

LEARNING FROM OTHERS

Dear Bro. Waddey: I have just received the December issue of CTN and read with interest your recommendation of Gene E. Veith, Jr.'s new book. Based on your approval of this man's views about the Church Growth Movement, your ascription of the high praise, "valuable truth" to his understanding something the "church" needs to learn, and what certainly sounds like an implication that there is some aspect of truth that he could teach preachers and elders in the Lord's church, do you regard him as a Christian? Or is he a false teacher pretending to be a Christian? Dan

Dear Bro. Dan: No Gene Veith is not a brother in Christ, but he knows a lot about the false system of Postmodernism that most of our fellow-Christians do not know. Truth is truth no matter from which well it is drawn. You use a Bible translation that almost certainly was produced by men you would not count as brothers in Christ. So also with your concordance, Bible Dictionaries, word studies and likely some of your commentaries and other reference books. If you have preached very long and have studied much, it is likely that you see some things, including meanings of some passages of Scripture different than you did years ago. We call that growth in the grace and knowledge of Christ. In my library are some 20,000 religious books, some 90 percent of them by those who are not members of our brotherhood. Although there is much in them that I do not accept as Biblical, I have learned a great deal from them. Some of them knew much more of the original languages than I will ever know. Some of them were masters of church history, Hebrew history, the culture and customs of the Jews. From them I have learned much and I recommend such authors to those who wish to increase their Bible knowledge.

I encourage you to read Mr. Veith's book and then tell me what you think about it and about him as an author.
JHW