strive for simplicity
- Thoroughness - some complete; some strive for compactness, brevity, thus either not have word or have only most common definition
- Etymology & Synonyms - some very brief; some very enlightening and give examples
- Up-to-dateness - for latest usages

2. Uses

- Showing how *commonly* used - what do *others* mean when they use this word?
- Being precise about extra-scriptural terms you use (e.g. "collective": "denomination")
- Illustrations of word usage

B. Lexicons - Hebrew & Greek Dictionaries**1. Difference in these and person, place, things dictionaries****2. Function**

- Show which "passengers" were on the "bus" used by Hebrew or Greek speaker or writer
- Suggest which "passengers" get off at particular stops (passages)

3. Danger

- Some commentary

*** *Read preface*

Vine's "Forward" by W. Graham Scroggie: "at once a concordance, a dictionary, **and a commentary**..."

Vine's "Forward" by F. F. Bruce: "This work is full of careful **exegesis**..."

"Preface" by W.E. Vine: "The word is of an **expository** character, **comments** being given on various passages..."

"Preface to Thayer's Lex. by J. H. Thayer: "A student often wants to know not so much the inherent meaning of a word as the particular sense it bears in a given context or discussion: — or, to state the same truth from another point of view, the lexicographer often cannot assign a particular New Testament reference to one or another of the

acknowledged significations of a word without indicating his exposition of the passage in which the reference occurs. **In such a case he is compelled to assume, at least to some extent, the functions of an exegete...**"

Note: Thayer distinguishes *definitions* (passengers) by putting them in *italics*. Comments in regular type.

- Which definition a particular passage belongs under (as alluded to above)

How, then, do we determine which definition is correct?...

III. Determining WHICH Passenger by CONTEXT and HARMONY

Here our ability in READING and ascertaining CONTEXT become extremely valuable, and our ability to search pertinent passages and apply the LAW OF HARMONY to all.

A. "Baptism" - **Acts 8:36-38**

B. "Church" - Univ: **1 Co 12:12-13...27-28**; Local: **1:2**

C. "Marriage"/"Divorce"/"Fornication"/"Adultery" - **THIS the SAFE way to define these words!**

E.g., "Adultery"

- A sexual act - **Ezk 16:30-33** - "actions of a bold-faced harlot...You adulteress wife"
Jn 8:4 - refers to **Lev 20:10; Dt 22:22**, "lying with" (Law of Harmony)
- Unlawful sex act involving a person bound by law to another - **Rom 7:1-3**

D. "Bless"

Law of HARMONY - **Lk. 22:19** - "gave thanks" - He "blessed" (praised) God for it, thus "gave thanks"

CONC

If we are going to work together in "building the city," we must "have the same language" (Gen 11:6)!

Cannot depend on favorite preachers, feelings, tradition, culture, etc.
Dangerous, dividing, and possibly damning!

Let us aim to understand what the Bible means by *being sure the right passenger gets off the bus!*