

**Dr. Lewis Kisenwether, PhD**

November 6, 1994

Dr. Thomas McDaniel  
Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary  
P.O. Box 12438  
Philadelphia, PA 19151-9961

Dear Dr. McDaniel,

Thank you for your gracious response to my letter about your remarks at the Annual Session of American Baptist Churches of New Jersey. You are as engaging and affable in writing as you are in person. I am very pleased that you would make the effort to help me better understand your view.

My vague recollections of Hebrew and the little ability I have with interlinear and concordance were soon outdistanced by your good good answer, but I think I see why you feel it is reasonable.\* Your other comments convince me of your spirit of fair play towards differing views within our ABC fellowship.

My concern about EBTS, and ABCUSA over all, is that recent grads of Eastern I've heard publicly explain their views have consistently held a lower view of scripture than I feel necessary to maintain the fidelity of ABC to accurate biblical doctrine. As Eastern seems to be ABC's citadel of orthodox theology, it is not unlikely that grads of other institutions feeding our pulpits are holding similar views, I wonder how we as a fellowship ought approach this predicament.

Don't misunderstand me, I am quite willing to trust the Holy Spirit to safeguard us, and I want to live in Christian love with fellow baptists who may hold variant Christian theological opinions, but there is the obligation to maintain faithfulness to what God has caused to be His written word, and I want personally, and denominationally, to do so.

You see my dilemma. Once again thanks, and may God richly bless you and all those you love.

Cordially, with faith in Christ,



Rev. Lewis W. Kisenwether, Jr.

\*Although, as you know, the best loved version, the KJV, the Tanakh of the Jewish Publication Society, and the NASB, touted as the most accurate of recent translations, all maintain the traditional renderings of the texts we've discussed. I'm with them.