

# PAPERS, BOOKS, WRITINGS OF MEN

## THE PROBLEM

There is a Bible Study where Ludvig refers to some papers he has written about Biblical topics. Waldo replies that he only wants to *use the Bible* ... he does not want to refer to the *writings of men* ... implying that Ludvig's *papers* are the *wisdom of men* rather than the *wisdom of God*. Thus Ludvig's papers are to be discarded from consideration.

## THE IMPLICATION

Ludvig's use of some papers he wrote, perhaps while he attended Bible college, is a violation of the principle that Christians should only use the Bible.

## THE NOTES

Waldo opens his Bible to some passages where he has written lots of *notes* in the margins. Waldo sees no violation of his indictment he brought against Ludvig's usage of papers he had written in Bible college. Writing notes in the margin of a Bible is OK ... but writing papers on Biblical topics moves too close to *human wisdom* and the *writings of men*.

## THE TRANSFER

Let's suppose that Waldo has a *magic laser eraser*. Waldo then turns to those passages which contain all his notes. Waldo begins to transfer those notes, one-by-one, onto a separate sheet of paper. As Waldo finishes writing each note from the margin of his Bible, he then uses his *magic eraser* to erase that note from his Bible ... pencil, ink, or highlighting.

When he gets done, Waldo's Bible is all clean again ... like new. However, his set of notes have been transferred from his Bible onto a sheet of paper.

**QUESTION** – Is there any real difference between having those notes in the margin of Waldo's Bible ... and having them written on a sheet of paper? Is simply the act of transferring those notes to a separate sheet of paper ... now an indication that Waldo has fallen into the trap of using the *writings of men*?

**ANSWER** - There is no essential difference between Waldo writing notes in the margin of his Bible ... and writing those same notes on a separate sheet of paper.

The difference is that those notes on separate sheets of paper can be put in one location ... and the

Bible placed in another. A person looking down at the two piles might conclude that the location with the Bible is *spiritual* ... and the location of the separate sheets of notes is *wisdom of men*.

But there is no real difference between writing on separate sheets of paper ... and just writing those notes in the Bible's margin.

## THE ELABORATION

Now Waldo gets really interested in some of these passages and starts looking up all the parallel passages he can find. If he were writing these additional notes in the margin of his Bible, then he would soon run out of space. But if he writes onto separate sheets of paper ... he just needs to get more paper. But there is no real difference. Guess he could write in his Bible using very small print ...and then use a magnifying glass to read it ... but that wouldn't be anything fundamentally different than simply writing those notes on separate sheets of paper.

Next Waldo starts looking up these passages in a Greek and/or Hebrew Bible. Certainly going from the English translation to the Original Languages cannot be a violation of one's *spirituality*. In fact, it would seem to be *more spiritual* to study from the Original Languages than from a translation.

So now Waldo reads in the Original Languages ... and gains some new insights. He writes his observations as notes onto those separate sheets of paper. That is, he *elaborates* his notes.

His notes become longer ... maybe ten pages of notes.

**QUESTION** – Would the fact that his notes are now ten pages long be an indication that Waldo was losing his *spirituality*? Or, on the contrary, is Waldo showing an indication of possibly *increased* spirituality because of his new interest and passion for delving more deeply into Scripture?

**QUESTION** – If Waldo really starts to *dig* into the Scriptures ... really studies hard ... even goes so far as to learn to read the Bible in the Original Languages ... is that an indication that Waldo was losing his *spirituality*?

**ANSWER** – Consider these verses,

**Acts 17** - 1When they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a Jewish synagogue. 2As his custom was, Paul went into the synagogue, and on three Sabbath days **he reasoned with them** from the Scriptures, **3explaining and proving** that the Christ had to suffer and rise from the dead. "This Jesus I am proclaiming to you is the Christ," he said. 4Some of the Jews were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a large number of God-fearing Greeks and not a few prominent women.

10As soon as it was night, the brothers sent Paul and Silas away to Berea. On arriving there, they went to the Jewish synagogue. 11Now the Bereans **were of more noble character** than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and **examined the Scriptures every day** to see if what Paul said was true. 12Many of the Jews believed, as did also a number of prominent Greek women and many Greek men.

**(KJV) II Timothy 2 - 15***Study* to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, *rightly dividing the word of truth.*

**I Peter 3 - 13**Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? **14**But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. "Do not fear what they fear; do not be frightened." **15**But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. *Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,* **16**keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.

**I Thessalonians 5 - 21***Prove* all things; hold fast that which is good.

**CONCLUSION** – If a person *digs* deeply into *studying* the Bible ... even to the point of learning Greek and Hebrew in order to read the Bible in the Original Languages ... this is not *necessarily* an indication that this person has *lost his spirituality* ... but *could* rather be an indication of *heightened spiritual awareness and concern*.

**TACTIC** – Often, without really thinking about it, we sometimes substitute *tactics* for *logic*. Might I suggest that this *could be* what is going on when an accusation is made by Person A directed against Person B ... where Person B has taken his (and his family's) time and \$\$\$ in order to more deeply study the Bible. Person A tries to put Person B in a *bad light* ... claiming that Person B has spent too much time *studying*.

In reality, this is a tactic used by Person A to *justify* their position when they are confronted by Person B with Biblical information that seems to overwhelm them ... and run counter to their *beliefs*. Rather than addressing the specific passages ... Person B uses a *debate tactic* that attempts to *demean* Person B's motives. That way Person A is not forced to consider/reconsider/study/understand/examine their beliefs. It is always more comfortable to stay where you are, rather than have to consider the possibility that the Bible might have some correcting *directives* for you life.

**II Timothy 3 - 16***All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting* and training in righteousness, **17**so that the man of God may be *thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

## THE SERMON

Waldo has rejected the *papers* that Ludvig has written about various Bible topics. Waldo rejects *anything* other than the Bible itself.

Waldo attends Church next Sunday. Pastor Louie preaches. Waldo listens attentively.

Waldo later meets up again with Ludvig ... and Waldo begins to relate to Ludvig some of the key points from Pastor Louie's sermon.

**QUESTION** – What has Waldo *REALLY* done?

**ANSWER** – Pastor Louie spent 15 hours during the week preparing his sermon. Pastor Louie wrote out his notes onto *many* sheets of paper ... or probably used a computer to write out his notes. Pastor Louie then began to organize his notes into the sermon proper. Pastor Louie printed out a hard copy of his sermon using his printer. Pastor Louie carried that hard copy to the pulpit ... where he preached his sermon from those notes. Could have been ten pages if Pastor Louie had written out his sermon in full.

Waldo *heard* Pastor Louie preach. Waldo *took down notes* on the blank page in the Church Bulletin specifically designed for churchgoers to record sermon notes.

Waldo then talked to Ludvig ... using ideas from Pastor Louie's sermon.

**QUESTION** – What in the world is the difference between Ludvig bringing in a ten page paper he wrote about some Bible topic ... and Waldo doing essentially the same thing with information that Pastor Louie had researched and written. Ludvig did the study himself. Waldo let Pastor Louie do the study ... and then just repeated back what he heard Pastor Louie preach.

In one case, Ludvig's ten page paper was laid right out on the table next to the Bible. In the other case, Pastor Louie's ten page sermon was *not* laid on the table because Waldo just communicated some key points he had jotted down in his Church Bulletin from what he heard Pastor Louie preach.

In one case you can look directly at ten pieces of paper. In the other case you can not see those ten pages of sermon that Pastor Louie wrote. Guess you could drive down to the Church and ask to see them.

If you drove down to the Church and saw that Pastor Louie *actually had* ten pages of sermon printed out ... would that be essentially the same thing as the ten pages of notes that Ludvig had written? Would that now invalidate everything that Pastor Louie had preached?

Of course not ... it isn't really any different. It is just another case of a *debate tactic* being used by Waldo so that he can ignore what Ludvig was saying. Sorry ... but that is really what is going on!

## LOVING ATTITUDE

A **Christian** physician is vacationing in some *far distant continent*. He comes across a village with a lot of sick people. The witch doctor is chanting, dancing, and sprinkling herbal water over the villagers. The physician takes a close look and recognizes the disease ... and he knows that giving a penicillin shot will fix the problem.

The physician just happens to have a case of penicillin with him (for whatever reason!).

The physician now faces a dilemma ... should he tell the villagers about his medicine ... or let them continue to depend on their witch doctor?

If he tells them that what the witch doctor is doing is just a lot of bogus superstition ... as gently as he can phrase it ... he is still likely to encounter disbelief ... and most definitely hostility from the witch doctor.

**QUESTION** – What should the **Christian** physician do? If he tells them the *truth*, he will upset them. If he doesn't tell them, many of them are likely to die. What would a *loving attitude* require that he do?

**QUESTION** – How different is this scenario from the one where a Jehovah's *False Witness* comes to your door one Saturday morning and tells you that Jesus is *not* God ... but is the *first creation* of God? What would be the response of a *loving Christian attitude*? The JFW will, no doubt, be offended when you point out that *their* God is actually not Jehovah ... but Satan. Which it really boils down to ... eventually. Would you risk possibly *offending* the JFW by telling them the *truth*?

When a person believes *false* Biblical doctrine ... that, by itself, may not damn their soul to Hell. Of course, if the doctrine were about the *nature of God* ... like the Jehovah's *False Witnesses* who believe that Jesus was the *first creation* of Jehovah, and not *Jehovah Himself*, then that *false belief* is so serious that one cannot be a Christian.

But Christians differ on *millennial* interpretations ... yet they are still all Christians. The *problem* with harboring a *misunderstanding* of certain prophetic doctrines is that this misunderstanding may *distort* how a person views,

- *Why* the Bible was written
- *What* mankind's real problem is
- *Where* current events fit into the Biblical Eschatology.

**QUESTION** – Is it *unloving* to try and *correct false doctrine* ... even false doctrine that might be categorized as more of a *minor* nature?

Billy Graham's wife once talked about those *Christians* who believe they will be *raptured away* before the *Tribulation*. She asked, "*What will these people do if their understanding is wrong ... and they*

*actually find themselves going through the Tribulation?” She said that it would be better to think you would go through the Tribulation, and then find that you were *raptured* away ... than to think that you would be *raptured* away, only to find yourself in the midst of the Tribulation.*

Christian should be very careful, and sure, when they *teach* and *evangelize* about *future* Biblical Prophetic events ... because if they are wrong, they could be placing some people in danger.

**I Timothy 6** - *3If anyone teaches **false doctrines** and does not agree to the sound instruction of our Lord Jesus Christ and to godly teaching, 4he is conceited and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy interest in controversies and quarrels about words that result in envy, strife, malicious talk, evil suspicions 5and constant friction between men of corrupt mind, who have been robbed of the truth and who think that godliness is a means to financial gain.*

**Galatians 1** - *6I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you by the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— 7which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ. 8But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let him be eternally condemned! 9As we have already said, so now I say again: **If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted**, let him be eternally condemned!*

*10Am I now trying to win the **approval of men**, or of God? Or am I trying to please men? **If** I were still trying to please men, I would **not** be a servant of Christ.*

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**But there is **MORE** to this Story !**

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## DARBY, DAKE, DALLAS

Pastor Louie attended *Bible College* where he studied all about the *End Time Prophecies*.

He had his copy of *Dake's Bible*

<http://www.dake.com/>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Finis\\_Jennings\\_Dake](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Finis_Jennings_Dake)

... and often referred to *Darby's Bible*

<http://www.logos.com/ebooks/details/DARBY>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John\\_Nelson\\_Darby](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Nelson_Darby)

Pastor Louie *only* knew the *Premillennial* spin on things.

He was *never taught* ... and *never bothered* to investigate / question / wonder ... about the views held by Martin Luther, John Calvin, Augustine, William Hendriksen ... or a host of others that he could have been studied.

So Pastor Louie based a lot of his sermons and Bible classes on the *Premillennial* indoctrination he received in Bible College.

Pastor Louie was never aware of what Finis Jennings **Dake** taught about the *Trinity*.

[http://www.jesus-is-savior.com/Bible/dakes\\_bible.htm](http://www.jesus-is-savior.com/Bible/dakes_bible.htm)

*Finis Jennings Dake (1902-87) was a Pentecostal pastor, teacher, and author whose most influential work is the [Dake's Annotated Reference Bible](#). This study Bible, containing notes on the entire Old and New Testaments, was first published in 1963. The Dake Bible is considered the **top** "Pentecostal Study Bible" by many. In fact, the Dictionary of Pentecostal and Charismatic Movements says, "His 'notes' became the '**bread and butter**' of many prominent preachers and the '**staple**' of Pentecostal congregations." Dake is **very important within** Pentecostal/Charismatic circles.*

The **trouble** with the **Jesus of the Dake Bible** begins long before His birth in Bethlehem. Dake's **aberrant view** of Jesus begins with an **incorrect theology of the Trinity and the very nature of God**. And since Jesus is the eternal Second Person of the Trinity who possesses the very nature and attributes of God, we are certainly concerned with what Dake teaches about this subject.

*Finis Dake's teachings on the **Trinity** are assuredly **not considered***

**orthodox.** In fact, his dogma on the subject is **positively cultic.** His **deviation from the orthodox doctrine of the Trinity** stems from his **perversion of the term "Person."** In his book *God's Plan for Man*, Dake tells us that a "person" is "a rational being with bodily presence, soul passions, and spirit faculties." In other words, a person is a being with a body. With this in mind, **we turn to Dake's definition of the Trinity:**

What we **mean** by **Divine Trinity** is that there are three separate and distinct persons in the Godhead, **each one having** His own personal spirit **body**, personal soul, and personal spirit **in the sense that** each human being, angel, or any other being has his own body, soul and spirit.

In view of Dake's definition of "person," this quotation is **claiming three "beings" in the Trinity** which is **undeniably Tritheism.** Similarly, in his book *God's Plan for Man*, Dake says:

There are over 500 plain scriptures that refer to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, as being **THREE SEPARATE AND DISTINCT PERSONS, each with His own personal body**, soul, and spirit in the sense that all other persons have them. . . . If two or three persons are referred to in all these passages and they are called God, then we must understand them as referring to this many divine persons, as we do when the same statements are made of two or three persons of the human race.

**Dake's Trinity** is clearly three **separate, distinct Beings, each called God.** Dake states that it is a **"fallacy" to believe "that there is only one person or one being called God."** He also claims that **it is a "fallacy" to believe "that there is a difference in meaning of three human persons and three divine persons."** **In other words**, just as each human person is a **separate and distinct** being, each member of the **Trinity** is a **separate and distinct** Being unified only in purpose or goal. Allow me to depict Dake's view in this way: **According to Dake**, if we were to go to heaven and see the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, there would be three different Beings bodily present on three different thrones, **just like three kings** would be seated on three distinct thrones on earth. The members of the Trinity are separate, distinct Beings. Dake argues from the analogy of man as created in God's image:

**Is God bodiless?** If so we can conclude that man is also bodiless. **Is God only one being made up of several persons or beings in the one being?** If so, we can conclude that man is one person or being made up of many.

The **obvious conclusion** to which Dake is trying to **lead his flock** is that God is **three separate beings**—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—and **each** of these beings has His own personal **body**, soul, and spirit.

If you do not understand the *issue* at stake in the quote above ... then you should not be asking questions about some *prophetic minutiae*.

Do you see in the above quote that Dake is accused of teaching **Tritheism**?

Do you know what **Tritheism** means? Can you define it?

Do you know that **Tritheism** is a **HERESY**?

<http://www.carm.org/apologetics/heresies/tritheism>

Point being ... some of what is taught in *Dake's Bible* is not fit for Christian *consumption*.

There are a lot of good *notes* in Dake's Study Bible ... but one must be very careful ... do not just blindly accept everything you read in the *footnotes*, *appendices*, *notes* section of *any* Study Bible.

Let's suppose that there are *other* areas of concern with some of the *prophetic* notes in Dake's Study Bible ... or Darby's Bible ... or the *Dispensational Theology* one might have heard directly, or indirectly, from *Dallas Theological Seminary*.

Pastor Louie is one such individual.

Pastor Louie has taken some of the *prophetic* ideas he read in one of these books ... weaved it into his sermon ... Waldo heard the sermon on Sunday and wrote notes on the blank church bulletin page provided for note taking.

Waldo later in the week meets up with Ludvig ... and they begin having a Bible Study.

After awhile ... Ludvig mentions that what Waldo is talking about, really comes from *Dake* or *Darby*.

Waldo says, "Who?"

Waldo says he has never heard of those guys ... and most certainly does not *teach* anything other than just the Bible.

Waldo does not realize that he is *indirectly* teaching *Dake's* or *Darby's* or *Dallas'* teachings ... that he

got *indirectly* through Pastor Louie.

Waldo did not go out and purchase any of these books or Study Bibles ... and *directly* study these *prophetic* ideas ... but Waldo is now teaching them to Ludvig just the same.

**MORAL OF THIS STORY** – Do not necessarily *fool yourself* and think you are not teaching or believing some *aberrant* Biblical doctrine ... just because you do not know the source of where those ideas came from. What you hear will usually be OK ... but just be *aware* and *cautious* ... because there may be occasions when it is *not* OK.

Like the bumper sticker says, ***QUESTION AUTHORITY.***

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