

CouplesInBloom.com – Peculiar Or Strange?

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Acts 17:20-21 ⇨ “For you bring certain **strange** things to our ears, therefore we are minded to know what these things mean ...the **strangers** living there have leisure for nothing else than to say and to hear newer things.” The Biblical Greek word for **strange / strangers** is *xenos* which means *entertainment / strange / foreign*. **Strangeness** refers to *contrary things*. Compare this to **peculiarity**, which refers to *complimentary things*:

“For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a **peculiar** people, zealous of good works.” ⇨ Titus 2:11-14. **Peculiar** in the New Testament Greek means **beyond usual**, and in the Old Testament Hebrew it means **wealth, more**. These are all good things, **not weird** things.

2 Timothy 2:15 ⇨ requires you to, “**Study earnestly** to present yourself approved to God, a workman that does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth.” The word **approved** here literally means *current after assayal*. An assayal (or assay) is an extremely thorough testing method / process which verifies appropriateness of a subject. God intentionally chose the highly explanatory languages of Hebrew and Greek for the Bible; therefore, it is important for us to not merely depend on the tepidity of English.

Back to ⇨ Acts 17, verses 26-27 say God made all nations, “to seek the Lord, perhaps they might **feel after Him and might find Him**, though indeed He is not far from each one of us.” Being “minded to know” things as the Athenians and the **strangers** in verse 20 is not a bad thing, as we do find God when we seek Him with all our heart ⇨ Deuteronomy 4:29, Jeremiah 29:13. However: understand the difference between seeking with the mind only (as did the **strangers** for *xenos entertainment*) compared to seeking with the heart.

Seeking with the heart proves hunger for **more / wealth / beyond usual**. This is not a personality / mental issue, as the Buddhism of psychology suggests. Acts 17 goes on to say how many of these **strangers** mocked Paul’s presentation of the Gospel ⇨ verse 32, so Paul left them ⇨ verse 33. However: ⇨ verse 34 says Dionysius (*literally* reveler) and Damaris (*literally* gentle) followed Paul... two different yet spiritually **hungry** people.

Strangeness includes the partiality and distortion seen in cults and sects. **Peculiarity** includes the **supernatural / beyond usual** seen in spiritual gifts and God’s anointing seen in specific Biblical ministry callings. **Strangeness** is actually **not** “minded to know” God... but pretty much anything else is fair game. **Peculiarity** has a propensity towards God or Godly things eventually more than anything else. **Strangeness** is negative to the Spirit filled Christian; **peculiarity** bears witness to them, and firstly to the Word of God.

As we “**feel after Him and ... find Him**”, carefully and fully working out our salvation with fear and trembling ⇨ Philippians 2:12, and **study earnestly**, we also remember there are intentional traps set against spiritually **hungry** people ⇨ Matthew 7:15; 10:16. The closer we grow to God, less **strangeness** happens... while **peculiarity** likely increases. ♥