

## Review Questions on Principle I: Examine Word Meanings

Sharing Question - Have you ever misunderstood the meaning of a word? Or had someone misunderstand one of your words? What happened? How did you feel?

### Examine Word Meanings and Relationships

The verb epichoregeo occurs five times in the New Testament. Vine (Exp. Dict.) says that this word suggests "an abundant supply." This is confirmed by the remarks of commentator Michael Green, who writes:

"The word...is a fascinating one. It is a vivid metaphor drawn from the Athenian drama festivals, in which a rich individual, called the choregos, since he paid the expenses of the chorus, joined with the poet and the state in putting on the plays. This could be an expensive business, and yet choregi vied with one another in the generosity of their equipment and training of the choruses. Thus the word came to mean generous and costly co-operation." (Tyndale Commentary on II Peter and Jude, pp. 66,67)

Barclay concurs:

"All these plays needed large choruses, for the choruses were integral parts of them. It was, therefore, very expensive to produce such plays. In the great days of Athens there were public-spirited citizens who voluntarily and willingly took on the duty, at their own expense, of collecting, maintaining, training and equipping such choruses.

...The men who undertook these duties, voluntarily, out of their own pocket, and out of love for their city were called *choregoi*, and the verb choregein is the verb for undertaking such a duty. The word, therefore, has a certain lavishness in it. It never means to equip in any cheese-paring and miserly way; it means lavishly and willingly to pour out everything that is necessary for a noble performance...always at the back of it there is this idea of a willing and lavish generosity in the equipment."

With this background, briefly state how better understanding the usage (outside the New Testament) of epichoregeo assists you in better understanding each of the following passages where it occurs.

II Corinthians 9:10 (supply, first occurrence)

Galatians 3:5 (provide)

Colossians 2:19 (supply)

II Peter 1:5 (supply)

II Peter 1:11 (supply)

What English word means each of the following, depending on the context in which it occurs?

A change of direction, a turning

A thin, flexible twig or branch used for whipping

A movable section of railroad track used in transferring a train from one track to another

The bushy part of the tail of a horse or cow

A device to open, close or divert an electric circuit

A tress of detached hair used by women as part of a coiffure

Now, explain the difference between the possible meanings of this word and a precise meaning of it.

In each of the following verses the phrase quoted is further defined by a synonym, antonym or clarifying phrase. Following each reference and phrase, briefly state the further definition.

I John 3:4 - what is sin?

I Corinthians 2:4 - what can be said about words in demonstration of the Spirit and power?

Ephesians 6:12 - who are the rulers?

Ephesians 6:6 - what makes one's work eyeservice?

Romans 2:15 - how does a conscience bear witness?

James 1:25 - how can one abide in the perfect law:

Ephesians 1:13 - what is the message of truth?

II Corinthians 12:7 - what can we say about the identity of Paul's thorn in the flesh?

II Peter 1:1 - who is our God?

In I Corinthians 2:14,15 the word examine occurs three times (examine is the NASV marginal translation; appraise is employed in the text). This is a rendering of the Greek word anakrino.

According to the New American Standard Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible, anakrino occurs 16 times in the New Testament. It is translated by some form of appraise three times, by asking questions twice, by called to account once, by some form of examine nine times, and by on trial once.

Vine (Exp. Dict.) defines it "to distinguish out so as to investigate (drino) by looking throughout (ana, intensive) objects or particulars, hence signifies to examine, scrutinize, question, to hold a preliminary judicial examination preceding the trial proper."

A.T. Robertson (Word Pictures) states, "the word means a sifting process to get at the truth by investigation as of a judge."

Vincent (Word Studies) writes, "The fundamental idea of the word is examination, scrutiny...This is its almost universal meaning in classical Greek. At Athens it was used technically in two senses: to examine magistrates with a view to proving their qualifications; and to examine persons concerned in a suit, so as to prepare the matter for trial, as a grand jury."

The related noun, anakrasis, occurs only in Acts 25:26. Vine writes concerning this word that it "was a legal term among the Greeks, denoting the preliminary investigation for gathering evidence for the information of the judges."

Anakrino occurs in the references listed below. Read the context of each verse carefully and then write, on the blank following the reference, what you think to be the best translation of anakrino in that context. One word translations are preferable, but a phrase may be used. The words in parentheses following the references are the NASV renderings of anakrino, however, disregard the NASV translation of the term. Instead, for example, of reading having examined Him before you, I have found no guilt, read having anakrinoed Him before you, I have found no guilt. Do this with each reference and then suggest a translation.

Luke 23:14 (examine)

Acts 4:9 (are on trial)

Acts 12:19 (examine)

Acts 17:11 (examine)

Acts 24:8 (examine)

Acts 28:18 (examine)

I Cor. 2:14, 15 thrice (appraise) see below I Cor. 4:3a (examine)

I Cor. 4:3b(examine)

I Cor. 4:4 (examine)

I Cor. 9:3 (examine)

I Cor. 10:25 (asking questions)

I Cor. 10:27 (asking questions)

I Cor. 14:24 (called to account)

Now, on the basis of the background information and your study above, determine the precise meaning of anakrino in I Corinthians 2:14,15. How should anakrino be translated in these verses?

What does anakrino contribute to the meaning of these verses?

The science and art of interpreting the Bible is \_\_\_\_\_.

When an author represents one concept in terms of another he is using \_\_\_\_\_ language.

The Holy Spirit aids us in understanding and perceiving what the Scriptures teach. This ministry of the Holy Spirit is called \_\_\_\_\_.

State the "golden rule" of interpretation.

What do you think is the strongest support for interpreting the Bible literally?

T F Word meanings are determined by the words which surround them.

State the first principle for interpreting the Bible

T F A word usually has no fixed meaning except in a context

II Timothy 2:15 states

### Special Project

Using a concordance, begin to study the following words from Galatians 6 by completing the chart.

6:1

Look back over the various uses (the possible meanings) of these words and then suggest a rendering that best captures its precise meaning in the context of Galatians 6. Add an explanation/defense of your suggested translation.

restore (6:1)

gentleness (6:1)

bear (6:2,5)

burden (6:2)

load (6:5)

share (6:6)