

# BIBLE EXPLORER

News

"Featuring News That Shouldn't Be News

But Is News"

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Online Newspaper

## THINGS PENTECOSTALS DON'T KNOW

— About The Relationship Between First-Century Pentecost & Modern Pentecost —

#pen-13 — Online NEWSpaper "PENTECOST" series. Each article builds on the aggregate foundation of all the previous ones.

Continued from #pen-12—

As with other Bible teachers and preachers, my primary study curriculum was prescribed, printed and distributed by our denomination—a very large pentecostal denomination.

The denominational literature always directed me to the Bible passages that would yield competence to deliver each prescribed message. I was faithful to study those passages diligently and prayerfully in preparation for each Sunday morning lecture.

I became an effective spokesman for our "what 'we' believe" franchise. (Every denomination has one of those.) Fully literate and reasonably intelligent, I never learned the pleasure of limiting my study to God's written word...until later. Frankly, I wouldn't have known how to do that. After all, our denominational leaders had done and were doing that for me...well, weren't they?

Who was I, a mere layman, to question the superior knowledge and insight of God's anointed ones, the professional clergy?

Annually, our churches praise the good folk who've read the Bible, cover to cover. To understand the folly of that practice, ask any of the honorees to explain what they learned from their 12-month experience.

You may already know that "reading" and "studying" aren't even first cousins. But are you and I any better, by comparison?

We say no – for several important reasons. You can discover each of those reasons by becoming a regular visitor of our [www.Link1.info](http://www.Link1.info) site. For now, though, I'll share three of the more obvious reasons why we think you and I are likely not much better off than those who dutifully read the Bible through each year...in hot pursuit of those participation trophies:

① "Life happens." Arguably, it is almost impossible to find or even make time for a serious and reasonably productive study of God's Written Word while working a job, pursuing a career or even being a stay-at-home parent. There is no reason to feel guilty about that; it's just the way things are. But we might be wise to come to agreement on a definition of *a serious and reasonably productive study of God's Word*. Here's our working definition—

a. An organized, ongoing series of topic-specific personal Bible research projects that include comparisons of multiple English-language versions<sup>^</sup> of the Bible.  
<sup>^</sup>Several Bible translations are little more than paraphrases

(i.e.: commentaries), and several other translations are of questionable Greek and Hebrew manuscripts. To learn what you'll want to know about that, be sure to find and read G. A. Riplinger's, New Age Versions. The first printing was in 1993. I have a copy of the eleventh printing, 2000. ISBN #0-9635845-0-2. Library of Congress catalog card #93-92561.

b. Enhanced by regular reference to Abbingdon's Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible (for the original meanings of Hebrew & Greek words and phrases) and one or two Interlinear Hebrew/Greek-to-English literal translations. (We can direct you to online access to both of those extremely valuable resources:

[www.Link1.info/contact-us](http://www.Link1.info/contact-us).)  
c. Further enhanced by the intermittent study of World History & Church History. I am continually delighted to discover that the two are inseparable! Together, they are "His Story!" (If my high school History teachers and my college History professors had exposed me to that fact, I would have been a great student. They didn't and I wasn't. Am, now, though. Whew!)

d. Reading, studying and analyzing each scripture, always, as-if-no-one-had-ever-explained-what-it-means.

② Our churches do not teach us HOW to study God's word. They teach us WHAT to study—to confirm "what 'we' believe." Diligent folk become fully versed, thence, in "what 'we' believe."

③ Consistently, our preachers work to gain and maintain our trust. For the most part, that trust is misplaced. See Jeremiah 17:5 to confirm it.

a. Prior to the 20th Century, literacy was the exception. Parishioners had no choice but to trust their preachers to dispense truth. Why do fully literate folk continue in that no-longer-necessary-or-acceptable dependency?

b. Based on the warning of Jeremiah 17:5, should you trust any member of the Bible Explorers Club, LLC, for truth? No.

Our primary objective is to expose the stark contrasts in Bible truth and the fables that've cunningly slithered into the mainstream of Christian teaching.

We pray that when you comprehend each of the contrasts, you will use your own mind to begin the rewarding process of discovering what's true and what's new.

We hope you will find this worth remembering—

*Much of what is still new masquerades today as "old time religion."*

