

ScriptureGram

A brief word from God's Word

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Subject: A Lesson From Sherlock Holmes

“Endeavor to present yourself to God qualified, an unashamed worker, correctly cutting the Word of truth.” (2 Timothy 2:15)

While in seminary I had a professor say that the study of Theology was necessary, so we could have a correct understanding of Biblical truth before we have the opportunity to study all of the Bible ourselves to develop our own Theology. (“Theology” is simply “words about God,” or how we interpret things concerning God from Scripture.)

But as we depend upon a Theology that someone has developed for us ... either a preacher, or a professor, or an author, or even a well-respected authority from the past ... does this not lock us in to seeing things their way, instead of studying Scripture for ourselves to see things God's way?

I recently read “A Study In Scarlet,” a Sherlock Holmes novel by Arthur Conan Doyle. Early on, when Holmes had only heard a few specifics about the case, when Dr. Watson asked why Holmes had not yet given much thought to the case, Holmes responded ...

“No data yet,” he answered. ***“It is a capital mistake to theorize before you have all the evidence. It biases the judgment.”***

But most Believers today make the very mistake that Holmes warns us of. Most make up their mind about Biblical interpretation before they even study it and consider all of the evidences.

For example, most believe God will eternally torment non-Believers because of what others have told them the Bible says. And when evidence is presented by others as to correct Biblical interpretation ... showing that God will ultimately save ALL ... they are biased and cannot see any possibilities beyond what they have been locked into.

In the Holmes mystery, when others failed to see certain evidences, Holmes reports ... “I approached

the house, as you know, on foot, ***and with my mind entirely free from all impressions.*** I naturally began by examining the roadway, and there, as I have already explained to you, I saw clearly the marks of a cab.”

Most Believers have their minds made up, and even as they read and study the Bible they cannot see “the marks of a cab” as Holmes did.

Let us understand that the majority within The Church today have simply received their Theology and Bible interpretation from others preceding them, and it has been passed down to you. But if this Theology contains error (and I argue that it most certainly does), if we accept this Theology ourselves we become locked into error. We are biased from the start, and will be unable to see the truth that God has revealed to us in His Word.

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- Bob Evely -