



WOW: Word Of the Week

Babblers?

September 14, 2022

One can hardly miss the similarity between the English word “babble” and the Bible account of the Tower of Babel. Now we can purchase Babel software to assist with language learning.

The Hebrew word from which we get Babel (as in the Tower of Babel) means confusion. The communication of the people was confused. The word refers to a confusion of sounds or noises. Our English word babble may come from the repeated sound, ba, typical of early undeveloped speech.

An application for our spiritual walk! Instead of babble and confusion, our goal is to speak with clarity. “Speak where the Bible speaks.” And, speak what the Bible speaks. For Christians, the goal is clarity and accuracy in communicating the word of God.

Clearing up the confusion that abounds in the contemporary Christendom will be no easy task. With ease of publication and social media, ideas (even false ideas) spread like wildfire. You and I will likely have little impact on the diverse, confusing ideas that are everywhere around us—in the literature we read (even Christian literature!), in the media, and certainly on social media.

But we can have an impact! In our own lives, our families, our circles of influence, our churches. **We can commit ourselves to learning to talk as believers rather than as Babel-ers (or babblers).** In a world where the language and the message is confused, we can learn to speak clearly. Many Christians are confused. And when Christians are confused, we do not have to ask why the world is confused!

I remember a professor friend recounting his experience in a conference where there were professors present from various religious backgrounds. An attendee commented to my friend, “you and your religious group have certainly made a difference in US Christianity – you have constantly reminded us that what the Bible says has to matter.”

In a world where study about the Bible is more common than study of the Bible, a world where books about the Bible are more popular than the Bible; in a world where people are more inclined to listen to someone else’s explanation of the Bible than to listen to the Bible, we should not be surprised by the confusion.

Clearing up the confusion requires going back to the original source, developing an awareness of God’s Word rather than depending on human explanations. Back to the Bible. Know the Bible, teach the Bible, speak the Bible. Because in the Bible God reveals himself and his will. Because the Bible is the very Word of God made available in human words. Because the Bible is God’s message pointing to Jesus!

Yes! We can commit ourselves to learning to talk as believers rather than following the confusion (babble) around us. We can evaluate our words by Scripture, discerning spiritual truth.

How are you doing on your Bible reading for the year? It is not too late to begin – 260 chapters in the New Testament, a couple of chapters each day, an extra chapter on weekends. A lamp to our feet, a light to our pathway, hidden in our heart to guide us away from sin and into God’s presence.

Personal question. When we talk about spiritual matters, do we speak God’s Word clearly and accurately, or are we among the confused babblers?