

it is a matter of culture. It is a matter of habit of a group of people to use a certain group of sounds to designate a certain thing, and these habits ~~xxxx~~ of ours of using words to have a certain meaning in a certain language are constantly changing. It is very rare that a word means exactly the same thing a thousand years later as it meant before in a language. All languages are constantly changing, and therefore a word is like an 'x' symbol in algebra. It represents something which you decide to use it for, and that is what the word means. There is not such thing as an intrinsic actual meaning of a word. A word is a convention, a habit. Now we can't change words easily, because words are habits of great multitudes of people, and a whole multitude has to change in order for the meaning of the word to change. But the multitudes are constantly ~~xxx~~ changing. There is an old Indo-European word, I don't remember exactly what it was, in old Indo-European, but as the word came on, the Germans came to pronounce it, knabe, and we English-speaking people came to pronounce it knave. And it is the same word, but they developed it into just a boy, and we developed it into someone who does the sort of pranks and little jokes that every boy does, but does it maliciously, and so a knave is quite different from a boy, but the word is exactly the same. And there was an old Indo-German word which developed in the course of time, so that the Germans called it knecht, and we call it knight. It is exactly the same word, but as it developed it came about that we use it for someone whom the people look up to, he rides about on a horse. He is a knight. We think of a man looking up to him, ~~we~~ the Germans thought of him as one looking down to him, so a knecht to them is a servant or a low person, but it is the same ~~xxx~~ word exactly, looked at from two different viewpoints. Words are constantly changing like that and it is tremendously helpful in all our study if we get that concept in mind. Well, I know of no better illustration in the world for that than this word, apocrypha. The word, as you know, in Greek, apokruphos, means simply, hidden away. And apocryphal book is a book that is hidden, and you get that as nothing to do with what the word means today. That is the origin of the word. In the early history of the Christian church there were groups of people who said, we have special wisdom