

# ***Goats In the Sheep Herd***

**And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.**

**Matthew 25:32-33**

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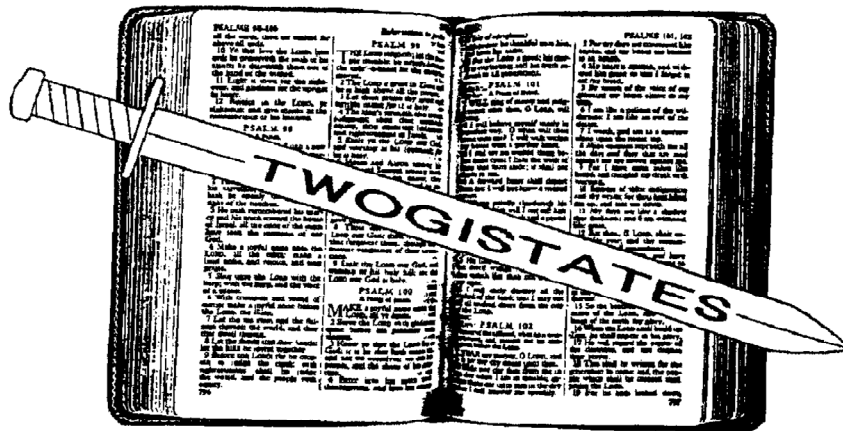
by Carl Graham

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TWOGISTATES PUBLISHERS

E-Mail: [carlgraham@twogistates.com](mailto:carlgraham@twogistates.com)  
Web: <http://www.twogistates.com>

TWOGISTATES Publishers advocate the King James Bible  
as the best source for God's Word in English



For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Hebrews 4:12

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### DEFINITIONS\*

**Bible Translators** – These are a group of scholars who translate the Biblical Hebrew and Greek texts into another language. Generally they are not Textual Critics but use the manuscripts developed by Textual Critics.

**Conservative** – A Conservative in religion is one who believes in and tries to conserve the principles of past generations regarding the teaching of his church.

**Contemporary Christian Music (CCM)** – This is modern secular rock music which has crossed over to the Christian world and claims to be of God. CCM concerts are promoted in the same way as secular concerts, conducted the same way as secular concerts, and are no more than secular concerts with some Christian words.

**Critical Greek Text** – A modern Greek text constructed by Liberal scholars by comparing selected manuscripts, and by their own human reasoning attempt to reconstruct the words of the Original Biblical Manuscripts.

**Critical Hebrew Text** – A modern Hebrew text constructed by Liberal scholars by comparing available Hebrew manuscripts, but is mostly the opinions of scholars.

**Emerging/Emergent Church** – This is the church movement that grew out of the sixties. It has no convictions about salvation, does not preach the true Gospel, and stresses entertainment as the way to reach the masses.

**Fundamentalist** – A Fundamentalist is one who believes the Bible is the inerrant, inspired Word of God and tries to live by its precepts. There are two groups who claim to be fundamentalists. One group believes only the Original Manuscripts contain the true Words of God. The other group holds a strong belief that we still have God's preserved Word available today in the Hebrew Masoretic and Greek Received Texts.

**Liberal** – The Liberal is a person who does not believe the Bible is God's Word, but instead is a book of history, which is full of errors and deceptions at best. This is the group of scholars that gives us the modern Hebrew and Greek manuscripts, and the majority of modern Bible versions.

**Masoretic Hebrew Text** – The preserved Hebrew text that underlies the accurate version of the Old Testament.

**Moderate** – The Moderate is not far from the Liberal in that he accepts practically all the Liberals produce, but has a slight difference of opinion about the Bible. The Liberals believes nothing about God and the Bible while the Moderates claim it can be believed to reveal God’s character but is not trustworthy in areas of history and science.

**Neo (New)-Evangelism/Evangelicals** – This is the new wave of evangelism that had its beginning in the late1940’s. Its adherents claim to concentrate only on the teaching of Jesus in regard to salvation and disregard anything else in the Bible that might cause division between denominations.

**Original Autographs/Original Manuscripts/Original Writings/Original Documents** – These all have the same meaning and are different ways of expressing the actual words of the Bible that the writers penned which is the source of all Scripture.

**Original Language/Originals** – These terms are frequently used by the scholars to mislead people into thinking they have recovered the Original Documents. It actually means they are referring to words as they think they were used in the time the Bible was written and has nothing to do with the Original Writings.

**Providential Preservation** – This simply means God not only dictated the Scriptures, He insured their accurate preservation so that all generations would have His true Words; every *Jot* and *Tittle*.

**Textual Criticism** – This is supposed to be a scientific approach to the study of Biblical manuscripts. It is neither scientific nor Biblical, but is instead an elaborate scheme to elevate man to a level higher than God, and to discredit the preserved text underlying the King James Bible.

**Textus Receptus/Traditional Text/Received Text** – This is the preserved Greek text that underlies the accurate version of the New Testament.

\*Note: Many of the above words are capitalized in this paper to emphasize the importance they hold in understanding their place in the modern Christian world. Direct quotes are italicized instead of small print as a reading aid.

\* \* \* \* \*

## **2 Timothy 3:16-17**

(16) All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

(17) That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.

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## GOATS IN THE SHEEP HERD

**And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. Matthew 25:32-33**

### Preface

Goats in the sheep herd; what was Jesus trying to tell us? We have to be familiar with the sheep raising industry in the Middle East to understand what He meant. Most shepherders raise both sheep and goats, and they are grazed together in the daylight hours, but are grouped separately when they are bedded down for the night, hence the separation of the sheep and goats into two distinct groups. This was a common practice in the time Jesus walked the earth. Like all of His teachings, He used the simple examples of sheep and goats to make an important point, the sheep represented the saved, and the goats represented the lost. When the Good Shepherd appears He will separate the two. The saved will be on His right designated for heaven and the unsaved will be on His left designated for hell.

The message He is so clearly presenting is the church is made up of saved sheep and unsaved goats. They eat together, drink together, and congregate together without any questions of whether or not they belong together. I also think He is giving us a clue as to whom both the sheep and the goats are by the characteristics of each.

Identifying sheep seems to be no problem. Sheep are creatures with lots of wool, very docile, gather in flocks, follow the shepherd religiously, and are easy to lead. Goats, on the other hand, are short haired, aggressive, very independent, wander off from the flock deliberately, and cannot be led.

When the shepherd calls the sheep, they respond immediately. When he calls the goats, they come when and if they want to. However the shepherd always treats them both with tender care and concern. He makes sure they all have food, water, medical care, and security. He counts them carefully at night to be sure all are there, and if one is missing he will search diligently until he finds it and brings it back to the fold.

The sheep are given names and they respond to their individual names when the shepherd calls them. The Bible does not mention the goats having specified names for only the sheep respond when they hear the voice of the shepherd.

Thus we have a perfect picture of the church universal, made up of people who can be identified by the characteristics of sheep and goats. Unfortunately we don't look like either, so it becomes more of an observation of sheep-like and goat-like characteristics in the evaluation of who are the sheep and who are the goats.

This paper is not an attempt to evaluate individuals in the churches, for that is Jesus' job, and He is the one who will separate the sheep from the goats. It is too

complicated anyway when we realize the complex personalities of people. Most people do the best they can, and we are not to judge them unless they are interfering with the body of Christ which is the individual church where we are members.

The enemies of the church are not individual goats, even though they can be worrisome, for they are generally few in number and will easily isolate themselves by their actions; that is unless the whole of the church is a goat herd and then the few sheep wind up isolated. That also is something that Jesus will take care of in His time. He is clear that it is His responsibility to separate the sheep from the goats.

Most of the problems we have today in the churches are not created by the local goats, but are generally created by outside influences that have crept in on us. In general we have become so much like the world that we all probably look a little like goats to God, and I'm sure it must break His heart to see how far His children have drifted away from His teachings. This falling away is not by design, for most church people want to please God; it is primarily caused by societal influence, personal ignorance, and refusal to obey the Bible.

Unfortunately we live in a time when we are all trained to expect instant gratification in everything we do, and our Christian lives are no exception, for we look for an easy way to do Christianity. This applies to church attendance, worship, teaching, and entertainment, and because of this, the world has become our Christian standard instead of the tried and true Word of God, the Holy Bible. Today we want to attend church when we feel like it, we want a worship service that makes us feel good and does not convict us of our sins, we want to be taught the Bible without putting out any effort, and we want to be entertained while all this is taking place. And if we don't get all of this at the church we are attending we'll simply look for another church that does offer it, or quit attending church altogether.

The profiteers know all this better than we do, and they have jumped in with all their fancy marketing schemes to make profit from the typical Christian's naivety. The statement, "You don't have to attend church to be a Christian" was generated by the profiteers, and many have fully bought it. Why do they not want you to attend church? It is quite simple, for if you love God and don't attend church, then you'll buy their books and watch the TV religious shows to keep from feeling guilty. If you are serious about your faith and don't support a local church, you'll wind up sending the TV preachers money. I don't know of one TV religious show that does not have an ulterior motive to get you to support a mega ministry which will lead you away from the true church of the Lord Jesus Christ.

When one completely understands the Godly concept of worship as presented in the Bible, he fully realizes that one of God's foremost rules is for His children to meet together often. In the Old Testament the Nation of Israel was given specific instructions regarding collective worship procedures. In the New Testament the instructions from God were just as clear; we are to come together to worship in harmony under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

## Hebrews 10:22-25

(22) Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.

(23) Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)

(24) And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:

(25) Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

Along with worship, Bible study has also been seriously affected by the modern craze to “improve” God’s Word. The scholars have convinced the typical rank and file Christians that God did not preserve His Word and further they have partially restored it as presented in the modern Bibles. This is evident in almost any Bible study session in almost any church anywhere USA. In practically any Bible study situation today you will find the participants are more concerned about what different versions of the Bible say than they are about what God says. As I heard one such participant say, “We read a verse from different versions of the Bible, discuss it, and then decide for ourselves what God has said.” Profiteers really like that for they get to sell more versions of the Bible and lead people further away from the living God which assures them they will sell even more Bibles.

A natural fall out of the counterfeit Bible craze is the invasion of profane music into the Christian realm as the two go hand in hand; profane music complements false Bibles. This is noted by the reality that this new kind of Christian entertainment has pretty much taken over the Christian world. In fact it has so totally invaded the Christian music world that it is difficult to tell the difference between Christian and secular music. It is noted very few modern so-called Christian songs today even pretend to honor God let alone induce worship of Him. It is all about music that generates movements suggestive of the secular sex crazed society and getting people “in the spirit” as it is called, but in the spirit for what? They get in a spirit all right, but it is the spirit of Satan and not of God. Many, if not most, of the songs in the modern worship entertainment services are written by people who have never had a conversion experience or even know the real Jesus of the Bible, and practically all of the purported Christian entertainers are in the exact same situation. Unsaved people cannot bring music or write songs to glorify God. He has never endorsed such ungodliness, and according to His Word, He never will. Both modern Christian music and the Bible version issues are a continuation of Satan’s quest for unrighteousness.

God has never inspired anyone to do His work who didn’t believe every Word in His Holy Bible. This includes those who write it, those who sing about it, and those who preach it. This paper will expand this subject greatly, but suffice it to say the production and promotion of counterfeit Bibles as being the Words of God is one of the greatest deceptions ever pulled on the Christian world, and I confidently add, is the greatest

threat to the Christian church that has ever existed. This deception has not happened in a vacuum for the church has had ample warnings about the “Hath God Said” society for well over a century, but blindly it goes on repeating Eve’s mistake over and over again; the serpent has put the goats in charge and they are subtly deceiving the sheep.

Satan’s scheme is as old as history itself; infiltrate the ranks of the enemy, and destroy it from the inside, and what better way to destroy the church than to separate it from its power source, the Holy God. This is what happened in the original fall. Satan deceived Eve and she ate of the forbidden fruit, suckered Adam into participating in her disobedience, which consequently corrupted all of mankind. He did exactly the same thing with the religious world. He realized he must first deceive the Bible scholars if he wanted to deceive the Christians. He did this brilliantly when he devised the Original Manuscript myth, and sold it as the greatest discovery ever made in Biblical studies. The scholars bought it hook line and sinker because they just couldn’t resist the forbidden fruit. Just like Eve sought to spread the lie, they devised a plan to spread this new lie of Satan’s into the Christian communities. It goes something like this: “The Bible is inerrant only in the Original Manuscripts, and since none of them have survived the ravages of time, we intellectual scholars are smart enough to restore the Bible to its Original Writings.” The end result of this kind of thinking evolved into their theories of Biblical restoration which came to be called Textual Criticism.

The profiteers were quick to jump on the scholarly bandwagon, and started the ball rolling with the production of new Bible versions. It was not easy at first for they had to train the sheep to hate the King James Bible, and with the help of the Judas Goat scholars, they have been able to succeed beyond their wildest expectations. The Christian people as a whole are now blindly following everything the scholars say without question, and most of them will get angry with anyone who tries to tell them differently.

This paper expands this discussion enough for the interested person to be able to identify the goats in the scholarly world. It is up to those who want to please God to get interested enough in this issue and put the time in study to fully understand the deception behind the Bible correctors. The scholars are seeking fame and intellectual superiority, the marketers are only interested in making money, Satan is in his heyday, and God gets left completely out of the picture.

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## **2 Timothy 3:1-7**

- (1) This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.
- (2) For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,
- (3) Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,
- (4) Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;
- (5) Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.
- (6) For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts,
- (7) Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.**

## GOATS IN THE SHEEP HERD

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### Chapter 1

#### Introduction

This paper is not about calling names or finding fault; it is about information men and women who identify themselves as Christians should have regarding some of the theological issues confronting the church today. I have focused primarily on the Moderate/Conservative disagreements because these two factions seem to always be in the media spotlight and their views seem to be where most church controversies center.

The issues are not denominational oriented for I often hear about theological battles between the various factions in all Christian organizations. I am, however, more familiar with the Baptist way because I attended a Baptist seminary and am the pastor of a Baptist church, so I have focused primarily on the effect the Moderate and Conservative issues have on Baptist life.

It seemed to me at the beginning of the Moderate/Conservative controversy all the fuss was at some high theological level among the scholars and had very little if any effect on the person in the pew. What I actually found out is these theological tiffs affect all of us, for what is today's theological views at the seminaries will be the basis for tomorrow's sermons in the pulpits. As I looked into this, I was really surprised when I discovered there were actually no real disagreements between the scholars, but instead I found a lot of pettiness and jealousy, a fierce battle for authority, and everyone claiming to be "The" Biblical expert.

Actually the terms Conservative and Moderate don't tell us much about what either side believes as these simply are words that classify opposing forces. It is kind of like the Republicans and Democrats fighting. Democrats will vote Democrat even if they run the Jackass, and Republicans will vote Republican even if they run the Elephant. It really makes no sense, but this seems to be human nature for everybody wants to choose a side, and everybody wants to win regardless of the issue.

The typical person in the pew couldn't care less about the theological arguments of these self-proclaimed upper class elite Christians. They know this, so to get support for their pet theories (as they call them) they have devised a plan to not only deceive the people in the pew, but to enlist them in the arguments. Hence we have the great division of Christianity of the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Centuries.

This is evident in the way the secular world has joined hands with the scholarly elite to help in this deception; you read it in the news and see it on television almost every day. The producers are spending millions of dollars to present such great programs as, "The Bible should have read Reed Sea instead of Red Sea" and "The great discovery of Jesus' burial place which included His bones, the bones of His wife, and His child." I even saw one secular program that went to great lengths to prove the Biblical record of the creation is really just a way of presenting evolution. The secular producers don't get these ideas by their own volition, they hire the most reputable Bible scholars to tell them what to present, and then have them appear in their movies at critical points to supposedly give credibility to the presentation.

We are trained as a secular society to respect higher education, and rightfully so for it takes a lot of dedication and hard work to get an advanced degree. However, it seems the Christian world has gone beyond common respect and has elevated its scholars into some kind of god. When someone is introduced to us as a Bible scholar who has several doctorates, has been all over the world researching the facts, and has written multiple books, we have a desire to kneel at his feet and worship him for we actually feel inferior. The scholars know this and take full advantage of it. If they can't dazzle us with factual knowledge, they will lose us in a theological dialogue that sounds like a foreign language which further exacerbates the scholarly myth that the common person is inferior.

Keep in mind that educational degrees for the Christian world are all man made, for not one person in the Bible is identified as having a doctorate, or any other degree as far as that is concerned. Where it speaks of knowledge, it has to do with the knowledge of God, knowledge of His Word, or knowledge conveyed by the Holy Spirit. There is absolutely no mention of superior and inferior Christians because of education or knowledge.

This is illustrated by a fictitious story about Jesus appearing to a well known Bible scholar who was writing a commentary on Matthew, Chapter 16 where Jesus asked the question, "Whom do men say I am?" Jesus looked at the scholar's work, and asked him, "And who do you say I am?" The scholar immediately answered:

"Thou art the Logos, existing in the Father as His rationality and then, by an act of His will, being generated, in consideration of the various functions by which God is related to his creation, but only on the fact that Scripture speaks of a Father, and a Son, and a Holy Spirit, each member of the Trinity being coequal with every other member, and each acting inseparably with and interpenetrating every other member, with only an economic subordination within God, but causing no division which would make the substance no longer simple."

And Jesus answering, said, "HUH?"

To help clarify this point further we need to understand how scholars divide themselves into various theological categories. Even though this classification sounds

simplistic on the surface, it is really very complicated, for there are as many classes of scholars as there are beliefs. Basically the whole of scholarly line up of Christianity can be grouped according to their own distinctive identifying theological beliefs which are directly related to their views of the Bible. They are stacked up from left to right something like this:

**Ultraliberal** – The Bible is just a book.

**Liberal** – The Bible is a book about Israel's concept of God.

**Moderate** – The Bible presents God's thoughts, but is not inspired.

**Conservative** – The Bible is God's inspired Words in the Original Manuscripts. It was originally inspired but God didn't look after it and it is now corrupted.

**Fundamentalist (Original Manuscripts)** – This group is aligned with the Conservatives. The only difference between the two is the names.

**Fundamentalist (Masoretic and Textus Receptus)** – The Bible is God's inspired book and He preserved it for all generations.

**Fundamentalist (Legalist, Ultra Fundamentalist)** – The Bible is God's inspired Book; He preserved it for all generations, and appointed us to make sure people follow what it says. This group is well known as the legalists of today. Even some of the Ultra-Fundamentalist are leaning towards the Original Manuscript trap.

The upshot of all of this is we need a definitive way to identify who the real Christian scholars are because saying one believes the Bible and actually believing it is two different things. It comes down to the bottom line of what one actually believes about inspiration, preservation, and inerrancy.

The Bible says in 2 Timothy 3:16, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."

Now the question is what is Scripture? As previously stated it all depends on one's theological persuasion how this is answered. The Liberal minded person would say Scripture is what I determine it to be. This attitude encompasses the Ultraliberals, the Liberals, and the Moderates. The Conservatives are not sure until they get through asking the Liberals what is in the Original Manuscripts. So they put inspiration on the back burner and talk about the pastor's authority and such. The Fundamentalists declare the entire Bible is inspired; in identifying the inspired Scriptures some say they are found in the King James Bible, some say they are found in the modern Bibles, and some even say they are found in neither but only in the Original Manuscripts. The bottom line is not too many people in the Christian world have any idea what is Scripture and what is not, much less what is inspired.

The Bible tells us over and over that the Words of God are Scripture. It even tells us in 2 Peter 1:19-21, "We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost."

The entire Bible is Scripture. It was not given by just inspired men, but it was instead given by men appointed and anointed by God. It was dictated by God Word-for-Word and recorded by these men through the guidance and power of the Holy Spirit. This makes every Word of the Bible God-breathed in every respect. When Paul wrote to Timothy about the Scriptures, he was addressing the whole of the Bible, even the books that had not yet been written. The entire Bible was given under the direct guidance of God.

Those who insist they know more about the Bible than what the Bible itself reveals will never be convinced it is totally inspired. They will always wrestle with the unexplainable events, the miracles, and even the records of Jesus Himself. Their God is scholarship, their church is the world, and their reward is acknowledgement from their peers. Unfortunately the whole Christian world is bowing down to the scholars and making them into false gods and idols.

If there is one doctrine of the Bible the whole spectrum of scholars will not accept, it is Providential Preservation. (This means God not only dictated His Words, He also preserved them.) It is hard for man to get beyond human reasoning even when he is dealing with the things of God. For the Liberal mind there is no need for preservation because in his way of thinking the Bible was not inspired to start with. The Moderate mind kind of agrees with the Liberal, but is smart enough not to express it for his bread and butter comes from people who thinks he is a Bible believer.

The Conservative mind is in a dilemma about the whole issue. He admires the Liberal and Moderate views, but his conscience won't let him directly defy God's Word so he has bought into the Original Manuscript concept. By doing this He can talk a good story about preservation and still support the more liberal views of those who give us the modern Bible versions. After all there are no Original Manuscripts available to compare any version of the Bible to, so who can possibly dispute him?

The Fundamentalist who buys into the Liberal views of the Bible is really in a greater dilemma; he wants to support Providential Preservation, but just can't seem to understand that God's ways are not man's ways. Therefore, he attempts to amalgamate the man-made view of the Scripture being corrupted with the promises of preservation in the Bible by claiming only the Original Manuscripts were perfect. This is at best a compromise and at worse it is an out and out lie. This just won't work for it leaves him with a powerless god, unable to keep his word, and certainly does not hold much of a future for those who believe such.

The true believer's view of total preservation is the only one that agrees with God's Word. God said He would preserve His Holy Word and not one *Jot* or *Tittle* would be lost. In saying this He was emphasizing that He would preserve even these smallest parts of the Hebrew alphabet forever. No Original Manuscripts, no concept of preservation, and no man-made theories of restoration; just trust in God that He is truthful about His Word.

Inerrancy is another one of God's promises that the Liberals and others who believe such have a problem with. Inerrancy basically means that the Bible is all truth without any hint of error. If the scholars accept Bible inerrancy, it would put them out of business because their self-called task is to criticize and correct it, and an inerrant Bible has no need for constant changing and correction.

The point in all of this discussion is to show that it doesn't matter what theological persuasion one identifies with, if he does not believe the Bible as God has presented it, he is blindly following the god of this world in the guise of intellectual superiority. He had rather trust the scholars who tell him there are errors in the Bible than to trust God who has always told us there are none.

I know all about the arguments brought about regarding the many manuscripts and the differences among them. I also know that there are so many thoughts about how to organize them that man will never be able to sort it all out (God did that long ago). How can we expect the scholars to make sense of the manuscript puzzle when in most cases they can't even agree on what various Greek and Hebrew words should mean in English, or for that matter what should be included in the Critical Texts? A case in point is how they are always changing their minds from publication to publication. The Nestles/Aland Greek Text is in its 26<sup>th</sup> edition, and the United Bible Society's Greek Text is in its fourth edition. I'll venture to say that within a few years there'll be even more editions as they change their minds about some of the readings. If the scholars are so smart, why don't they get it right one time and quit?

I advocate the King James Bible and its underlying documents as the only true Word of God on earth today. I know it was derived by using several sources, and I know it has gone through three editions after the 1611 version. I also know that it is the only Bible available today that was put together by highly qualified men who honored the Bible as God's Holy Word, and looked to God for guidance throughout all their efforts. It is the only Bible produced by true Bible Believing Christians who firmly accepted His promise of preservation. In fact it is the only Bible that could even come close to being God's preserved Word.

I have looked seriously at the Bible manuscript predicament with as much of an open mind as I could muster with a predisposition of believing God and total rejection of the apostate views of the scholars underlying the modern versions. When a team of collators (Textual Critics) start their work with the declaration, "The Bible must be treated as any other book of literature" I am suspicious of their motives. When the translators take the work of the collators and make the same statement, I am suspicious

of their motives also. With this statement as the starting supposition, neither group could possibly produce an inspired, inerrant Bible; in the end their efforts produce counterfeit Bibles that have been downgraded to the level of the world twice over.

There is no man-made solution to the Bible version issue. However there is a God-made solution, and He gives it to us so that we may believe in His inspired, preserved, inerrant word; it is called faith. It is faith alone that God not only expects of us, but He demands it of all of His children. Paul made this clear in 1 Corinthians 2:5 when he wrote, "That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God."

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### **Romans 3:3-4**

- (3) For what if some did not believe? shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect?
- (4) God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar;

## **GOATS IN THE SHEEP HERD**

**And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. Matthew 25:32-33**

### **Chapter 2**

#### **A Contrast of Beliefs between Moderates and Conservatives**

For years there have been disagreements between the Moderates and Conservatives of purported unsolvable theological significance. We read often where one side is addressing the other with some kind of offensive rhetoric about their conceived areas of disparity, but we never read or hear throughout any of their expositions about one single area of agreement. One is left with the impression that these two groups are so far separated on the issues that they never will have any common ground to speak of. However, I propose that this is not the case, for when we look into the particulars of each group's basic perspective about the Bible they have more similarities than differences.

When it comes to Bible semantics, it may be worthwhile to point out that neither of the terms Moderate or Conservative is found on its pages. There are many references about the saved and unsaved, and believers and unbelievers, but never one word about varying degrees of belief as declared by these two conflicting factions. When listening to these confessed enemies one is left with the impression that there must be varieties of salvation and degrees of saving faith. This is not according to my Bible. It clearly proclaims one is either saved or is lost. Perhaps a review of the Biblical view of salvation will help clarify this point.

When one is saved, he becomes a Christian in the Biblical sense. This simply means that one has accepted Jesus as His personal Savior, has committed himself to a life of holiness, and dedicated himself to God's work and His service. While this sounds simplistic, it carries with it an implication to trust God and obey His Word in all circumstances of life. What many don't seem to understand is salvation has a definite starting point.

The first step in trusting God has to do with trusting His Holy Word, the Bible. Only the Bible tells us about Jesus Christ and his sacrificial death on the cross. It is only in the pages of the Bible that we find how to live a life pleasing to God, which assures us of life eternal in the place Jesus has prepared. It is the Bible, and the Bible alone that provides a blueprint for building a firm foundation of faith for it is the very words of God Himself. God has provided no other source of instructions for the Christian.

If one accepts the premise that the Bible is the starting point for salvation he can readily recognize there are a few declarations which the Christian must be clear about if he wants to be recognized as being in God's assemblage of saved people. Some of

these are listed below to serve as a reference point in the foregoing contrast of some of the similarities and difference between the Moderates and Conservatives.

**1. All saved people must accept the Bible as God's inerrant, inspired Word.** It must be regarded as all truth with out even the slightest possibility of error. It is true in history, science, religion, and any other area found within its pages. A true believer never doubts God's Word for to do so is paramount to calling God a liar. Just accepting the Bible as God's Word is only the starting place for the Christian for he must also strive to master its contents if he is going to be true to God and His commandments.

**2. All saved people will conduct themselves in a Christ like manner at all times.** This means giving up worldly pleasures that are clearly displeasing to God.

**3. All saved people will be baptized in the Biblical sense if it is at all possible.** While baptism is never taught as a requirement of salvation, it is mandated for the real believer because Jesus told us to do so.

**4. All saved people will diligently seek out a true New Testament church;** one that is founded on sound Biblical principles and unapologetically preaches and teaches the Gospel of Jesus Christ without any compromise.

**5. All saved people will regularly attend a sound Bible believing church and support it both with their presence and finances.** Jesus Himself founded the church; He is the head of the true church, and there is no way a person who truly loves Him would deny himself the privilege of worshiping with other believers.

**6. All saved people will have a strong daily prayer and devotional life.** Prayer is our main avenue to God, and if one really loves God it would be impossible for him not to want to communicate with Him.

**7. All saved people will be careful of their fellowship with the worldly crowd.** Our sole purpose for associating with the unsaved must be to tell them about Jesus and His saving power. Frequenting worldly places with unsaved people will not only destroy the Christian's testimony, it will ultimately lead him away from the source of his power, and he will be worthless to God and His kingdom.

While several of the items listed above may be cited as having some definite identifiable similarities among the Moderates and Conservatives, it is the acceptance of like doctrines and beliefs about the development of the Bible that is the strongest single point of agreement among them. On the surface this doesn't seem to be the case for each party has made strong judgmental assertions about how the other accepts and values the Bible. Even though these proclamations sound totally different at first glance, they both in fact mean exactly the same thing. However, before we explore that possibility, let's look at these statements.

The Moderates have made a statement that reads something like this, "The entire Bible must be interpreted in light of the life of Jesus. It is true in areas of faith and practice, but may have errors in areas of history and science."

The Conservatives counter the Moderates' statement with, "The Bible as produced in its Original Autographs is inerrant. It can be trusted in all areas of science, history, and religion. The life of Jesus must be interpreted in light of the rest of the Bible." (The Original Autographs refer to the Bible documents as they were first written down by the various writers.)

Outwardly these two assertions seem contradictory and totally opposed to each other. For sure each one has its own peculiarities. If we interpret the Bible based totally on the life of Jesus and His reaction to His surroundings, we can take any part of His life and apply that to our own lives. Adultery could be justified because He didn't stone the adulteress. Homosexuality could be justified because He never specifically pointed out the sin of like sexual partners. Slavery could be reconciled because He not once said that it was wrong.

If we interpret the life of Jesus based on the entire Bible, it also leaves open some silly conclusions. The Old Testament says an eye for an eye; therefore we could justify striking back when we are offended. King Solomon had 700 wives and 300 concubines, (1 Kings 11:3) so we could justify both bigamy and adultery. King David committed adultery, so we could justify doing the same thing. A child who curses his parents could be stoned to death according to the Old Testament.

Actually, both the Moderates and Conservatives are correct in a way, for there is no way to understand the Old Testament properly without a full understanding of the life of Jesus. Likewise, there is no way to understand the life of Jesus fully without full knowledge of the Old Testament. Jesus throughout the Bible is what it is about. He was there at the creation, in the fiery furnace, and with all the prophets of old. Jesus is what the Bible is about for the Christian. Nothing else makes sense for the born again believer.

As you can see the disagreements between the Moderates and Conservatives are miniscule and practically nonexistent, but when we look at their similarities we see they are both cut from the same cloth; neither side believes the Bible as God has presented it. They are quick to tell you God gave us the Bible and then washed His hands of its care. For almost 2,000 years it has been corrupted and now in this day of intellectual deceit and deception He has allowed the goats to feed the sheep. Here lies the heart of the matter; neither group will admit we have the preserved Word of God for that is not the scholarly thing to do. They will even join hands to ridicule and try to discredit anyone who has the gall even to suggest God has always preserved His Word just as the Bible says.

We are not talking about interpretation here, but we are talking about the divine promise of preservation. We know the two sides will never agree on interpretation for

they have proven this over and over as they split hairs over semantics, but in between their blows of semantic battles, they stop fighting long enough to shake hands and then enthusiastically agree that God lied about the Christian world always having an accurate Bible. It is at this point where Moderates and Conservatives stand shoulder to shoulder to declare war against those who advocate Providential Preservation, put down the truth, and jointly try to discredit the Word of God. From what I see happening in our churches I would say they are doing a successful job of it.

The Moderates and Conservatives make a weak attempt to separate into two camps when it comes to inerrancy, but it doesn't even take very close scrutiny to see they are both singing from the same song book; often times the same song.

The Conservatives claim to believe that only the Original Autographs are inerrant. If pressed on this issue they will reluctantly tell you that we don't have any of the Originals around today. But that doesn't slow them up for they will effortlessly throw out statements like "That is not in the Originals, or the Originals say..." to give the impression they know exactly what is in the inerrant Original Manuscripts. To make this lie even worse, the Conservatives readily endorse most modern Bible versions that are based totally on the works of Liberal scholars, which they refer to frequently as if this makes them sound smarter than the average person.

The Moderates don't even profess to believe the original autographs were inerrant. The best they can do towards any kind of Godly inspiration is to accept that the original writers were inspired much in the same way Christian writers are inspired today. However, they readily admit that it would be nice to have the originals if it were possible. They will also tell you that this is not really all that important because the manuscripts they have present have adequately captured all the concepts of God, and that is all anyone needs for faith and practice. However, like the Conservatives the Moderates also like to use the phrase "the Original Language says..." in an attempt to add credibility to their arguments as if they alone know the exact words the Original Autographs contained.

It is apparent the real battle between the Moderates and Conservatives is not about Scripture, manuscripts, or interpretation; it is actually about authority, power, and control of people's minds. From the beginning of the modern day battle for domination of the Christian world Moderates and Conservatives seem to have an implicit understanding they would never agree on anything. If they are not arguing about the Bible and its interpretation they are disputing about power, status, and intellect. If they are not disagreeing about who is right and who is wrong, they are quarreling about who is in charge.

However, throughout all the heated battles and causalities of the intellectual war the Moderates and Conservatives call a cessation of hostilities, lay aside all their differences, and unite in solidarity on the approach, methodology, and results in the modern day efforts to reconstruct the Bible to its perceived original wordings. They enthusiastically work together in harmony to produce the many modern Bible versions

and then quarrel with each other about how to interpret it. Actually, the Moderates do most of the work in producing the new Bibles. The Conservatives have very little input, but they kind of blindly accept what they are given and continue on as if the Moderates are wrong in every thing they do except in Bible reconstruction.

A frequently asked question is, "Why don't the Conservatives reconstruct their own Bible?" Actually it has been tried. The result is called the Holman Christian Standard Bible (HCSB). This Bible is a joke, but it really proves two things: One, it is impossible to get a group together who could be classified as true Conservatives under the perceived rules of conservatism, and two, the Conservatives hold to identical views about the methodology of Bible reconstruction and translation as the Moderates. You see that regardless of the theological persuasion of those on the translation committees, if they hold exactly identical views about Bible reconstruction, the end result is will always be exactly the same. This tells us a lot about the Conservatives. They talk a good story, but in the end they are just as biased about God's Word as the ones they are criticizing.

The New King James Bible (NKJB), published by Thomas Nelson Publishers, is a good example of the Conservative deception. According to the publisher, it is supposed to be an accurate Conservative version. They don't tell you that its Conservative translation team included five of the Moderate translators from the deceitful New International Version (NIV) Translation Committee. Here is one clear case of the Moderates and Conservatives holding hands and it didn't make one iota of difference, for the New King James Bible is anything but a model of interpretation of the texts which also underlie the original King James Bible (KJB) as the publisher claims. If one reads the Preface, studies the footnotes, and notices the differences between the NKJB and the original King James Bible, it becomes obvious that it is just more of the same old modernistic twaddle. Clearly using the right texts do not insure a properly translated Bible.

Plainly, we can see the Conservatives readily accept the modern English Bibles that are developed by Moderate scholars. The Conservatives then have the audacity to argue about how it is to be interpreted as if it presents the very Words of God. Here is the paradox, for it just doesn't make sense for them to join hands with the Moderates in this important endeavor, agree on the outcome, and then criticize the very ones they worked with.

There is one other important point to make about the Moderate and Conservative camps, and this is neither one seems to care about the role of God, or His Influence in the development of any Greek and Hebrew text, let alone the translation and publishing of subsequent Bible versions. It should be readily apparent to the Christian world that it is impossible to bring forth any Bible without starting with an inspired text, and just as importantly, people who are called by God must translate it. What it all boils down to is regardless of the rhetoric either side uses as an excuse for not getting along, they both leave God out of the most important part of the argument, "If God is not in it, it is of no value to Him."

Every student of the Bible knows there are multiple warnings about God's judgment on those who corrupt His Word. Even the modern day mistranslations of the Bible have some counsel about this issue, but it seems to be ignored. The Conservatives claim to believe all of God's Word, but blindly join the Moderates in corrupting it. They then pick and choose from the corruption what they want to take seriously and lead people to believe that they have the Original Autographs. The Moderates just plain don't care. Their entire emphasis is about influence and power and the truths of God's Word are incidental to them. Both groups end up doing harm to God's kingdom by casting doubt on His Word and downplaying His promises.

It has been repeated over and over by both Moderates and Conservatives they are confident they have recovered at least ninety percent of the original manuscripts. (Some claim a higher percentage.) If this statement were true then that leaves only ten percent of the words of the Bible in doubt. The question is, "Which ten percent can I not trust?" One will never get an answer to this question for the ones making the statement don't know either, but it makes good theological sense to them. Every person on this planet who claims to be a Christian should ask the simple question, "What good is a Bible that is ten percent doubtful?" Or another way of phrasing it is, "What good is any Bible that has errors?" I don't believe a perfect God would give us a perfect Bible, let it be corrupted, and then leave mankind without His inerrant Word. We must remember that both the Moderates and Conservatives agree that the Bible has been corrupted. The only thing they disagree on is how to elucidate the imperfect Bible they have jointly produced.

As stated earlier, the real issue is not about the Bible, doctrine, or truth; it is really about power and deception. There is a thought among Biblical scholars that the average person is too ignorant to understand the unproven theories that they base many of their decisions on, so to placate us they tell us what we want to hear. After all, they say, without the proper educational background, the common Christian could not possibly understand all the details of how they come to certain conclusions.

Here is a prime example of how they distorted truth. I have a friend who recently attended Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary (the bastion of modern SBC Conservatism). He related this story about his Greek professor. It was stated in the class that Jesus did not say the words recorded in John 3:16. The professor said that some copyist or scribe added them later. He further said that the students must not tell their congregations about this for they wouldn't understand. He also said it really didn't make any difference when or how it was added because it was the truth. Incidentally, my friend quit the seminary after that escapade. He reasoned that if the professors don't believe in a God breathed Bible, why should a person who does believe waste his time learning such junk?

This leads into a question that is at the heart of this paper, "What is the difference between the Moderates and the Conservatives?" The obvious answer is, "Nothing of any consequence." The Conservatives only speak the Christian language better, and

that convinces a lot of people that they are on target. The inspiration issue is not important to them as evidenced by their eagerness to point out the many supposedly discrepancies in the Bible; their sole aim is to cause the people to doubt God's Word. There is a motive behind all this. If you can't trust the Bible, then who can you trust? The common answer from both the Conservatives and the Moderates is an astounding "US." If you really want to know what God has said, they can readily tell you.

I urge anyone who is interested in knowing the truth about modern Bible versions to look into the manuscripts on which they are based. There is really only one modern Greek text, and it is based on the works of two godless apostates of the last century, Westcott and Hort. Today there are five names that appear on the cover pages of the United Bible Societies and Nestlé's Greek texts, Kurt Aland, Matthew Black, Carlo M. Martini, Bruce Metzger, and Allan Wikgren. If you study any of their publications, you'll find they are leading Liberals among the Liberal theologians.

If you research the thoughts, ideas, and morality of those who have produced the modern versions, you might be in for a further surprise. For example, the New International Version (NIV) had two homosexuals on its committee. Marten Woudstra was chairman of the NIV New Testament Translation Committee, and according to Michael J. Penfold of England, he was a homosexual. There was also a Literary Consultant on the NIV team, Dr. Virginia Mollenkott, who is an avowed lesbian. She is proud of her involvement in the production of the NIV. One does not need to wonder why the sin of the Sodomites is not mentioned in the NIV. But even without the ungodliness induced by the two homosexuals, people who think of the Bible as just another book accomplished the whole project, and this is the Bible version that the publishing arm of the Southern Baptist Convention has strongly indorsed. (The SBC Sunday School literature was previously based on the NIV and the 1991 edition of the Baptist Hymnal has Scripture quotes from the NIV throughout its pages.) Remember that Conservatives now control the SBC. (Note: the SBC Holman Christian Standard Bible (HCSB) which is of the same genre as the NIV is now receiving top priority in SBC literature and is discussed later in this paper.)

The leaders of the Bible version conspiracy know most Christians are totally trusting and easily deceived. They accept the words of the leaders of their organizations without question. "After all," they say, "these people are Christians, and they wouldn't lie to us." Perhaps they wouldn't deliberately, but possibly are telling what they believe is true without considering the consequences of their actions, or maybe they themselves have been fooled, and they really don't know any better. Whatever the case, there is a lot of deception going on and God will hold each person responsible for how His Word is treated. Jesus said something about separating the sheep from the goats; maybe this is what He meant.

Serving God is by far too important for anyone to take even a small chance that the Moderate/Conservative produced Bibles are right when one has an English version that he can trust explicitly in the King James Bible. I know many preachers today will spend much of their sermons in correcting it and putting it down, but this does not make it

incorrect, for these preachers are merely mimicking the teachings of their professors who are committed to destroying man's faith in God's Word. You can trust the King James Bible to give you all of God's Word without apology. It calls sin by its name sin. It has stood the test of time, ushered in many revivals, consoled many aching hearts, and has been attacked more than any other book ever printed. I must also add that it was translated by 47 of the Godliest men ever assembled on this earth for such a task. It is God's Word to the English-speaking world; you can bet your future life on it.

The Bible version issue is confusing, complex, and complicated. It is no wonder people are baffled about which version to use. I know that some of the versions are easier to read than the King James Bible, but even if something is easy to read and understand, but is wrong, nothing is accomplished by reading it. In fact, it is detrimental because it keeps one from knowing the whole truth about God's Word. A Bible that only contains part of God's revelation is not a Bible at all but is instead a cleverly disguised counterfeit that leads people away from the whole truth. However, the Christian has a mandate from God to separate truth from error, and He will hold each of us responsible for the truth we have been exposed to.

It is not too difficult to understand that the Bible as we know it today basically came to us through two different paths which reflect belief systems that are at variance with each other. One has the early church Christian influence while the other has the Gnostic Egyptian influence. Because of this one can readily deduce that we can expect differences in the underlying Hebrew and Greek upon which these Bibles are based. I'll have to admit there are similarities, and these similarities are what cause all the confusion because the average Christian does not know his Bible well enough to catch the conflicts and disagreements.

Both Conservative and Moderate scholars will readily acknowledge that there are major discrepancies between the two paths of manuscripts that have brought us to this point in Biblical history. They will tell you the King James Bible is based on the Hebrew and Greek texts used by the Christians outside the Roman Catholic Church from the beginning, but they will also say in the next breath they prefer the Egyptian/Roman Catholic version which has come into dominance in the past 100 years.

There is a very important point to make regarding the various Bible versions and this is the effect our beliefs have on what we are as Christians. It is quite obvious that what we believe about the Bible influences how we understand it. If we think it is only as a book of literature, we will only accept it as we would any good classic writings. While we may enjoy the readings, it does no more to change our lives than reading the works of Homer. But if we believe it is the very Words of God, we then accept it totally on a holy level and let its Words speak to us as God's Words and use these Words to structure our belief system. If we study an inerrant Bible there will be a new dimension in our thinking process; we will have a new heart and genuinely try to put on the mind of Christ to structure our approach to life.

Let us always keep in mind the underlying conviction of all modern day Bible manuscript collators and translators is the Bible is to be treated only as a book of literature. This totally takes their entire belief structure outside the realm of God and places them in the hands of themselves, or others like them. Their own opinions have become even more important than the Words of the Bible and they feel they have a license to say whatever they please. They in effect call God a liar when they change the wording of the Bible to suit themselves, denying the very Words of the God they claim to serve.

A final word of caution: One does not have to be a psychiatrist to realize that something is wrong with a person's psyche if he exhibits abnormal behavior. Neither does one have to have someone take a lie detector test to know when he is being lied to, but he does have to have the truth to compare it to in order to identify the lie or else even a lie detector's results will be no good. All it usually takes in any situation to separate truths and lies is just plain old common horse sense. God gave most of us a little smattering of that to aid us in knowing the difference between man's word and His Word. All we have to do is use it.

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## **2 Peter 1:16-21**

(16) For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty.

(17) For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

(18) And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount.

(19) We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:

(20) Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.

(21) For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

## GOATS IN THE SHEEP HERD

**And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. Matthew 25:32-33**

### Chapter 3

#### The Modern Scholar's Mindset

When I speak of modern Bible scholars, I am addressing the total spectrum of the professionals who deal with the Bible; those who collate the manuscripts (Textual Critics) and those who interpret the manuscripts after they have been collated (Translators). This encompasses all scholars from the very Liberal to the most Conservative.

While the majority of the Biblical scholars do not believe that God has preserved His Holy Word for all generations (I have named them the Critical Scholars in this paper.), there is, however, a small group of scholars who accept God's promise to preserve His Word and accept the Biblical line of the New Testament as starting at the church at Antioch and continuing on until this day. (I have named them the Antiochian Scholars in this paper.) To these scholars it is apparent that the historical King James Bible is the continuation of God's preserved Word and all Bibles based on the Critical Texts are false or counterfeit Bibles.

The arguments and disagreements among the Antiochian Scholars and the Critical Scholars are usually in some way associated with the Original Manuscripts. They both claim to be following Jesus, but have different mindsets on how to do this. In general terms it may be summed up by the word "inerrancy."

There has been a lot written about the Conservative scholar and his love for God's Word. One is left with the impression that the Conservatives are the only ones on earth today who are extolling the inerrancy of the Bible. It is noted that they always qualify this as applying only to the Original Autographs.

Exactly what are the Original Autographs (Manuscripts)? They are defined as the originally written documents as God had them recorded by His ordained writers of the Bible. The Original Autographs were inspired directly by God, or were God breathed, and the writers of the Bible recorded the words exactly as God spoke them.

The Bible was recorded over several thousand years, so by the time the last manuscripts were written, there were very few if any of the other Originals around, so all that mankind had left of God's Words were copies. This is especially true today, for there is not one known manuscript of the divine originals in existence.

It is kind of silly to say that only the Original Autographs were inerrant, for that places most of the generations of mankind without an inerrant Bible. It even left Jesus without a real Bible, for all He had to read and study were copies of the Original Manuscripts that had been handed down. Incidentally, He called them Scriptures as if they were the Originals. It leads one to believe that there must have been some accurate copies of the God breathed Originals preserved, at least in His day.

If we accept that God gave us His inerrant Words, and then let them be corrupted over the years, it leaves man today in a poor spiritual condition for he couldn't possibly know what God said originally. This leaves us with a careless God. However if we accept God's promise to preserve His Words, we still have them today, and they can be found in only one source, the King James Bible. Here is what it says about preservation.

### **Selected Scriptures Promising Divine Preservation**

#### **Psalms 12:6-7**

(6) The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times.

(7) Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation forever.

#### **Psalms 105:8**

(8) He hath remembered his covenant for ever, the word which he commanded to a thousand generations.

#### **Psalms 119:89**

(89) For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven.

#### **Psalms 119:160**

(160) Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever.

#### **Matthew 4:4**

(4) But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

#### **Matthew 5:17-18**

(17) Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill.

(18) For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.

#### **Matthew 24:35**

(35) Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.

### **John 10:35**

(35) If he called them gods, unto whom the word of God came, and the scripture cannot be broken;

### **1 Peter 1:23-25**

(23) Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever.

(24) For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away:

(25) But the word of the Lord endureth forever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.

### **Titus 1:2**

(2) In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;

One of the principal problems the Conservatives have is accepting divine preservation as a fact. There is a reason for this; it would discredit all those precious scholarly theories about reconstruction of the Original Autographs and would deprive the Conservative scholar of his recognition among the religionists.

Therefore, because of his Original Autograph inspiration mindset, the Conservative scholars feel justified in constantly changing God's Word as each new theory comes along. It is also noted that they accept all the works of the Moderate Textual Critics as if anything they say is from God regardless of their viewpoints about the Bible.

To show how widespread this distortion of the truth has pervaded the ranks of the Conservatives, and even into the churches, a few quotes of noted scholars are provided.

Harold Lindsell – The Battle for the Bible, Zondervan, 1978.

*“No doubt God did not intend for His autographs to be preserved.”* Page 36.

*“Another gross distortion of the evangelical view of Biblical inerrancy is one that supposes everything in the Bible is true.”* Page 38.

Dr. Lindsell also quotes as authorities F.F. Bruce and Harry Emerson Fosdick. Below are a few quotes from these two scholars to show their biases towards God's Word.

F.F. Bruce – The New Testament Documents Are They Reliable?, Intersarsity Press, 1943.

*“When we have documents like our New Testament writings copied and copied several thousands of times, the scope for copyists' errors is so*

*enormously increased that it is surprising there are no more than there actually are.”* Page 19.

In developing the process known as Textual Criticism, it became readily apparent that Providential Preservation clashed directly with its prime assumption that there were errors in the Bible. To overcome this obstacle B. B. Warfield came up with a brilliant strategy, which he sold to practically all Biblical scholars, that only the Original Manuscripts were inerrant. This left the door wide open for the Conservative factions to buy into the secular methods of looking at the Bible, and these methods are prevalent in the scholarly circles even today.

B. B. Warfield – Presbyterian Review 1881

*“We do not assert that the common text, but only that the original autographic text was inspired. No 'error' can be asserted, therefore, which cannot be proved to have been aboriginal in the text.”*

The whole Christian world has fallen into the Textual Criticism trap and away from Divine preservation. Here is a quote made by a faculty member of Bob Jones University, a fundamentalist Baptist school.

*God supernaturally interfered with the normal human processes in the writers of Old and New Testaments to guarantee the accuracy of His message in syllabic detail ... With (regard) to preservation, however, no Scripture explicitly declares anything of this sort of guidance to apply to the manuscript copyists as far as the precise wording of the text is concerned “[emphasis added]. (Samuel E. Schnaiter, "Textual Criticism and the Modern English Version Controversy," BIBLICAL VIEWPOINT -FOCUS ON REVELATION by the Faculty of the School of Religion, BOB JONES UNIVERSITY, Vol. XVI, No. 1, April, 1982, pg. 68.)*

The Southern Baptist Convention has openly been opposed to the Provincial Preservation of the Scripture for years, and they have proven this by the recent publication of the Holman Christian Standard Bible. Here is a quote from the publishers.

*The Holman Christian Standard Bible will be a fresh, precise translation of the Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek of the Old and New Testaments, using the latest research in textual criticism along with sophisticated computer technology to check the accuracy of meaning in each word, (Broadman & Holman Publishers announces new Bible translation, May 7, 1999, By John Perry, Baptist Press.)*

I recently read an article where Page Patterson, the architect of the Conservative movement in the Southern Baptist Convention, was all excited about some new story about Jesus that foreshadowed the Gospel accounts. He is now President of the

Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and has a great influence on what is taught there.

The point to be made is hardly any of the leaders, liberal or Conservative, in the Christian world today believes the Bible has been Providentially Preserved. This makes the Scriptures formally cited from the King James Bible null and void and projects God as a liar. If He didn't intend to preserve His Word, He wouldn't have put it in the Bible.

Based on the evidence I can't see one iota of difference between the Moderate and the Conservative camps, neither trust God to do what He says in His Word and blindly go about doing their own business and call it God's work. They have only one mindset and that is to advance some new theory (as they call it), publish some new truth (which is no truth at all), and receive recognition as being great scholars from their peers.

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### **Romans 12:2-3**

(2) And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

(3) For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

## GOATS IN THE SHEEP HERD

**And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. Matthew 25:32-33**

### Chapter 4

#### The Conservative Scholar's Error

The place to start with trying to understand the Conservative scholar's error is to look at the way he understands Biblical inerrancy. This has always been a bone of contention between the Moderates and Conservatives and it was the Conservatives' stance on this issue that supposedly brought down the Liberal (Moderate) element in the Southern Baptist Convention. The average Christian can understand this battle for each of us has a concept of exactly what someone means when they use this term. But what seems to be true is not always so and we need to fully comprehend the significance of this word in some depth.

According to the dictionary inerrancy means exemption from error. Another word that means the same thing is infallibility which means incapable of error. Both are further explained as being incapable of error in defining doctrines touching faith or morals. It is clear that the dictionary meaning of this word can only mean "all truth without any hint of error." It is with this definition in mind that I address the errors the Conservatives make in all of their dealings with the Bible.

If you were around when the big SBC controversy was in full steam, you would have heard the term inerrancy bantered around as if it really meant something. Most of us are familiar with the term as it used to be applied to the English Bible which signified it was the very Words of God, it was all truth, without any hint of error. This pretty much was the belief of the rank and file Christian until the scholars got to messing with it in the last century. They have so distorted the truth that today the word Inerrancy can be taken to mean about anything one wants it to depending on the motives of the scholars who are defining it.

Here are just a few of the ways inerrancy is defined to give the reader an idea of the magnitude of the problem.

**1. The King James Bible is inerrant.** Probably until the 1950's this was the most common understanding of the term.

**2. All Bibles are inerrant in terms of faith and practice, but may have errors in science and history.** Among many of the scholars, starting in late 1800's, this view became more and more accepted among the academic circles until today it is practically the exclusive view of Biblical scholars.

**3. All modern versions of the Bible are inerrant.** This is the viewpoint of those who accept the modern scholar's view and apply the term to the modern versions.

**4. The Bible is inerrant only in the Original Manuscripts.** This is the Conservative scholar's view, and is the one of greatest errors ever fostered upon the Christian world.

Since I am writing about the Conservative scholars' error, let's explore number four just a little further.

Harold Lindsell's book, *Battle for the Bible*, published in 1976 became the rallying point for the Conservatives of that day, and his thoughts drove the so-called resurgence of Fundamentalism as they addressed themselves. He addresses five words: revelation, inspiration, illumination, authority, and interpretation which he says are intimately connected with inerrancy. (Page 28) All of these are good valid terms and apply to the God breathed Scriptures.

**Revelation** – *“The Christian faith originates in revelation.”* (Page 28) He goes on to say that revelation comes in two forms, general and special. General revelation is God displayed in nature, and special revelation is God revealing Himself to mankind such as when He sent Jesus to this world in human form.

**Inspiration** – *“Inspiration may be defined as the inward work of the Holy Spirit in the hearts and minds of chosen men who then wrote the Scriptures so that God got written what He wanted.”* (Page 30)

**Illumination** – *“By illumination we mean the in-working of the Holy Spirit in the life of the individual by which he is able to comprehend what the Scriptures say.”* (Page 33)

**Authority** – *“The Bible is authoritative. By this I mean that we are to believe what it teaches and to practice what it commands.”* (Page 31)

**Interpretation** – Lindsell's view of interpretation is not totally clear, but here are a few points he makes regarding this. Those who advocate inerrancy take the Bible in its plain and obvious sense. This means figures of speech are regarded as figures of speech. There are statements in the Bible that are false such as some of the statements of Satan. All Scripture is not of the same value. (These are summary statements from information found on pages 38 and 39)

All of these definitions and explanations sound correct to the Bible believing Christian for it is basically in line with most fundamental beliefs, but did you notice the one major concept that was missing, preservation? A perfect Bible without it being preserved is not worth anything. The Conservative scholars know this, but because of

their perceived notions, they try to explain it away. Again I am referring to Lindsell's book because it expresses the convictions of all the Conservative scholars I know.

*Most evangelical writers and indeed many of the doctrinal statements that support inerrancy speak of it in connection with the autographs, that is, the original Scriptures as penned by the inspired writers. No one claims that the autographs exist, and certain questions must be addressed as a result of this.*

*No doubt, God did not intend for the autographs to be preserved.*

*God did not shield Scripture when it became a part of history.*

*But in the providential care of God, He has preserved the Scriptures for us so that they have remained unadulterated, by which we mean free from error.*

*Any student of lower criticism (Textual Criticism) admits that there have been copyists' mistakes made by those who diligently sought to reproduce the books of the Bible by hand. But a copyist's mistake is something entirely different from an error in Scripture. A misspelled or a misplaced word is a far cry from error, by which is meant a misstatement or something that is contrary to fact.*

*Textual problems today in no way make the doctrine of Biblical inerrancy impossible. (The statements above were extracted from Lindsell's book on pages 36 and 37.)*

How can we apply inerrancy to such as this? Let me get this straight. Only the Original Autographs are inerrant, and we have none of the Autographs today. The Textual Critics (most of them Liberal theologians) looks over the available manuscripts and determine what was in the Original Manuscripts and what was not. They then put it all together and the Conservatives call it an inerrant Bible. The biggest problem I have with all of this is the modern inerrant Bible has serious doctrinal disagreements with the King James Bible, and all other traditional Bibles, and besides that they even disagree about many doctrinal issues among and within themselves.

I think the Conservatives totally missed the boat on inerrancy and preservation because God said He gave us perfect Words, recorded them in heaven, and would personally see to their preservation for all generations. Inerrancy does not even hint at God not protecting His Word.

To prove this point let's look at a few Scriptures that is in the Bible.

### **Psalms 12:6-7**

6 The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times.

7 Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever.

If the Bible is inerrant, these words have to be true, and for them to be true God must keep His promise to preserve them forever. He did not promise to keep concepts, not ideas, or even scholarly restored original manuscripts, but He did promise to keep every Jot and Tittle of His pure Words just as He gave them. It is impossible to explain this away as the Conservative scholars try to do. If one believes in inerrancy he has to accept preservation as God's way of keeping the Bible pure for all generations, and, if it has been preserved in its pure form, it has never been lost. This is confirmed by the Bible itself.

**Psalms 119:89**

89 For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven.

Exactly where does the inerrant Bible say God's Words are recorded? It clearly states that they are settled or recorded in heaven. Things in heaven never change because God never changes.

**Matthew 5:18**

18 For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.

**Matthew 24:35**

35 Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.

**John 5:46-47**

46 For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me.  
47 But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words?

**John 8:47**

47 He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God.

The above Scriptures from the inerrant Bible are expressed as plain as God can possibly make them, but they mean nothing to the conditional inerrantist. The self prescribed Conservative scholars and all who follow them will have to answer to God one of these days and it won't be party time for God's inerrant Word tells us and them of their final abode.

**Revelation 22:18-19**

18 For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book:

19 And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

The error of the Conservative scholars is they want their cake and eat it too. They want so strongly to be like the Moderates, but don't want to admit it, so they dream up fancy ideas of how to circumvent God's Word and still pretend they are OK. They all know better, but pride, recognition, and false knowledge are more important to them than pleasing God. They wreak God's vengeance upon themselves, but are not pleased with that because they are striving to take unsuspecting millions of others along with them.

The goats will be separated from the sheep one of these days just as the inerrant Bible says, and there will be many who will be weeping and wailing, but too late.

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### **Matthew 7:21-23**

21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

## GOATS IN THE SHEEP HERD

**And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. Matthew 25:32-33**

### Chapter 5

#### The Moderate Scholar's Error

The Moderate Scholars always try to set themselves apart from the Conservatives by splitting hairs about their views concerning the Bible. You will find in this group many beliefs about the trustworthiness of the Bible ranging from it being a book of myths and tales, to presenting concepts of God's. They will tell you it is safe in general terms for faith and practice, but on the other hand it is has many errors, and is not trustworthy in areas of history and science.

The Moderate Scholars (Textual Critics) feverishly seek to restore the Bible to its Original Wording while all the time they don't believe even the Original Words were divinely inspired. To give the reader an idea of their mindset, here are a few of the so-called canons of Textual Criticism. Keep in mind, even though it is not listed, all Textual Critics start with the underlying premise that the Bible must be treated as any other book of literature.

#### Critical Rules of Textual Criticism

The following summary of principles is taken from the compilation in Epp and Fee, *Studies in the Theory and Method of New Testament Textual Criticism* (1993, pages 157-8). References in parentheses are to sections of Hort's Introduction, from which the principles have been extracted.

**1. Older readings, manuscripts, or groups are to be preferred.** (*"The shorter the interval between the time of the autograph and the end of the period of transmission in question, the stronger the presumption that earlier date implies greater purity of text."*) (2.59; cf. 2.5-6, 31)

**2. Readings are approved or rejected by reason of the quality, and not the number, of their supporting witnesses.** (*"No available presumptions whatever as to text can be obtained from number alone, that is, from number not as yet interpreted by descent."*) (2.44)

**3. A reading combining two simple, alternative readings is later than the two readings comprising the conflation, and manuscripts rarely or never supporting conflate reading are text antecedent to mixture and are of special value.** (2.49-50).

**4. The reading is to be preferred that makes the best sense, that is, that best conforms to the grammar and is most congruous with the purport of the rest of the sentence and of the larger context. (2.20)**

**5. The reading is to be preferred that best conforms to the usual style of the author and to that author's material in other passages. (2.20)**

**6. The reading is to be preferred that most fitly explains the existence of the others. (2.22-23)**

**7. The reading is less likely to be original that combines the appearance of an improvement in the sense with the absence of its reality; the scribal alteration will have an apparent excellence, while the original will have the highest real excellence. (2.27, 29)**

**8. The reading is less likely to be original that shows a disposition to smooth away difficulties (another way of stating that the harder reading is preferable). (2.28)**

**9. Readings are to be preferred that are found in a manuscript that habitually contains superior readings as determined by intrinsic and transcriptional probability. Certainty is increased if such a better manuscript is found also to be an older manuscript (2.32-33) and if such a manuscript habitually contains readings that prove themselves antecedent to mixture and independent of external contamination by other, inferior texts (2.150-51). The same principles apply to groups of manuscripts (2.260-61).**

The Textual Critics produce collated Old Testament Hebrew and New Testament Greek texts which they refer to as the Originals. All modern versions of the Bible have some form of these Critical Texts as their foundational documents.

After the Textual Critic finishes his routine of determining what he thinks is the wording of the Original Biblical Document, the translators then take over. The translator's job is to translate the Critical Text into the appropriate language. Practically every translator has his own ideas about the Bible and what each word should mean; hence the many versions of the Bible which say so many different things.

By their own methods and rules in manipulating the text, whether it is criticism or translation, it is evident that any Bible produced by this scholarly profession will have a Moderate leaning. They start with a text devised by secular rules, they translate the text using secular rules, and consequently the only outcome possible is to produce a secular product.

Actually this is where the Moderate and Conservative minds meet for they both subscribe to the same methodology in trying to achieve a perfect Bible without including

the perfect God in the process. When you get to the bottom line, there is no difference between the two except rhetoric.

I attended Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary (SEBTS), at Wake Forest, North Carolina in the 1982 - 1985 time frame. At that particular time its President, Randall Lolly, claimed to be a Moderate. All the professors I had contact with fell into the same category; SEBTS presented a solid front of Moderatism. Since they claimed to be Moderates, I assume their philosophies and teachings were also Moderate which seemed far-left Liberal to me, and I must admit that it was a revelation for a naive Baptist country boy. But it served one purpose; I was exposed to the intellectual scholars in a way that I could never have experienced otherwise. Consequently, I have taken the teachings of my professors at SEBTS as the yardstick for measuring all Moderate beliefs in a Biblical sense. I discovered such great Moderate truths as:

The first eleven Chapters of Genesis is full of myths and tales and not one historical character is represented.

The Israelites were not a large race number of people who were led out of Egyptian captivity, but were instead a small group of slaves that escaped and the myth of the Mosaic record was generated by the priests to easier control the people.

Of course the parting of the Red Sea never happened, the escaped slaves waded across in ankle deep water if in fact this event ever occurred.

It is doubtful that a person named Moses ever existed, but his name represents several people whose exploits were combined to give him credibility; thus the Law was given to Moses.

Most of the familiar stories of the Old Testament never occurred, but were generated to give the Nation of Israel an historical background.

The Ten Commandments are of relative recent origin having been generated about 400 BC to help the priests control the masses.

The miracles of the Old Testament never happened. Only those things that can be proven scientifically are real.

The incident we call Noah's Flood was only a local happening and the whole earth was never covered with water.

The New Testament miracles are totally explainable as natural happenings.

John the Apostle did not write the Gospel carrying his name.

They tried to cast doubt on the Virgin Birth, the resurrection, and the ascension of Jesus.

The Book of Revelation should not be in the Bible as it was written in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Century by an unknown person named John and is a coded dissertation against the Roman authorities.

The Original Autographs are the works of inspired people much like the writings of inspired people today. Billy Graham's writings were given as an example as being just as inspired as the Bible.

There is no Satan and no Hell.

Everyone is going to Heaven.

These are a few of the basic beliefs of the Moderates as I know them, and should give the reader some insight into their mindset. How they separated themselves from the Liberals in a mystery to me, but they claimed not to accept them (whoever they were).

In the late eighties the Fundamentalists, as they called themselves then, but now like to be addressed as Conservatives, took over the administration of SEBTS. They claimed to have a mandate from God to lead the Seminary into making it a hallmark in Bible teaching and Christian example. The new administration set a goal to get rid of the hated Moderates and replace them with truly Conservative teachers and staff and make SEBTS a true model organization of Biblical truths. The question is, "Was this accomplished?"

It was to a degree for the Moderates all left, formed their own organization, the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, instituted their own seminary at Richmond University, and set about to wage war against the Conservatives. Since the Conservatives were in bed with the Moderates on the Bible version issue, they had to be very careful how they fought back for they needed the Moderate's intellectual resources to carry on their war against God's inerrant Word. The Moderates, being much aware of this, took full advantage of the Conservatives' intellectual gap and moved right back into the Seminary through their verbal opinions and published writings. The end result has been the Moderates have continued to influence the thinking of the Conservative professors which has had great influence on the thinking and beliefs of the seminary students.

If all this seems far fetched to the reader, I challenge you to walk through the SEBTS Book Store and look at the text books used in the class rooms. I did this some time ago and I discovered, for the most part, they are using the same old Liberal oriented books that I used as a student there. I can only deduce they are still teaching the same old Liberal tripe in the classrooms.

The point is the Moderate mindset is to discredit the Bible, set himself as the authority, influence as many people as he can, and continue to deceive the

Conservatives into spreading his lies and half truths. Whatever their strategy is it must be working for the Conservatives have bought it hook, line, and sinker.

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## **2 Timothy 3:1-7**

- (1) This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.
- (2) For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,
- (3) Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,
- (4) Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;
- (5) Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.
- (6) For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts,
- (7) Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

## GOATS IN THE SHEEP HERD

**And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. Matthew 25:32-33**

### Chapter 6

#### The Squabble between the Moderates and Conservatives

When I was a small lad, I observed a falling out between two of my relatives, and it worried me greatly. When I talked to my father about it, he said, "Don't pay it any attention, it's just a family squabble." In a short time I found out what he meant for the two dissenting parties resolved their differences and went about their lives as if nothing had happened.

I had a brother a few months older than me, and we were always disagreeing about something or another. Often times these disagreements evolved into what would appear as a terrible fist fight between the two of us, and if an outsider tried to stop the fight and we both turned on him. You see it was a family thing. It was OK for us to fight each other, but when someone else interfered, it was no longer family and we both joined up to defeat the common foe.

I tell these short stories to illustrate that the squabbling between the Moderates and Conservatives is strictly in the family. They do just fine until some solid Bible believer comes along and attacks their Golden Calf of Bible Criticism, and then they both jump on the bandwagon to defeat the perceived enemy. When they think they have properly put down the idiot who is stupid enough to believe God gave us inerrant Scriptures and then preserved them as He promised, they again get back to their routine of calling each other names and await the next challenge to their pet theories.

I know the fights seem real. It hasn't been too long ago that the Moderates in the Southern Baptist Convention got so angry about not having enough power that they stopped supporting the traditional SBC programs and formed their own organization which they identified as the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF). Notice they didn't totally separate from the Southern Baptist Convention, instead they hung around trying to cause the Conservatives as much grief as possible. If this is not a family squabble, I don't know what is.

The scenario goes something like this. The Conservatives take over the SBC at the national level, and totally dominate the SBC seminaries. The Moderates form their own seminary and then start a movement to infiltrate the churches and take over the Baptist schools at the state levels. All this squabbling is noticed by the secular press, it totally dominates SBC and CBF literature, and everybody thinks they are fighting over some important doctrine. They both try to infer it is about the Bible, but when two

organizations affirm the Biblical efforts of each other, and then squabble about something else, the separating issue is clearly not about the Bible.

The logical question at this point is, "If the squabble is not about the Bible, then what is the real reason for the battle between the Moderates and the Conservatives?" The obvious answer is the age old quest for money, control, and power.

It is a well known fact that many SBC executives make large annual salaries, some which approach or exceed a half million dollars. This is a prize worth fighting for as most people will generally let the promises of riches override one's convictions about the Gospel of Jesus Christ. For the most part when a person gets to this high salary level he no longer thinks like a servant of God, but more like a secular executive. He even gets to believing he deserves it as he and his cohorts devise new and innovative plans to get churches to give to the Cooperative Program which they then budget out as they please.

Along with the money question there is also the issue of control of people and resources. This has always been a weakness of mankind. Certain types of personalities have always had some kind of inherent need to control others. They set the rules, enforce the rules, and punish those who break them. When a person is at a certain level, he no longer calls it control; he then redefines it as management. While management is a good and valid word, it is no longer management when a person gets so full of himself that he no longer considers the effect his actions have on people; at this point it becomes control.

When a person gets money and control, he naturally acquires a sense of power. He is in charge and no one had better dare disagree with his decisions. After all he is the boss. We see this today in the SBC Baptist Faith and Message. Somewhere along the power chain someone came up with the idea of changing it and making it into a creed. If they have a creed, they can make people think like them, and if they don't they will suffer the consequences of being expelled from the SBC. (This has already been instituted for employees of the SBC controlled agencies.)

The Moderates and Conservatives argue they know what is best for each other, and the rhetoric seems to indicate a heated battle on both sides as they defend their respective positions. But, if you listen carefully, you'll hear they're both saying the same thing to the rank and file, "We know what is best for you." Both sides call it love, and then demonstrate to the world they are really about hate, and they do this in the name of God.

The Bible, even the counterfeit ones, gives only one test for true disciples of Jesus, and this is found in John 13:34-35.

**John 13:34-35**

34 A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.

35 By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

Both Moderates and Conservatives have failed the test.

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### **John 15:1-11**

- (1) I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.
- (2) Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.
- (3) Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.
- (4) Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.
- (5) I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.
- (6) If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.
- (7) If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.
- (8) Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.
- (9) As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love.
- (10) If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.
- (11) These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.

## GOATS IN THE SHEEP HERD

**And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. Matthew 25:32-33**

### Chapter 7

#### The Two Voices of God

Granted, this is a strange title for a chapter, but according to the Textual Critics, God has spoken to the world for 1900 years in one voice, and is now speaking to us in another. The old Bibles said one thing and the new Bibles say something entirely different. This is brought about because they have different underlying texts. Even though there are similarities between the two, there are major differences in doctrines and wordings. As one writer put it, "Things that are different are not the same."

The Traditional Text, or the Majority Text as the critics like to call it, is the underlying Greek for the King James Bible and all English Bibles prior to 1611. It stood the test of time for over 1900 years before modern Textual Criticism came into vogue and placed their faith in a small number of corrupt Greek manuscripts. "The oldest manuscript is the most correct" they proclaim without taking into account such things as where it was developed, who developed it, and other older trusted resources that contradict them. They have made up their minds that they will not entertain any thought that supports the Textus Receptus which is the basis of the hated King James Bible.

Contrary to what many of these scholars think or say, the Traditional Text finds support in the majority (approximately 90%) of the old manuscripts and many of the early Christian writings that dates back to the 1st and 2<sup>nd</sup> centuries.. A case in point is 1John 5:7, which is a direct formula for the Trinity. The Textual Critics say it was not in the Original Autographs and should be left out of the Bible (and it is left out of the modern versions). However, it is found in the writings of Irenaeus (120-202 A.D.) and Cyprian (200-258 A.D.). According to the Textual Critics, the earliest Greek manuscripts available today were written around 350 A.D. and the Greek always takes priority over the translated word regardless of when it was written. The earlier writings offer substantial proof of the original wordings and it would be solid evidence of the correct rendering of the Bible that would satisfy any jury in a court of law.

The Textual Critics say that by studying and collating the 5,000 plus extant Greek manuscripts and fragments according to their Canons of Textual Criticism, they have developed a composite Greek text (Critical Text) which is practically identical to the Original Manuscripts. However, they don't tell you that their "Original Autographs" are based on only two or three of the existing manuscripts because one of their Canons of Textual Criticism is, "The Oldest manuscript is the best." Consequently, they ignore the evidence of the early Christian writers. (TWOGISTATES Publishers has a booklet on this subject titled, *The Pseudoscience of Biblical Criticism* if you would like further information on this subject.)

We have two distinctly different Biblical manuscripts underlying our Bibles, the Traditional Text, and the Critical Text. In many places they say totally different things. The end result is that the different manuscripts either present two gods, or even worse, one God with two different messages. Either choice presents a problem for the Christian who is searching for God's infallible Word. It is at best confusing and at worse satanic. A brief history of the two manuscripts will help clarify this point.

There are approximately 5000 Greek manuscripts and fragments of the New Testament available today. None of these presents the Bible in its entirety, so we are left with a text made up of the various manuscripts based on the opinions of the many Bible scholars. This is called a Critical Text. All Bibles, both in the past and today, are derived from a Critical Text to some extent. (Incidentally each new Bible version is based on some variation of the Critical Text as the translators change choice words to suit their own ideas, opinions, and beliefs.)

It is generally accepted that there are two major lines of descent for the texts of the existing English Bibles. The English Bible, up to and including the King James, used a text derived from the manuscripts endorsed by the church starting with the Christians at Antioch (Traditional Text). All modern Bibles, use a text derived from a path leading through Egypt (Critical Text). The two texts agree in most places, but there are major disagreements between them that have significant influence on Biblical doctrinal issues. Consequently, the resulting translations from these two texts produce two totally different Bibles.

The texts underlying the King James Bible can be traced back to Antioch. This is where the Christian church as we know it prospered and was blessed. It, in a sense is a picture of the true church today. The scholars tell us the oldest manuscript of this line can be traced only to the 5<sup>th</sup> Century A.D. This may be true, but it is not the whole story for the wordings and doctrines of the Traditional Text can easily be traced back to the first and second centuries as shown in surviving Bibles and Christian writings of that time.

The Critical Text is a fairly recent invention of the Liberal Bible correctors who use basic rules of Textual Criticism that were perfected by two English scholars, Westcott and Hort. They were the leaders in the committee to update the King James Bible in the late 1800's and coerced most of the other members of the committee to accept their new Greek text derived by applying their theories of Textual Criticism. It was Westcott's and Hort's intention at the onset to discredit the King James Bible and its underlying documents, and they sold their plan in its entirety without noticeable opposition. The culmination of their efforts was published in England in 1887 as the Revised Version. The American version was published in 1901 as the American Standard Version. All subsequent English versions have been influenced by the works of the English Revision Committee,

The whole aim behind the Textual Criticism scheme is to discredit the King James Bible which is a threat to Satan because it alone presents the inspired truths of God. Many good scholars have bought into this deception because they either refuse to look at the evidence, or have placed personal acceptance by their colleagues above God's approval. In either case they have helped perpetrate the two gods myth, contributed to the confusion of which Bible is God's Word, and have left the unsaved world with the perception that the Bible is just another book of fiction.

The deception starts with the men who have given us the Critical Texts underlying the modern versions of the Bible. The two most prevalent documents are the Nestle's and United Bible Society's Texts. These texts started their lives with slightly different wordings but today they read exactly the same as they both are derived by the same five men, Kurt Aland, Matthew Black, Carlo M. Martini, Bruce Metzger, and Allan Wikgren.

To give an idea of how far out these scholars are/were here is a report from *Way of Life News and Notes* by David Cloud.

CHIEF TEXTUAL CRITICS DENY THE BIBLICAL CANON. Friday Church News Notes, February 14, 2003 (David W. Cloud, Fundamental Baptist Information Service, P.O. Box 610368, Port Huron, MI 48061-0368, fbns@wayoflife.org) - *Two of the most prominent names in textual criticism are Bruce Metzger and the late Kurt Aland. Not only have they plainly denied the infallible inspiration of the Scripture, but they also do not believe that the canon of Scripture is settled. The following is from Dr. Thomas Strouse, Dean, Emmanuel Baptist Theological Seminary in Newington, Connecticut: "I came across this info recently regarding Bruce Metzger and Kurt Aland's denials of a permanent fixed NT canon in McDonald and Sanders book entitled The Canon Debate, Hendrickson Publ., 2000 (p. 3). Aland thought 2 Peter and Revelation could be jettisoned from the NT for the sake of Christian unity and Metzger believed in theory that the canon could be changed but that this would not promote Christian unity! These architects behind the modern Critical Text had no regard either for God's Words or His Canon. Those evangelicals and fundamentalists using the CT or associating with those using the CT are dangerously close to revelational apostasy, which these two heretics promoted. These two men have completely disregarded the Lord's revelation in ANY FORM. The quotes are from the following books: Kurt Aland, The Problem of the NT Canon (London: Mowbray, 1962), pp. 28-33; and Bruce Metzger, The Canon of the NT: Its Origin, Development, and Significance (Oxford: Clarendon, 1987), p. 275."*

To further illustrate how the texts of the King James Bible and the Critical Text present different gods, let us compare a few scriptures from a popular English translation, the New International Version and the King James Bible.

**Philippians 2:6 KJB**

6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

**Philippians 2:6 NIV**

6 Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped,

Either Jesus knew He was equal with God as the KJB says, or He couldn't grasp the idea as the NIV says. This clearly presents two Jesus; one is the God of the KJB or the other is the god of the NIV.

**1 John 5:7 KJB**

7 For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.

**1 John 5:7 NIV**

7 For there are three that testify:

The Critical Text takes 1 John 5:7 completely out of the Bible and combines it with the next verse. There is a big difference between "These three are one" and "Three that testify." Again the Critical Text presents another god.

There are two explanations to these and other discrepancies; (1) The text underlying the KJB is wrong and God has allowed the world to be misled for almost two thousand years, or (2) realizing He was wrong after two thousand years, He decided to call on scholars who don't believe Him to correct His mistakes.

I cannot and will not accept that God makes mistakes. The God I worship would not deceive His people for two thousand years and then change His instructions to mankind without even an apology. He has always used only godly men to present His Word to the people. In addition He promised to preserve His Words in Psalms 12:6-7 for all generations. Even the Critical Text has this reference in it, but the developers of this text simply don't believe it.

**Psalms 12:6-7 KJB**

6 The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times.

7 Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever.

**Psalms 12:6-7 ASV**

(6) The words of Jehovah are pure words; As silver tried in a furnace on the earth, Purified seven times.

(7) Thou wilt keep them, O Jehovah, Thou wilt preserve them from this generation for ever.

However the scholars changed their minds to ease their consciences by the time the NIV was printed in 1978. It reads somewhat different and quite frankly doesn't make much sense for it no longer addresses the preservation of the Scriptures, but instead there is a statement about protecting the Israelites from some unnamed people. This statement has nothing to do with the topic in the previous verse about Jehovah's Words, but it certainly does condemn the Bible correctors who don't accept Providential Preservation.

### **Psalms 12:6-7 NIV**

(6) And the words of the LORD are flawless, like silver refined in a furnace of clay, purified seven times.

(7) O LORD, you will keep us safe and protect us from such people forever.

I know all about the claim of the Conservative factions that they believe in the inerrant Original Manuscripts. They ignore the promise of God to preserve His Word for all generations, and join hands with the moderates to produce a product that basically calls God a liar.

I have a serious problem with this because I cannot and will not accept that I worship a God that lies and cannot depend on His Word, but this is what the Textual Critic expects us to accept. His concept of God naturally leads to one conclusion, there are two gods. One as presented in the manuscripts underlying the King James Bible, and another presented in the Critical Text.

I know the Textual Critics say we all are worshipping the same God; it's just that they seem to think they understand Him much better than we who believe in Providential Preservation as the Scriptures promised. I wouldn't go so far as to say they are lost, but God can if one believes the Bible, and here is what God said about messing with His Word:

### **Revelation 22:18-19 KJB**

18 For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book:

19 And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

Even the NIV has a few words to say about the issue. To me this is proof positive that the Textual Critics don't care about what the Bible says or they would be fearful of the work they are doing in changing God's Word.

### **Revelation 22:18-19 NIV**

18 I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book.

19 And if anyone takes words away from this book of prophecy, God will take away from him his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.

The God I worship is clear about the destiny of those who change His Word, and I accept that. The god of the Textual Critics is kind of wishy washy and really doesn't mean what he says, so this leaves them with a free hand to manipulate the words to say whatever they want them to. Their approach takes God's authority completely away from the Bible, places man in charge of telling God what He has said, and leaves the world totally without an authoritative Bible.

The challenge of Joshua rings out clear in my mind:

### **Joshua 24:15**

15 And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

\* \* \* \* \*

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### **Exodus 20:1-11**

- (1) And God spake all these words, saying,
- (2) I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.
- (3) Thou shalt have no other gods before me.
- (4) Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth:
- (5) Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;
- (6) And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.
- (7) Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.
- (8) Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.
- (9) Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work:
- (10) But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates:
- (11) For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.

## GOATS IN THE SHEEP HERD

**And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. Matthew 25:32-33**

### Chapter 8

#### The Original Manuscripts

There seems to be much confusion among professing Christians about the original manuscripts as to what they include and where they are. This confusion is further compounded by pastors and scholars often referring to the "Originals" as if they have actual copies of the Bible as it was penned by the inspired writers. Even more confusion is induced in the mind when people they trust to know the Word tell them there are errors in the Bible. Obviously the experts are as confused as the lay people about the source, preservation, and importance of the Original Manuscripts.

The Bible was recorded by human hands over a period of approximately 1500 years. The book we call the Bible has never been made up into a complete book of Original Manuscripts, and in that light the Original Manuscript argument is moot. If we search the Old Testament we find that mostly all that was ever present were copies of the writings which were declared inspired by God. The New Testament falls into the same category for a group of Original New Testament Manuscripts bound together into one book has never existed in one place at any time in history either.

The true Bible believing person believes that God inspired the Bible and that he called and ordained certain people to write His Words down. These Words were written down verbatim as God dictated them, and further God preserved them for all generations in their pure form. These God-inspired writings were never corrupted for God promised they would not be so, and further He promised to preserve them to prevent corruption. This is where the Conservatives and Moderates come together again to combat the promises of the God as they strive diligently to prove Him a liar.

The manuscripts of today's Bibles are essentially two, the Traditional Text and the corresponding Critical Text. The Traditional Text is made up of the Old Testament Hebrew Masoretic Text the New Testament Textus Receptus (Received Text). The Critical Text is made up by scholars who use totally different manuscript sources and opinions. The Jews were assigned the responsibility by God to protect the Old Testament in its true form and the same responsibility was assigned to the church for the New Testament documents. The Critical Texts are man's futile attempt to discredit God's authority and place their own authority in His place, and here is the heart of the dilemma for the Conservatives and the Moderates for they claim each other is wrong and then totally embrace the ungodly doctrines of Textual Criticism.

To give the reader a brief view of the problem lets look at the Biblical views of one of the men who gave us the modern critical text, Bruce Metzger. (As I have previously mentioned, he is one of the five people who developed the Modern Greek Text.)

Bruce Metzger was the sole editor of the Readers Digest Condensed Bible, and was the sole writer of the footnotes which adequately explain many of his beliefs and convictions. It is here where we can get insight into some of his thinking about the trustworthiness of the Bible. Here are a few of the notes:

*Genesis: "Nearly all modern scholars agree that, like the other books of the Pentateuch, Genesis is a composite of several sources, embodying traditions that go back in some cases to Moses."*

*Exodus: "As with Genesis, several strands of literary tradition, some very ancient, some as late as the sixth century B.C., were combined in the makeup of the books" (Introduction to Exodus).*

*Deuteronomy: "It's compilation is generally assigned to the seventh century B.C., though it rests upon much older tradition, some of it from Moses' time."*

*Daniel: "Most scholars hold that the book was compiled during the persecutions (168-165 B.C.) of the Jewish people by Antiochus Epiphanes."*

*John: "Whether the book was written directly by John, or indirectly (his teachings may have been edited by another), the church has accepted it as an authoritative supplement to the story of Jesus' ministry given by the other evangelists."*

*1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus: "Judging by differences in style and vocabulary from Paul's other letters, many modern scholars think that the Pastorals were not written by Paul."*

*James: "Tradition ascribes the letter to James, the Lord's brother, writing about A.D. 45, but modern opinion is uncertain, and differs widely on both origin and date."*

*2 Peter: "Because the author refers to the letters of Paul as scripture, a term apparently not applied to them until long after Paul's death, most modern scholars think that this letter was drawn up in Peter's name sometime between A.D. 100 and 150."*

With these few notes the reader can clearly see that Bruce Metzger did not subscribe to a God inspired Bible. He doesn't even shroud his unbelief with the Original Manuscripts myth because he does not believe a God inspired Bible ever existed. Keep in mind that Bruce Metzger was the driving force behind the texts that

underlie all modern versions of the Bible and his unbelief is central throughout the Critical Texts.

Here is where the real problem comes in for the Moderates and Conservatives.

The moderates are solidly in the Metzger camp, and they agree with him wholeheartedly. They claim to be seeking the wording of the Original Manuscripts in which they don't believe as being inspired by God. They then throw around such statements as "The Original Manuscripts say such and such" as if they actually have them in their presence. They don't care what the Original Manuscripts say, they only want to be the authorities on what you read and believe.

The Conservatives claim to be above all this. They claim to believe in the inerrant Original Manuscripts, deny God has preserved them, embrace all Metzger and his confederates (Moderates and Liberals) produce, and then swear they have the Word of God up to a point. They also like to throw the "Original Manuscript" line out as if their false rhetoric is ordained by God. It is clear that the Conservatives are in bed with the moderates when it comes to Biblical Criticism, and they too have made Metzger and others like him their gods.

Where are the Original Manuscripts today? After the way the Moderates and Conservatives have touted their knowledge of the Originals, it might surprise the unsuspecting defenders of the modern Bible versions that not one single copy or even a fragment of the Original Manuscripts is in existence on earth today. In fact they have never existed in one place at any single time in history for they were written over a period of approximately 1,500 years. To illustrate this point here is a brief outline of one source's presentation of when the Books of the Bible were originally written. It is impossible to verify how accurate this is, but it illustrates the point well enough to show that the Bible was written over a long period of time by numerous authors.

Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy = Moses - 1400 B.C.  
Joshua = Joshua - 1350 B.C.  
Judges, Ruth, 1 Samuel, 2 Samuel = Samuel / Nathan / Gad - 1000 - 900 B.C.  
1 Kings, 2 Kings = Jeremiah - 600 B.C.  
1 Chronicles, 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah = Ezra - 450 B.C.  
Esther = Mordecai - 400 B.C.  
Job = Moses - 1400 B.C.  
Psalms = several different authors, mostly David - 1000 - 400 B.C.  
Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon = Solomon - 900 B.C.  
Isaiah = Isaiah - 700 B.C.  
Jeremiah, Lamentations = Jeremiah - 600 B.C.  
Ezekiel = Ezekiel - 550 B.C.  
Daniel = Daniel - 550 B.C.  
Hosea = Hosea - 750 B.C.  
Joel = Joel - 850 B.C.  
Amos = Amos - 750 B.C.

Obadiah = Obadiah - 600 B.C.  
 Jonah = Jonah - 700 B.C.  
 Micah = Micah - 700 B.C.  
 Nahum = Nahum - 650 B.C.  
 Habakkuk = Habakkuk - 600 B.C.  
 Zephaniah = Zephaniah - 650 B.C.  
 Haggai = Haggai - 520 B.C.  
 Zechariah = Zechariah - 500 B.C.  
 Malachi = Malachi - 430 B.C.  
 Matthew = Matthew - A.D. 55  
 Mark = John Mark - A.D. 50  
 Luke = Luke - A.D. 60  
 John = John - A.D. 90  
 Acts = Luke - A.D. 65  
 Romans, 1 Corinthians, 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians,  
 Colossians, 1 Thessalonians, 2 Thessalonians, 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus,  
 Philemon = Paul - A.D. 50-70  
 Hebrews = unknown, (Early writers attribute Hebrews to Paul.) - 65 A.D.  
 James = James - A.D. 45  
 1 Peter, 2 Peter = Peter - A.D. 60  
 1 John, 2 John, 3 John = John - A.D. 90  
 Jude = Jude - A.D. 60  
 Revelation = John - A.D. 90

Exactly how did God preserve His Holy Word? The Bible says the accurate perpetual preservation of the Old Testament was assigned to the Jews, and the same responsibility for the New Testament's was given to the Christian church.

The Jews tell us we have an accurate preserved copy of the Old Testament "Originals" in the Hebrew Masoretic Text which underlies the King James Bible. The question always arises, "How do we know it was preserved accurately?" This was assured by the rules the copyists have to follow when they copied the Holy Scriptures.

1. The parchment must be made from the skin of a clean animal (clean meaning ceremonially clean according to the Old Testament sanitary laws); must be prepared by a Jew only, and the skins must be fastened together by strings taken from clean animals.

2. Each column must have no less than forty-eight, nor more than sixty lines. The entire copy must be first lined.

3. The ink must be of no other color than black, and it must be prepared according to a special recipe.

4. No word or letter could be written from memory; the scribe must have an

authentic copy before him, and he must read and pronounce aloud each word before writing it.

5. He must reverently wipe his pen each time before writing the word for "God" (Elohim), and he must wash his whole body before writing the name "Jehovah" (LORD in our King James Bibles), lest the Holy Name be contaminated.

6. Strict rules were given concerning forms of the letters, spaces between letters, words, and sections, the use of the pen, the color of the parchment, etc.

7. The revision (to correct any errors) of a roll must be made within thirty days after the work was finished; otherwise it was worthless. One mistake on a sheet condemned the entire sheet. If three mistakes were found on any page, the entire manuscript was condemned.

8. Every word and every letter was counted, and if a letter was omitted, or if an extra letter was inserted, or if two letters touched one another, the manuscript was condemned and destroyed at once.

It is quite clear that the methods used by the Jews to make copies of the Holy Scriptures insured the Old Testament was well preserved, and because of their diligence we can be confident that we have today an accurate copy of the original manuscripts. This Hebrew Text is identified as the Masoretic Hebrew Text, and is the underlying document of the Old Testament in the Traditional Bible.

The New Testament documents were not as meticulously copied as the Old Testament, but God had a plan to preserve His Word for all generations. Keep in mind that Satan also had a plan to corrupt the Word and give the world a counterfeit. The true church of Jesus Christ guarded the Greek Text and made sure it was passed down from generation to generation just as God had given it. This is known by Bible believers today as the Textus Receptus or Traditional Text. The false church (led by Satan) came up with a Greek Text that supported their deviation from God's instructions, and has passed this on to the modern scholars as the authentic Word. The unbelieving scholars have bought into this lie, and it fits well with Satan's scheme to keep unsaved people from knowing the truth and to cause division among God's people.

Neither Moderates nor Conservatives accept either the Hebrew Masoretic Text or the Greek Textus Receptus as authentic copies of the Original Documents and promote instead the Critical Texts as their underlying Hebrew and Greek sources. They have labored hard to recover the original words of Satan's corrupt text and have probably come pretty close to the original Hebrew and Greek texts as Satan gave them. When anyone makes statements about the "Originals," they are speaking of these corrupt Hebrew and Greek texts.

It is perfectly clear that the Moderates and Conservatives totally agree on this vital issue of Textual Criticism. They both support the Critical Texts produced by unbelieving scholars such as Bruce Metzger, both hype their preference for the Bibles produced using these corrupt texts, and then have the audacity to say they both are not doing and saying the same things. Either both groups are deliberately lying, or they are made up of the stupidest people on earth and are not able to distinguish between black and white, right and wrong, or good and bad. Regardless of the intellectual language, the high sounding rhetoric, the flashing of the various credentials, the recitation of Biblical authorities, there is not enough difference between the Moderates and Conservatives to measure; they are all enemies of God's preserved Word.

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## **2 Corinthians 2: 17**

(17) For we are not as many, which corrupt the word of God: but as of sincerity, but as of God, in the sight of God speak we in Christ.

## GOATS IN THE SHEEP HERD

**And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. Matthew 25:32-33**

### Chapter 9

#### Faith in What?

All people have faith in something. The skydiver has faith in his parachute, the seaman has faith in his boat, the pilot has faith in his airplane, the Textual Critic has faith in his theories, the translator has faith in his intellect, the average person has faith in his opinion, and the typical church member has faith in his pastor. However, regardless of how strong one's faith may be in any of these things, eventually it will fall short of expectations and let a person down. Parachutes will fail to open, boats will sink, textual theories will change, intellect capacity will decrease, opinions are notoriously unreliable, and pastors will prove to have feet of clay.

Faith in the examples given is really not faith in the Biblical sense, but is actually personal conviction based on knowledge and experience. It is more in the realm of belief and chance than it is in the universe of certainty as presented in the Bible. God requires unwavering, unchanging faith for salvation and satisfactory Christian living. When Jesus told Nicodemus about salvation He was referring to faith as recorded in John 3:16:

16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

The "believeth in Him" cited here is faith in action. It emphasizes that there is only one way to be saved and that is through faith in Jesus Christ as God's only begotten Son. Implied in this is the whole of the Gospel of Jesus, the only begotten Son of God, who came to this earth in the form of a human to show the world God's way. And to prove He is who He says He is, He died on the cross to pay the sin offering for mankind, and for those who will accept it unconditionally, He promises everlasting life.

After salvation faith becomes the sustaining force in the Christian's life. It is the sum total of all his actions, his behavior, his relationships, his lifestyle, and is the basis for his daily walk with Christ. This is accurately expressed in Romans 1:16-17:

#### **Romans 1:16-17**

16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

“The just shall live by faith.” Who are the just but those who have been justified before God who accepted by faith the record He has provided in the Bible. In Romans 1:16 it is expressed as the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

### **Romans 1:16**

(16) For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

Exactly what is saving faith? It is separated from imagination by its realness. Saving faith is not an illusion, nor is it something we turn on and off at will, it is imbedded in the very being of the Christian's soul and just as real as all the material things in heaven and earth. Faith, to be true saving faith, must be something beyond ourselves that we know beyond a shadow of a doubt that it is true. It is a part of our very being that is acknowledged with the mind, experienced with all the senses, and drives our daily living. True saving faith will generate a desire to tell others about the Gospel and will motivate us to be strong witnesses wherever we may find ourselves.

Saving faith then has to be something beyond the concept of human understanding, but is known with certainty because of the presence of the Holy Spirit in one's life. This is where the divine element that only comes from God comes into play, and without this divine element, there is no salvation, and no hope. To get a better understanding of this, let's look at Hebrews 11:1-3 where God laid out exactly what faith must be like to be effective.

### **Hebrews 11:1-3**

- 1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.
- 2 For by it the elders obtained a good report.
- 3 Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.

The first thing we notice is that faith must have substance, that is to say it is just as real as anything we can comprehend with our minds and senses, It must be just as real as material things we see such as the rocks, the trees, and the water. It must also be just as real as the invisible things we know exists such as the air we breathe, the wind we feel, and the heat and the cold we sense. It must also be as real as the unexplainable things we acknowledge such as our thoughts and desires. Without all these witnesses, faith cannot bring about salvation because it has no real substance and it will not carry one through life. Real faith, because it has substance, will sustain us in all circumstances, but imaginary faith, because it has no substance, will desert us when the trying times come.

The question of faith comes up like a red flag in the modern day Christian world, and all the issues of life as they are presented to the professing Christian are not about

who is right and who is wrong, but it is solely about faith. If a scholar, a preacher, a fellow Christian, or some unsaved person tells you there are errors in the Bible, how do you react? I suspect many would say, "Which version are you talking about?" This is the natural reaction in today's Bible world for it has been flooded with so many Bible versions that say so many different things that the average person is totally confused. People just don't know what to believe or how to approach the problem logically and here is the first mistake most people make for logic is not God's way.

If God's ways were presented logically from a human standpoint, we wouldn't need Him for man could figure everything out himself. God himself said His ways are not man's way, in fact He said man's wisdom is foolishness before God. In 1 Corinthians 3:18-20 we read:

### **1 Corinthians 3:18-20**

18 Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise.

19 For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness.

20 And again, The Lord knoweth the thoughts of the wise, that they are vain.

If one truly believes God's Word, this should be enough evidence to warn him that God is not fooling with man's wisdom. He is instead emphasizing that all Christians need to rely on Him and Him alone, for the right understanding of the things of God.

All people have faith of some kind for all Biblical reliance comes from faith whether it is total rejection or total acceptance. Those who reject the Bible have a faith that what they believe about the Bible is completely true and don't even address the possibility they could be wrong. Their faith comes from Satan. On the other hand those who fully accept the Bible as God's Holy Word, understand its message of salvation, give their hearts to the Lord, and try to live by its precepts, have a faith that comes from God. This is true Biblical faith.

The issue all Christians must address if they really want to please God is try and grasp how their faith is related to the Bible version issue. In order to fully comprehend the spiritual ramifications this issue has on faith, one must approach it without doubting the Bible is God's inerrant Word; it is all truth without even a hint of error. Now lock this thought in your mind and then begin your search for the Bible that best represents God's Word. In this quest you must ignore the rhetoric of the scholars, the error laden preachers, the opinions of your friends, forget you own thoughts, and let God guide you through the process.

The first thing you need to ascertain is what the Bible says about itself. A good starting place is 2 Timothy 3:16-17:

### **2 Timothy 3:16-17**

16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

17 That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.

“All scripture is given by inspiration of God.” Let this thought permeate your brain and accept it as a fact. All Scripture is referring to the 66 Books of the Bible. In other words the entire Bible is given by the inspiration of God. If you can't accept this as a fact, you have no where to go for your faith in God is too weak to sustain you.

But if your faith is strong enough towards God to accept the fact that He alone is responsible for giving us the Bible, you are on the right path to discover the whole truth about the Bible version issue. A follow on to the previous Scripture is Hebrews 4:12:

### **Hebrews 4:12**

12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

The cited Scripture points out the power of God's Word but only when it is accepted by faith. It is talking about faith with substance as we mentioned earlier. Keep in mind that among any group of professing Christians you will find many levels of faith regarding the Bible.

1. Those who don't believe the Bible.
2. Those who think there are errors in the Bible.
3. Those who think only the scholars can know and understand the Bible.
4. Those who are convinced they can't read and understand the Bible.
5. Those who are convinced they know the Bible intimately and have been appointed as God's spokesmen to set you straight.
6. Those who accept the Bible as God's Holy Word, but fully realize they are human and cannot even start to understand it without the help of the Holy Spirit.

Statement six is the only one that is in line with the Oracles of God, and the people in the other five will never come to the truth because of the focus of their faith. We read in James 1:5-6:

### **James 1:5-6**

5 If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

6 But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.

This is not man's, but God's wisdom. It is stressing the importance of rigid faith in getting answers from God. If our faith wavers we will not receive God's wisdom and will be subject to the world's answers to our questions.

This applies to all areas of the Christian life which includes the Bible version issue as well. The starting place is to ask yourself the question, "What is the basis for an inspired Bible in any language?" Obviously if you believe God, the Original Manuscripts immediately come to mind. If that is as far as you get in this quest, you are stuck with Hebrew and Greek documents which no longer exist. But according to the Bible, there must be some accurate copies somewhere. Here is what Jesus said about the preservation of the Scriptures in Matthew 5:18:

**Matthew 5:18**

18 For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.

Jots and tittles are very small parts of the Hebrew alphabet. Jesus said they'd be preserved until He fulfilled the plan of God. He also said in Matthew 24:35:

**Matthew 24:35**

35 Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.

The Old Testament was just as pointed about the preservation of the accurate Scriptures as given by God. We read in Psalms 12:6-7:

**Psalms 12:6-7**

6 The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times.

7 Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever.

If one is serious about his faith, wants to please the Lord, and trust the Bible as God's Holy Word, he cannot ignore such Scriptures as this. His Words are pure, and He shall preserve them forever. A Bible version that is not 100 per cent accurate does not fill the requirements of the Scriptures.

"All Bible versions are OK" is a commonly heard phrase among professing Christians. The question I ask is, "Who told you that?" The source of this information is extremely important. I suspect it originated with some unsaved scholar who perhaps told your pastor, and he repeated it without questioning it, or maybe you just came up with the idea yourself. If you believe this, it really doesn't matter where your source of information came from because it is totally wrong according to the Scriptures.

When we understand God never does anything in a vacuum, and he never leaves His children in the dark about any subject if they will only ask Him in faith. If you truly know God then you know full well that he has never used faithless men to record His Word! He never has and never will, for it is not in God's nature to use Satan to do His work.

Here are the main assumptions behind all modern versions of the Bible.

1. God is a liar for He promised to preserve His Word and didn't do it.
2. The Bible as we have known it for 2,000 years is full of errors and can't be trusted.
3. Biblical scholars are full of wisdom, and are fully capable of restoring the Bible to its original Hebrew and Greek texts.
4. Translators are also full of wisdom, and they can take the restored texts and accurately translate the Bible into any language.

Who needs God when man is so smart? So the scholars give us the texts, the translators give us the many versions of the Bible, which often times contradict each other, and man in his foolishness doesn't know the difference.

I can honestly say there is not one modern Bible version on the market today that God had any part of. They all started with man made manuscripts and were translated without the guidance of the Holy Spirit. They were marketed by smart publicists who know all about the laziness of the professed Christians in reading and researching for the truth. The entire assemblage of those involved in producing the modern Bibles are adept in playing Satan's role and taking advantage of the gullible Eves of the world. They have developed a totally new approach to the question, "Yea, hast God said?" and have subtly deceived unsuspecting multitudes to eat of the forbidden fruit. God's reply to the doubters is, "It is found in the Bible where I promised to preserve My Holy Word." The scholars immediately answer, "But You didn't do it and we now have something better than what You have provided for 2,000 years." The great financial success of the Bible version craze clearly shows that the world has bought the lie again, and just as it did for Adam and Eve, it is again causing the downfall of the people of God.

Assuming God didn't lie and that He has preserved His Holy word, where is it today? I can agree that God's intention was to preserve the texts in their original forms of Hebrew and Greek. He even put checks and balances in the system to make sure they were preserved in their pure state, the Jews for the Hebrew and the true church for the Greek, and that process had been religiously followed and accepted until the last 100 years or so. Alas, today hardly anyone believes this and faith suffers to the extent that Satan is ruling the day.

What makes a correct Bible translation? Actually it is quite simple. It must be translated from the preserved manuscripts by highly skilled men who are set apart by God for the task. Their sole aim must be to please God and they must seek His guidance through the Holy Spirit for every Jot and Tittle they come upon. They must overcome whatever scholarly pride they have and submit themselves fully to God's guidance. These men who are called of God and devote themselves to diligent study, have open minds, maintain a continuous prayer life, and respond to the guidance of the Holy Spirit, are the only people on this earth that can produce a true translation of the Bible. Even then God has to ordain them for the task. I defy anyone to show me even one modern Bible version that meets these criteria.

The argument is easily made that there have been all kinds of Bible versions down through the centuries that disagreed with each other and this is true, but let us keep in mind that just because the author calls it a Bible does not necessarily make it one. History validates that the Bible has always been a favorite book for corruption. Even when the Bible was being written, this was noted as a problem in 2 Corinthians 2:17 where it reads in part, "For we are not as many, which corrupt the word of God:"

When the Apostle John recorded the Book of Revelation, God placed a curse on the Bible corrupters as given in Revelation 22:18-19. Here we see the final abode of those who change God's Word.

### **Revelation 22:18-19**

18 For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book:

19 And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

God takes His Words seriously. Those who fool with them ought to know better, but the praise of men and profit is more important to them than their immortal souls. No one in his right mind who has ever seriously studied the Bible, and believed any part of it would take such a chance. The Bible calls these people false prophets, and it says in the latter days there will be many of them. 2 Peter 2:1-3 addressed this issue:

### **2 Peter 2:1-3**

1 But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.

2 And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evilly spoken of.

3 And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.

Peter calls them false teachers, but compares them to the false prophets of the Old Testament. There are several things we notice that they will do among the Christians:

“They will privily (secretly) bring damnable heresies.” Why in secret? They have to subtly deceive, because those even with a small smattering of faith will question anything that doesn’t line up with the Bible. Damnable heresies are those things that send people to hell. The worst of these heresies is denying the Lord, and any heresy accepted by the false teachers will bring about one’s destruction.

“Many will follow their pernicious ways.” This means highly injurious or destructive. Other words in the Bible that correspond to this are wicked and deadly. In following the false teachers’ pernicious ways people will speak evilly of the truth. In other words the truth will be called evil. What is truth? God is all Biblical Truth, and the lie is not in Him. How does one speak evilly of the truth? Simply by calling God a liar such as those who say that God did not preserve His Words as promised.

These false teachers “...through covetousness and with feigned words make merchandise of you...” In other words they will be marked by inordinate desire for wealth or possessions or for another’s possessions: having a craving for possession and covetous of power. How many scholars do you know who are not wealthy? They covet in two basic areas, they want your money, and they want your respect (worship). We as a society have been trained to give them both. I don’t know any poor Biblical scholars, and I know from experience that they demand total obedience or they won’t let you stay in their presence. They are the religious elite just as the Pharisees and Sadducees were in the days when Jesus walked the earth. Do you know who crucified Jesus? It was the religious elite. Do you know who is causing so much confusion and casting so much doubt in the Christian world today? It is the religious elite. Jesus condemned them then, and His Words condemn them now as well. In Matthew 23:13-15 we read:

### **Matthew 23:13-15**

13 But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in.

14 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye devour widows’ houses, and for a pretence make long prayer: therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation.

15 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves.

This Scripture tells me that the false teachers will not make it to heaven, and verse 15 says their proselytes won’t make it either. If you are on the modern version band wagon, you had best look carefully at what you believe and where you are going. You

may call Jesus Lord, Lord, but this won't get you to heaven, it takes a change of heart, full commitment, and rejection of the Pharisaic elements of false teachers.

I suggest you ask yourself what will happen to the people who support the Bible corrupters. I suppose God makes some allowance for ignorance, but He makes no allowance for ignorance that is self imposed. I'd be very careful about promoting a Bible that God had no hand in producing, it could just damn you. You are not doing God or yourself a favor by praising counterfeit Bibles that are produced by people who try to place restrictions on God's promise to eternally preserve His Word .

### **Romans 3:3-4**

3 For what if some did not believe? shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect?

4 God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged.

The point is someone's unbelief will not affect another's faith unless he lets it. The true born again believer will take God's side every time. God is always true and man has always been a liar when it comes to the things he doesn't understand. If one's faith does not have enough substance to believe in the promises of the Bible, it is not faith in God anyway, but is in reality faith in man.

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### **Hebrews 12:1-3**

(1) Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

(2) Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

(3) For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.

## GOATS IN THE SHEEP HERD

**And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. Matthew 25:32-33**

### Chapter 10

#### Neo-Evangelism

Moderates and Conservatives agree on the basic underlying precepts of Neo-Evangelism which is the basic foundation for all of the problems in the Christian churches today. (Neo is a theological term that simply means new.) In order to comprehend that the Moderates and Conservatives are singing from the same song book one needs to understand what Neo-Evangelism is about. The following article published by George Schafer, Pastor of Odenton Baptist Church, Odenton, Maryland expresses the movement well.

#### **What is Neo-Evangelicalism?**

In the early 1900's, when liberalism was rapidly flowing into many churches, the term "Fundamentalist" was coined to refer to those who insisted on separating themselves from the liberal corruption. Subsequently, labels such as "intolerant," "legalistic," and "divisive" have been attached to those men who would stand up and call a lie what it is, a lie; or to those who label and denounce error.

In the 1940's and 50's men such as Harold J. Okenga, Carl F. Henry and Billy Graham coined another term – "new evangelical." This term was intended to refer to those who opposed the practices of fundamentalists and sought to be identified separately from them. It is interesting that the very genesis of new evangelicalism involved the one thing that new evangelicals typically hate – separation.

Where the fundamentalist says that error should be identified, declared and shunned, the new evangelical says we should win over the errant ones through cooperation and dialogue. Inclusivism (i.e. the idea that many roads lead to God) is substituted for separation in areas of doctrine, behavior, and standards. Liberal scholarship and theology are courted and eventually embraced by this "friendly" new approach to dealing with error. False gospels even find companions in the new evangelical camp. Shyness and hesitance to name error is the result of this uncertainty over what truth is and what error is and when error should be confronted.

Whereas a Fundamentalist would identify and demote a man for reaching out to cooperate with the Catholic Church and it's false gospel, or for teaching

that grace means we have a license to sin however we want, or for carrying and promoting a perverted version of the Bible, the new evangelical would say nothing about these misguided acts but rather would insist on lifting up such a man for the good he has done in spite of the tremendous error that he propagates. As long as the false prophet has something good to contribute, new evangelicalism leaves him untouched. As long as the wolf has a nice sheep's costume, he is welcomed into the flock.

Ultimately, new evangelicalism says that if there is some good in it, the error should be overlooked. Hopefully, the error will go away and the good will be all that is left. What is a new evangelical? He is a person who ignores error in the presence of apparent good, usually even when the error is outrageous. The new evangelical would never separate from error, unless of course that error is fundamentalism or a fundamentalist.

Actually, the Bible is filled with new evangelicals. Take Eve, for example, she saw the good in the fruit and conducted a healthy dialogue with its chief proponent the serpent. The good didn't fare very well in that instance, did it? Abraham chose to mix truth and error when he had a child by his Egyptian handmaid Hagar. We are still facing the consequences of that ill conceived decision.

One thing is very clear: the Lord is not a new evangelical. He made a scourge of small cords and drove men out of the temple. "How impolite," some would say. Why, that is "divisive and legalistic" others would agree. There was another time when the Lord called men hypocrites in public. In fact, He did it three times (see Matthew 23). Isn't that a bit "intolerant" of Him? Actually, it is an example that we could all stand to follow.

Sooner or later we must face the fact that not everyone can be our friend, especially when we are in a battle. There is an enemy out there and there are traitors and deserters and they need to be labeled as such. When a warm and cozy relationship with anyone who names the name of Christ becomes our standard practice, we are running headlong into the new evangelical camp.

It is very clear that the world is looking for someone who will stand up and proclaim the truth and denounce that which is anything else. If a man will do that, he is following in the steps of the Lord Himself.

I am reminded of one easy way to kill a rat. The preferred method is to take a large quantity of something the rat enjoys eating, and then to place a small quantity of poison in it. As the rat enjoys his last meal, he might notice a bitter taste, but he would never give up all that good food. As Mr. Rat breathes his last breath, he pays the price for refusing to reject the bad simply because it was mixed with a lot of good. That is new evangelicalism.

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**Revelation 2:12-17**

(12) And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write; These things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges;

(13) I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth.

(14) But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.

(15) So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate.

(16) Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.

(17) He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.

## GOATS IN THE SHEEP HERD

**And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. Matthew 25:32-33**

### Chapter 11

#### The Goats of Neo-Evangelism

In general it seems no one cares one way or another about the issues of Bible preservation and inerrancy. The churches are growing at a phenomenal rate, mega churches are sprouting up everywhere, and just about everyone in America claims to be a Christian. New ways of worship are being developed to attract the unsaved, Christian rock concerts are drawing record crowds, television is showing more Bible related programs than ever before, and about every drug addict, drunkard, adulterer, homosexual, liar, cheater, thief, and murderer claims to be a Christian. What more could a loving God want?

This is easy to answer; He wants the profane separated from the holy. He wants the way He specified in the Bible to be the way of His children, and anyone who does not practice Christianity God's way is not of His family. In the modern world you can't tell the profane from the holy because they have become the same in the eyes of the masses, and those who don't make an effort to separate the two are not of God.

Inclusiveness (includes everybody) is the heart and soul of Neo-evangelism. Its adherents would say, "It doesn't matter what you believe just as long as you claim to believe something." They never consult the Bible for guidance, but rely on some Neo-evangelist leader to give them the truth, and they blindly follow him/her to their own destruction.

Moderates and Conservatives have common agreements about the basic underlying precepts of Neo-Evangelism. In order to comprehend they are both singing from the same song book one needs to understand what Neo-evangelism stands for. The following article published by the TA Ministries in Australia explains it well.

The modern "Evangelical Movement" has now been dubbed the "Neo-Evangelical movement" by many historians and church leaders. The reason for this is because the original Godly and Scriptural pillars and standards of Evangelicalism have been all but eroded away. The modern Evangelical movement now hardly resembles the original product. The term "Evangelical" was historically and doctrinally synonymous with the terms "Protestant" and "Sola Scriptura" (Scripture Alone). It came into being during the Reformation.

To be truly "Evangelical" in its original sense was to accept the Reformation pillars including Sola Fide (Faith alone) and Sola Scriptura. Books such as

*“Evangelicalism Divided”* by Liam Murray or its less expensive yet excellent summary *“The Unresolved Controversy”* detail the historic falling away from the original distinctives of Evangelicalism - a high view of Scripture alone; an emphasis on the Gospel; and a clear understanding of what a “Christian” is. In the mid 1940's several church leaders believed that Evangelicalism needed change. They did not mean to throw out fundamental doctrines but they wished to be more respectable to the world and to take Evangelicalism into a wider field. Many of their motives may have been genuine but were nevertheless incorrect and unbiblical.

These men began to penetrate colleges and institutions attempting to make Evangelicals and Evangelicalism acceptable even to liberal and secular leaders. This inevitably led to compromise. Compromise always lowers the original standard. Some of the factors hastening the falling away in Evangelical distinctives were caused by the early reactions to Fundamentalists who were vocal in their exposure of error and in their emphasis on separation. At the same time liberalism was flooding into many Evangelical Bible colleges. But by far the greatest erosion came with the rise of the ecumenical movement in the 1950's and 1960's.

In 1957 Billy Graham conducted his first ecumenical crusade and was immediately taken to task by Fundamentalists. John R. Rice the editor of “Sword of the Lord” of which Graham was a co-operating member of the board, wrote to Graham asking him if he could still sign the doctrinal statement of “...verbal inspiration of the Bible, the deity of Christ , His blood atonement , salvation by faith... opposing modernism, worldliness, and formalism. Graham replied that he could not and resigned. The impact of “mass evangelism” was to bring people together who otherwise would not have had any doctrinal unity. Doctrine slowly became a non issue. The impact of “pragmatism” in overriding Biblical principles for the sake of unity cannot be understated. Pragmatism essentially derives conclusions based on results, no matter how subjective the results are. Mass evangelism produced quick and deceptively convincing results. Yet the long term fruit of such has proved nothing short of devastating to the western church.

Graham further distanced himself from true Evangelicalism with his remarks about Charismaticism, a movement not considered “Evangelical” at the time. In *Christianity Today* he stated that, “By and large, it (Charismaticism) has been a positive force in the lives of many people.” So too his remarks concerning Roman Catholicism and the Pope further distanced him from Evangelicalism.

In 1979 Graham called The Neo-Evangelical Movement Pope John Paul II “the moral leader of the world,” (*Religious News Service*, Sept. 27, 1979). In an article about the Pope in 1980, Graham said, “Pope John Paul II has emerged as the greatest religious leader of the modern world, and one of the

greatest moral and spiritual leaders of the century”, (*Saturday Evening Post*, Jan./Feb. 1980).

Neo-Evangelicalism redefined the question, “What is a Christian?” This was once an important query. However, over the years the benchmark became: “all those who accept our Lord Jesus Christ as God and Saviour are Christians.” Of course this immediately included liberals, Roman Catholics and other false religions. The test of salvation came to be based on the profession or “decision” of faith in Jesus rather than the preaching of sin, repentance and a changed life.

The neo-evangelical tide continued to flow strongly... in 1969 major church leaders and authors such as J.I. Packer co-authored books with Roman Catholics. In the 1970's leaders such as John Stott were becoming increasingly ecumenical and universal in their attitude toward salvation and Christianity.

In the 80's and 90's serious dialogue began with Roman Catholics and other non Evangelical groups which led to the unprecedented signing of documents such as “Evangelicals & Catholics Together.” These documents involved key “Evangelicals” who allowed the mish mashing of terms such as “faith”, “baptism”, “the Gospel”, etc. into a melting pot of ecumenical sewage which tasted foul to true Evangelicals, yet sweet to the neo-Evangelicals. The fruit of the neo-evangelical movement which has been most noticeable, and to which the founders would not have perhaps wished, is the watering down of the Biblical doctrines of inerrancy, authority, and sufficiency.

With a falling away in the understanding of Sola Scriptura as it was originally taught, Pentecostals, Charismatics and even Roman Catholics openly called themselves “Evangelicals.” The final fruit was a “worldliness” or a new view of the world. Entertainment became a key to reaching the lost. Books with titles such as “*The Worldly Evangelical*” were applauded. Worship became experiential, entertaining, and subjective in seeking pleasure.

The Evangelical movement had opened the door to the world and the world had come in to take the movement out into the world. Notice that this entry into the world was not for the purpose of reaching out to the world in evangelism but rather to appease and cater to the world and its thinking.

The mentioned agreement, “Evangelicals and Catholics Together” is significant in that this is the first time the Moderates and Conservatives made such a bold statement of being of like mind. An article on the agreement was published on the internet by [religioustolerance.org](http://religioustolerance.org) which listed the names of the signers. Notice the names of prominent conservative leaders, especially those of Richard Land and Larry Lewis, conservative leaders in the Southern Baptist convention.

A group of leading American Roman Catholics and Evangelical Protestants joined together in September 1992 to seek unity between their two groups. They decided this step as “essential for continued missionary expansion into the third millennium.” They acknowledged that past conflicts were seen as crippling the progress of the Gospel. “Involving, as it did, both evangelical and Roman Catholic leaders, it was truly a monumental statement...it was an ecumenical document of supreme importance since it represented a combined effort by leading spokesmen to ‘bury the hatchet’...and work together as ‘teammates’ instead of antagonists...It laments the division between them and proposes a moratorium on Catholic / evangelical conflict.”

The document itself is quite long, but to give the reader an idea of the mindset and thinking of the signers, I have presented a short synopsis of some important points.

### WE AFFIRM TOGETHER

Jesus Christ is Lord. That is the first and final affirmation that Christians make about all of reality.

### WE HOPE TOGETHER

We hope together that all people will come to faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

### WE SEARCH TOGETHER

Together we search for a fuller and clearer understanding of God's revelation in Christ and His will for his disciples.

The church as an integral part of the Gospel or the church as a communal consequence of the Gospel.

The church as visible communion or invisible fellowship of true believers.

The sole authority of Scripture (sola scriptura) or Scripture as authoritatively interpreted in the church.

The soul freedom of the individual Christian or the Magisterium (teaching authority) of the community.

The church as local congregation or universal communion.

Ministry ordered in apostolic succession or the priesthood of all believers.

Sacraments and ordinances as symbols of grace or means of grace.

The Lord's Supper as Eucharistic sacrifice or memorial meal.

Remembrance of Mary and the saints or devotion to Mary and the saints.

Baptism as sacrament of regeneration or testimony to regeneration.

### WE CONTEND TOGETHER

As we are bound together by Christ and His cause, so we are bound together in contending against all that opposes Christ and His cause.

### WE WITNESS TOGETHER

The question of Christian witness unavoidably returns us to points of serious tension between Evangelicals and Catholics. Bearing witness to the saving power of Jesus Christ and His will for our lives is an integral part of Christian discipleship. The achievement of good will and cooperation between Evangelicals and Catholics must not be at the price of the urgency and clarity of Christian witness to the Gospel. At the same time, and as noted earlier, our Lord has made clear that the evidence of love among his disciples is an integral part of that Christian witness.

### CONCLUSION

Nearly two thousand years after it began, and nearly five hundred years after the divisions of the Reformation era, the Christian mission to the world is vibrantly alive and assertive. We do not know, we cannot know, what the Lord of history has in store for the Third Millennium. It may be the springtime of world missions and great Christian expansion. It may be the way of the cross marked by persecution and apparent marginalization. In different places and times, it will likely be both. Or it may be that Our Lord will return tomorrow.

We do know that his promise is sure, that we are enlisted for the duration, and that we are in this together. We do know that we must affirm and hope and search and contend and witness together, for we belong not to ourselves but to Him who has purchased us by the blood of the cross. We do know that this is a time of opportunity—and, if not of opportunity, then of responsibility—for Evangelicals and Catholics to be Christians together in a way that helps prepare the world for the coming of Him to whom belongs the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

## **PARTICIPANTS:**

Mr. Charles Colson Prison Fellowship  
Fr. Juan Diaz-Vilar, S.J. Catholic Hispanic Ministries  
Fr. Avery Dulles, S.J. Fordham University  
Bishop Francis George, OMI Diocese of Yakima (Washington)  
Dr. Kent Hill, Eastern Nazarene College  
**Dr. Richard Land, Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention**  
**Dr. Larry Lewis, Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention**  
Dr. Jesse Miranda, Assemblies of God  
Msgr. William Murphy, Chancellor of the Archdiocese of Boston  
Fr. Richard John Neuhaus, Institute on Religion and Public Life  
Mr. Brian O'Connell, World Evangelical Fellowship  
Mr. Herbert Schlossberg, Fieldstead Foundation  
Archbishop Francis Stafford, Archdiocese of Denver  
Mr. George Weigel, Ethics and Public Policy Center  
Dr. John White Geneva, College and the National Association of Evangelicals

## **ENDORSED BY:**

Dr. William Abraham, Perkins School of Theology  
Dr. Elizabeth Achtemeier, Union Theological Seminary (Virginia)  
Mr. William Bentley Ball, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania  
Dr. Bill Bright, Campus Crusade for Christ  
Professor Robert Destro Catholic, University of America  
Fr. Augustine DiNoia, O.P. Dominican House of Studies  
Fr. Joseph P. Fitzpatrick, S.J. Fordham University  
Mr. Keith Fournier, American Center for Law and Justice  
Bishop William Frey Trinity, Episcopal School for Ministry  
Professor Mary Ann Glendon, Harvard Law School  
Dr. Os Guinness, Trinity Forum  
Dr. Nathan Hatch, University of Notre Dame  
Dr. James Hitchcock, St. Louis University  
Professor Peter Kreeft, Boston College  
Fr. Matthew Lamb, Boston College  
Mr. Ralph Martin, Renewal Ministries  
Dr. Richard Mouw, Fuller Theological Seminary  
Dr. Mark Noll, Wheaton College  
Mr. Michael Novak, American Enterprise Institute  
Cardinal John O'Connor, Archdiocese of New York  
Dr. Thomas Oden, Drew University  
Dr. James J. I. Packer, Regent College (British Columbia)  
The Rev. Pat Robertson, Regent University  
Dr. John Rogers Trinity, Episcopal School for Ministry  
Bishop Carlos A. Sevilla, S.J. Archdiocese of San Francisco

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Those who have been influenced by the New-evangelical moment would immediately say, "What's wrong with this, aren't we all worshipping the same God? I would say most New-Evangelicals are, but it is not the Jehovah God of the Bible; it is more like the serpent God that confronted Eve in Chapter three of Genesis. The question Satan asked Eve is the same question he is asking the ecumenical movement, "Yea, hath God said?"

Here are a few of the Catholic doctrines that the signers of the document agreed to overlook. These are some of the very things God has always objected to in His Word and have always been points of contention for the true Bible believer. They are contrasted to point out the differences between what the Catholics believe and what the Bible says. Note these unbiblical doctrines are accepted by the signers as if they are insignificant. The Catholic position is shown first and then it is contrasted with the correct Bible doctrine second.

**(Catholic)** The church as an integral part of the Gospel or **(Bible)** the church as a communal consequence of the Gospel.

**(Catholic)** The church as visible communion or **(Bible)** invisible fellowship of true believers.

**(Catholic)** Scripture as authoritatively interpreted in the church or **(Bible)** The sole authority of Scripture (sola scriptura).

**(Catholic)** the Magisterium (teaching authority) of the community or **(Bible)** The "soul freedom" of the individual Christian.

**(Catholic)** universal communion or **(Bible)** The church as local congregation.

**(Catholic)** Ministry ordered in apostolic succession or **(Bible)** the priesthood of all believers.

**(Catholic)** means of grace or **(Bible)** Sacraments and ordinances as symbols of grace.

**(Catholic)** memorial meal or **(Bible)** the Lord's Supper as Eucharistic sacrifice.

**(Catholic)** devotion to Mary and the saints or **(Bible)** Remembrance of Mary and the saints.

**(Catholic)** Baptism as sacrament of regeneration or **(Bible)** testimony to regeneration.

Clearly the real Bible believer can see something wrong here. Professing believers are agreeing to doctrines that the Bible clearly teaches are wrong and they are totally ignoring "What God has said." These people who signed this document are not ignorant relative to education, for they all have doctorates, but they are quite stupid relative to the truths of God's Word.

Many of these signers are professed Conservatives, some are Moderates, and some are Charismatics. The upshot is they are all fellowshiping with the Roman Catholic Church that has repeatedly insisted that there is no salvation except through its sacraments; proving once again that there is no difference between the Conservatives and the Moderates as they both fall solidly into the Neo-evangelist camp.

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## **2 Corinthians 6:14-18**

(14) Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

(15) And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?

(16) And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

(17) Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,

(18) And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

## **GOATS IN THE SHEEP HERD**

**And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. Matthew 25:32-33**

### **Chapter 12**

#### **The Sheep of Old Time Religion**

It is generally not too hard to identify sheep for they have very distinctive characteristics. They are covered with wool, make distinctive sounds, and conscientiously follow their shepherd. Some sheep are white and some are black, but regardless of the color, they are still sheep.

Sheep are completely helpless without the shepherd's guidance. He leads them to water, food, protects them against predators, and looks after their medical needs. Jesus often referred to Christians as sheep and Himself as the Shepherd. In doing so He clearly established the relationship between Himself and His followers.

This was all well and good during the time Jesus walked the earth, but what about today when there are so many distractions, false teachings, and apostasy in the Christian churches? It is extremely difficult to identify the sheep much less the Shepherd. Since we don't have a litmus test that distinguishes between genuine and counterfeit Christians, I propose that the only way to tell the difference is to use established standards that have been found to be tried and true down through the centuries.

Trustworthy Christian doctrines, proper standards for Christian behavior, as well as established methods of worship by the historical genuine Christians can only be found in the preserved, inerrant Bible of our forefathers. In other words we go to the source we can trust to develop our focus on the faith.

Spelling out doctrines always seems to spark a negative response from the average Christian. Most people immediately think about some Biblical scholar in a dark musty library studying the ancient writings and writing down rules and regulations that restrict our liberty. However this is not the actual case where Biblical doctrines are concerned for they are the evident truths of God's Word which are obvious to anyone seeking the truth.

The Bible itself clearly tells us to obey doctrines. It starts with Jesus telling us that His doctrines are from God; continues with the doctrines of the Apostles which are the same as Jesus' doctrines, and warns us about false doctrines and the problems they create. It then gives us deep insight into the value of the Scriptures regarding true doctrine, and ends with a solemn warning against false doctrine.

**John 7:16**

16 Jesus answered them, and said, My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me.

**Acts 2:42**

42 And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

**Romans 16:17**

17 Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.

**2 Timothy 3:16**

16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

**2 Timothy 4:3-4**

3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;  
4 And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

It is easy to see why the world needs the sound doctrines of the Bible as opposed to false doctrines of counterfeit Christianity because the Scripture in 2 Timothy 4:3-4 clearly teaches that false doctrines will lead people to destruction. According to God's Word there is only one place to find sound doctrines and that is with the boundaries of the Bible which I call Old Time Religion. As doctrines go, so goes faith as both Jude and Jeremiah so aptly put it:

**Jude 1:3**

3 Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.

The issue of Old Time Religion was addressed by God in the Book of Jeremiah when He admonished the nation of Israel for rebelling towards God. He clearly told them there was only one way to please Him and that was by walking the old paths:

**Jeremiah 6:16-19**

16 Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein.  
17 Also I set watchmen over you, saying, Hearken to the sound of the trumpet. But they said, We will not hearken.  
18 Therefore hear, ye nations, and know, O congregation, what is among them.

19 Hear, O earth: behold, I will bring evil upon this people, even the fruit of their thoughts, because they have not hearkened unto my words, nor to my law, but rejected it.

God was quite explicit with Israel, either walk in the old paths or get zapped. He told the New Testament church virtually the same thing, but the majority wouldn't listen and went out to chase after strange gods, and built their churches on false doctrines. In doing so countless millions of good people have been deceived and their souls are now waiting in hell for the final judgment and eternal punishment in the lake of fire.

How does one go about identifying the sheep of Old Time Religion? The Bible says they are the ones who have washed their robes in the blood of the lamb, and are destined for heaven and eternal bliss. Granted we cannot see the whiteness of the soul in the human sense, so we have to rely on spiritual guidance of the Holy Spirit. If you are one of the sheep who truly loves God, His Word, and His Son, it will be pretty easy for you to identify a goat, but if you are one of the deceived who merely think you are among the sheep, you will want to run with your own kind and will find yourself criticizing the sheep and its church.

Sometimes it takes negative comments to make one recognize the positive truth. For example, if someone said Jesus was a fake messiah, actually lived to a ripe old age, was married, and had children, most people who had even been slightly exposed to the Bible would immediately know this was not the true belief of Christianity. Anyone who makes such ungodly statements would never be mistaken as a sheep. However suppose one only made a slight deviation of the truth and made it sound plausible; the ignorant goats would eat it up hook line and sinker (especially if it is presented as a newly discovered truth.) A case in point is the controversy of how Jesus was nailed to the cross. Was it through His hands or through His wrists? The scientists tell us unequivocally that it was through His wrists, but the Apostles knew the truth; the nails were driven through His hands. Here is the proof in John 20:25:

#### **John 20:25**

(25) The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the Lord. But he said unto them, Except I shall see **in his hands the print of the nails**, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe.

Now who are you going to believe the unbelieving scientists or the very Words of God? The Sheep recognizes the words of their Master and know for certain He won't tell them an untruth, and they feed on the truth of His Word. However, the Goats are perfectly happy to think they belong to the fold and go along merrily on their way arguing about the Bible having errors and eat of the deception of the world while all the time they are being led to slaughter by the Judas goats of lies and compromise.

Jesus also addressed this issue:

**John 10:26-29**

26 But ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep, as I said unto you.

27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

28 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.

29 My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.

Jesus knows His sheep and His sheep know each other. The separating point is always the Bible. The sheep can read the Bible hear a Gospel message, or even discuss the Word and know it is coming directly from God, and they immediately accept and believe it. The goats on the other hand look for mistakes, argue about points that cannot be answered and feel superior because they are so much smarter than the sheep. One of the favorite questions the goats like to ask is, "Who was Cain's Wife?" as if they just created some great dilemma for the Christian. They won't accept a Biblical answer; they want credentials such as names, genealogical records, and perhaps even a social security number. When a Christian cannot give them the answer they think is accurate they smugly go their merry way lost more than ever. You cannot ever please the goats for they are always looking for mischief and enjoy tormenting the sheep.

Even though goats and sheep may graze in the same pasture, sleep in the same pen, and share the same food, they will never congregate together. The sheep will be with its kind and the goat will be with its kind, and even if they mix together it is not too hard to tell the difference because they are distinctively different in appearance and actions. Put a sheep in a pen that has sheep and goats and he will immediately go to the sheep; the same is true of a goat. Sheep recognize sheep and goats recognize goats, and the shepherd can always tell the difference.

The grouping of the world's people is the same way. If you put two Christians with a bunch of Satan's disciples it won't take them long to find each other. It also won't take Satan's goats long to know there is something different about the Christian sheep for they won't be participating in the drinking, cursing, or laughing at smutty jokes. Satan's crowd does not like to be around such people unless they want something, and then they can become so religious that it is sickening.

I am often asked by sincere people about someone else's behavior who professes to be a Christian but lives like the devil. I just use the old duck formula, "If it looks like a duck, walks like a duck, and quacks like a duck, it is most likely a duck." This same formula applies to the human individuals who are in the Christian community. If they behave like the unsaved, talk like the unsaved, and hang out with the unsaved, they are probably unsaved. I'd at least treat them as if they were unless the Holy Spirit convinced me otherwise.

This leads into the only true test of genuine Christianity that I know of and the Holy Spirit must be the affirming agent in all of these. Does/is the person:

Honor God's preserved, inspired Word?

Study the Bible regularly?

Interested in the things of God?

Attend church regularly?

Speak the language of God?

Fellowship with other Christians?

Exhibit the Spirit of Christ?

Tell others about Jesus?

Love his family?

Love his church family?

Have a presence of God in all actions and activities?

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### **John 10:1-5**

- (1) Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber.
- (2) But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep.
- (3) To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out.
- (4) And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice.
- (5) And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers.

## **GOATS IN THE SHEEP HERD**

**And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. Matthew 25:32-33**

### **Chapter 13**

#### **The Dumbing Down of Christianity**

“Dumbing Down” as used in this paper is the process of making something valueless or of no value by adding or subtracting something that makes it ineffective. Take a bottle of liquid medicine for example, if a little water is added it becomes less effective and if enough water is added it becomes totally ineffective. It will still look like medicine, it will still smell like medicine, but will have no curative power whatsoever. The same is true if a curative agent is removed from medicine. It may still look and taste like medicine, but won't be effective.

This is what has happened to Christianity over the years, it has been Dumbed Down so much that it is no longer an effective instrument of Jesus' Holy power. It still resembles Christianity of a sort, it still uses the Christian language of a sort, but it has been diluted with worldly ways and wisdom to such an extent that there is no evidence of its salvation power.

To fully understand how the process of Dumbing Down Christianity has occurred, we need to know what it looked like in the beginning. Keep in mind the Christian faith is about one person, Jesus Christ, and the Christian church is an extension of the teachings of Jesus, which was founded by Him and empowered by Him through the Holy Spirit. I point this out so the reader can understand that the church and Christianity cannot be separated. They are inexplicitly locked together as one representative of Jesus Christ here on this earth and how the church goes so goes Christianity, and vice versa. If the church is contaminated, so is Christianity, and if Christianity is contaminated, so is the church; in other words when one is Dumbed Down so is the other.

The great Dumbing Down of the church and Christianity have not been brought about by society's lack of moral standards, but in the Christian's willingness to buy into society's lack of moral standards. Somewhere along the way we have lost track of Jesus' command to “be in the world but not of the world” and have let the world dictate our standards of behavior instead of the tried and true Word of God. In fact Biblical standards are so unknown, misunderstood, or ignored by the majority of professing Christians that they no longer recognize the church that Jesus built because it now looks just like any other worldly organization.

If the Christians continue on their downward spiral, pretty soon Jesus will be totally on the outside of the church knocking to be let in as He is presented in the Laodicean

Church in Revelation 3:11-22. We who profess to be followers of Jesus need to look anew at the Church He built as recorded in the Bible and get our priorities straight on just which standard we will choose to follow, the way of the cross or the way of the world.

I know there is so much confusion in the churches today that it is very difficult for anyone to sort it all out. This is brought about primarily because the average professing Christian does not have the vaguest idea what the Bible says about most questionable practices of the churches. They ask somebody who knows less about the Bible than they do, get an approving answer, and then go on along as if it is OK. The only solution to this kind of blind deception is to get to know your Bible, place its teachings in your heart, and then you will fully recognize the standards of the church that Jesus built.

The only place is to look for these standards of Christian behavior is in the preserved, inerrant Bible as there is no other source of authority for the child of God. It is here where we learn about His saving grace, the reason for Jesus' journey to this earth, and a righteous pattern for Godly living. It is here that we learn about God's love for mankind, His gentle patience, His righteous anger, and judgment in the hereafter. Knowing this, we need to look at what the Bible says about Christianity.

This quest for truth must begin with the salvation formula. I call it this because there are several mandatory actions that must take place before one is eternally saved, and if one step or action is left out, salvation will not occur.

Here are a few things the real Bible presents regarding salvation:

1. You must accept and believe in the preserved, inerrant Bible because the Bible itself says so.
2. You must accept the truths about Jesus Christ as presented in the Bible.
3. You must come to God with a contrite heart asking Him for the forgiveness of your sins.
4. You must accept from the heart the fact that Jesus died on the cross for your sins and without His substitutionary death there could be no forgiveness.
5. You must allow the Holy Spirit to come into your heart and let Him guide you through life.

Here are a few things you will automatically want to do after you are saved.

1. You will want to be baptized by immersion in the fashion Jesus was baptized.
2. You will want to find a true Bible believing church in which to worship.

3. You will want to use your talents for God's glory.
4. You will live a Christian life befitting one who is a follower of Christ.

Believing the doctrines of men will keep a person from being saved because they directly contradict the Word of God, which essentially calls God a liar. Common sense should tell anyone that you can't expect the Holy Spirit to lead one in the paths of heresy. Such doctrines as falling out of grace (losing one's salvation), baptismal regeneration (have to be baptized to be saved), extra Biblical revelation (supposed revelations that are contrary to the Word), and salvation by works (you must work your way into heaven), are a few of the more common hindrances. Be alert, know the Bible, and don't let your mind be distracted by some self proclaimed prophet's viewpoint is the best advice you can possibly get.

All this sounds pretty easy and straight forward, but this is not the case as there are more denominations, organizations, groups, and beliefs' than you can imagine. If you don't have a genuine Bible, haven't experienced a real conversion, and don't belong to a real Scriptural New Testament church, you are subject to be deceived, and the deception today is devious and widespread.

In order to help the reader identify a Scriptural New Testament church, I have listed some of the significant points one should look for. There are other issues of personal preference, but if you start with these few simple guidelines and reject all churches that don't meet these as a minimum, you will have a good starting place.

#### A Scriptural New Testament Church:

1. Uses the Traditional preserved Bible as its only rule of faith and practice. Man-made traditions cannot overrule the scriptures. (2 Tim 3:16, 2 Pet 1:21, Matt 15:6-9).
2. Has the Lord Jesus Christ as it's only head and owner and has no earthly head. (Matt 16:18, Eph 5:23, Col 1:18)
3. Outwardly demonstrates the love of Christ by obeying the Lord's command to love one another. (John 13:34-25).
4. Actively works to fulfill the Great Commission. (Matt 28:19-20).
5. Welcomes all visitors, but has only saved scripturally baptized believers in its membership. (Acts 2:41, Acts 8:37, Acts 10:48).
6. Permits only members to fill an office in the church or participate in the teaching and training in the church.

7. Teaches about the personal triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, equal in divine perfection. (Matt 28:19, 1 John 5:7).

8. Is local and visible, not universal and invisible. (Acts 8:1, Acts 13:1, Acts 14:23, 1 Cor. 1:2, 10:32, 11:22, Galatians 1:13, 1 Tim 3:5) .

9. Has two offices: Bishop (Pastor) and Deacon whose qualifications are set forth in Titus and 1 Timothy.

10. Teaches that man is fallen and unable to save himself. (Rom 3:9-20, Eph 2:8-9).

11. Teaches that salvation is exclusively by grace through faith without works. (Eph 2:8-9, Rom 4:5).

12. Has two ordinances: Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

a. Scriptural baptism is the immersion of penitent believers in water, administered by the authority of a New Testament church in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

b. The Lord's Supper is a memorial ordinance, and participation is restricted to born again believers present during the service. (Matt. 28:19, 20; Acts 8:12, 38; Rom. 6:4; 1 Cor. 5:11-13; 1 Cor. 11:1, 2, 17-20, 26)

13. Is independent and self-governing and no other ecclesiastical body exercises authority over it.

14. Traces its origin directly or indirectly back to the personal ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ. (Matt 16:18, Eph 3:21, Matt 4:17-22).

The Church of Jesus Christ faces two major Dumbing Down threats and these are letting the secular world dictate what we believe and practice as Christians, and fully accepting religious cults as authentic Christian organizations.

Keep in mind that all secular things are not necessarily bad; they only become bad when we allow them to intrude on our Christian lives and let them interfere with our worship of Jesus. This could be anything from a job to a hobby. It could be our family and friends, or even the church itself if we are going for the wrong reasons.

Acceptance of any religious cult as being Christian is always detrimental to the church and the Christian life. A cult can be identified as any organized religion that does not accept and practice the doctrines of the preserved, inerrant Bible. This also includes those who claim to accept the Bible but then add their own beliefs and practices as being equal or superior to it. You can easily identify such organizations as Roman Catholicism, Mormonism, and Jehovah's Witnesses as being major cults, but there are

many other ones such as denominations that distorts Biblical truths or add to its contents, to individual groups that follow some self appointed leader. You have to be firmly grounded in the Word to know the difference between a cult and the real thing.

This Dumbing Down process in America basically started with the expansion of Christianity during the Great Awakening in the 1700's. The Bible was available to practically anyone who wanted it, and the great preachers of that day brought a message of salvation and hope. The good news is thousands were saved, but the bad news is many souls were lost because of the false doctrines many of the evangelists espoused such as predestination, salvation by works, and attacks on eternal security. Consequently those who were lost before were worse off now because they were bogged down in beliefs that directly opposed the free grace of God. Out of this grew denominational splits, but it also gave birth to a large number of true Christians that worshipped the God of the Bible and kept the commandments of Jesus Christ.

From this group of true Christians the Church of Jesus Christ flourished and was expanded all across America. Those within these churches expended great efforts to keep the church pure and New Testament oriented so that the true Gospel of the Bible would be preached, taught, and understood. It was from this movement that the real great awakening occurred.

While the true church was making great strides in the Christianization of America, there were other forces at play in the cultic arena that were also reaching out at the same time. Consequently, there arose large denominations that were cultic in nature which repressed many of the true Biblical doctrines and made their churches into man-made organization, but they still called themselves Christians. In time these denominations were fully accepted by the true church and their part in the Dumbing Down of Christianity was completed.

Examples of cults which arose during this period were the Church of Christ, Mormons, Jehovah's Witness, and many others which were so far away from the teachings of the Bible that even the cultic denominations wouldn't accept them. However this gave the true church and the cultic denominations a common enemy and they began to join forces to fight a common foe, and eventually the denominational lines that separated them disappeared and they fully accepted each other as brothers and sisters in Christ. This was the situation at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

Two major events happened in the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century which eventually deceived the entire Christian world; the introduction of rationalism in Biblical research and the Charismatic movement.

The rationalist approach to the Bible was devised by the educated elite to create confusion about the Bible and to cast doubt on the veracity of God's Word. As you can see it has worked even beyond the expectations of the originators of this scheme, for today we have so many versions of the Bible that says so many different things that no one trusts it explicitly.

The Charismatic movement was just the opposite of the rationalist movement in that it emphasized ignorance and experience as the correct approach to God's revelations. Its main tenants were individual feelings and mystic revelations. While they claimed a Biblical basis for their new movement, those who were adept in the Bible knew better, for it was founded on misrepresentation of Biblical truths, deception, and brain washing. This movement took off rapidly because of the intellectual Dumbing Down which had left the majority of the people separated from God, and being ignorant to His Word, they fell into Satan's trap of adding to the Bible.

Satan was in his heyday. He had two strong fronts going in attacking God's Word. On one hand the intellectuals were saying the Bible is not trustworthy, and they were building up a great following. On the other hand the Charismatics were saying the Bible is not complete and we have new revelations to add to it, and they also were building up a great following. These two factions fought it out as bitter enemies for several decades until the last half of the 20th Century when they finally joined hands and consolidated their Godless efforts to make an all out assault on God's Word.

Here is what happened. The intellectuals flooded the market with counterfeit Bibles which were easier for the ignorant and uneducated to read, and they loved them. For the first time in the history of Christianity one could pick and choose a bible that supports his beliefs regardless of what they are. The Moderates had their Bible in the Revised Standard Version, the Conservatives had their Bible in the New American Standard Version, and the Charismatics had their Bible in The Living Bible, and all lived happily ever after (they think).

The next step in the Dumbing Down of Christianity was twofold; the population explosion, and the giant steps in scientific advance. This was further propogated by the intellectual take over of our government which put the enemies of God in the position of making the policies of this country.

The population explosion was generated by a new kind of prosperity which gave birth to the common man having leisure time and money to spend that he had never experienced before. The adults in this prosperous time who came out of the Great Depression had lived through hardships as children, and they wanted to make sure their children didn't suffer the same way; so there developed the need for the individuals to want more money and the willingness to work harder to get it.

In fact the desire to have more became so overpowering that in most families the husband and wife both had to take public jobs which left the raising of the children in the hands of some outsider who instilled thoughts and ideas in their heads which were contrary to the beliefs of their parents. The outcome of this was the children felt neglected by the parents, the parents tried to compensate for their neglect by giving the children more and more, and the children then realized their hold over the parents and demanded even more.

Do you remember the 60's and 70's and what has been termed as the sexual revolution? The young people ruled the day. They were not interested in the things of God as related to society; all they wanted was to do their own thing without restrictions from authorities of any kind. Parents didn't understand, our government didn't understand, and even the youth didn't understand. They simply looked on the church as authoritative and totally rejected it.

About this time great headways were being made in electronics. Television was the rage of the day, even commercials were interesting to watch, and TV became the baby sitter for a new generation. Along come the entrepreneurs who were not in the least interested in the mental health of our children, but were driven entirely by the money motive. With a good understanding that the children are now beginning to drive the family, they begin to structure TV programs to exploit their minds, and they did so quite successfully until today we have a totally youth driven society with no responsible adult in charge.

The electronic advancements also created new and innovative music for the youth. In the secular realm the ballads of yesterday were replaced by Doo Wop and Rock and Roll which eventually evolved into the stuff we hear today that is based on the premise that louder is better. Practically anyone who could hold a microphone became a singer, and the electronic creation of music set the beat, so we now have a generation of entertainers with no talent setting the standards of music for the whole nation.

At first this new sound expressed itself as it was, satanic. But Satan never rests and his goal is to attack God's work and here he is with a tool that will give him control over the youth, deceive them about the true God, and lead them to hell all at once. Now Satan never comes at anything straight on, and he never calls sin by its real name, so here is the route he followed to contaminate the church completely.

Remember the Charismatic movement of the early days. They were very strict with outward appearances, but very loose with Biblical doctrines. Their emphasis was on experience and they loved music that moved them in the spirit, so they blended their need to move to the beat with the beat that moves and the contemporary Christian music movement was born.

This would not have been so bad if it had stayed in the cultic Charismatic movement, but when the rest of the Christian churches saw the crowds this was attracting, they had to get in the act. Today you will seldom find a church that has not in some form or fashion embraced the contemporary music scene.

I often hear the argument that there is nothing wrong with contemporary music, and I have to admit some modern Christian music is ok, but it must meet certain Biblical criteria before I can endorse it. In order to be Biblical Christian music it must be inspired of God, written by Christian writers, played by Christian musicians, and sung by Christian singers. If even one of this list is criteria is missing, it is not Christian music,

but is of Satan. This applies to the charismatic cults as well as any of the multitudes of apostates who claim to be followers of Christ

The trend in accepting all people as Christians if they speak the language is usually espoused by people who are ignorant of God's Word and His commandments. This has evolved to a level where there is no separation of the obvious cults from the orthodox believers. Mormons are now accepted as Christians regardless of their Doctrine and Covenants and mystic temple rituals. Roman Catholics are held in such high regard that even many fundamental churches have quit pointing out their obvious heresies such as worship of Mary, the grace of the sacraments, and infallibility of the Pope. "We must all come together in one body, ignore out differences, and concentrate on our commonalities," is the cry of the evangelicals across this country. In order to do this the churches have succumbed to the demands of the unsaved, and the cults rule the day.

There is a recent move in the Christian world to bring all religions together under the umbrella of worshipping one God; it is called the Emerging Church movement. "After all," they say, "we are all worshipping the same God, so why quibble over specifics of the faith?" I can tell you why, "Because the Bible tells me so!" The Bible is clear about salvation, it is clear about what God expects of the Christian; its truths have never been changed, and never will.

The Dumbing Down of Christianity has been so wide spread and complete that the voice of reason can no longer be heard in this land. Instead of welcoming a message of repentance and hope, the churches prefer a message of feel good and prosperity. Instead of hearing a message of salvation and judgment, they would rather hear about love and happiness. Instead of hearing about Satan and his evilness they want to hear about a god who is so good He doesn't even know Satan. Instead of hearing about Hell and the unbelief that sends one there, they would rather hear about a god that would never send anyone to such a place.

Christianity has reached a new low, the goats are running the show, and the wolves are devouring the sheep at an unprecedented rate. The only hope for the unsaved lies in the true Jesus Christ of the Bible, and the only place His message may be heard accurately is in His preserved, inerrant Word, the King James Bible.

\* \* \* \* \*

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### **Matthew 7:21-23**

(21) Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

(22) Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

(23) And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

## **GOATS IN THE SHEEP HERD**

**And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. Matthew 25:32-33**

### **Chapter 14**

#### **The Church That Jesus Built**

Jesus' whole purpose for coming to the earth was to build His church. When He walked the earth He gave insight into what He expected of His followers both in a secular sense and in a spiritual sense, and He had His thoughts and actions recorded in the Gospels so future generations could know Him better. After His ascension He sent the Holy Spirit to guide us into all truth and had the remainder of the New Testament recorded to give us further insight on how to relate to Him. The Gospel was spread in early Christianity by the Apostles and other eyewitnesses, but as they died out only the recorded records remained, and it was on the credibility of these records that Jesus built His church.

The biggest threat to the church today is the perceived credibility of the Bible. It is being challenged by both the religious and secular communities at an astounding rate as being full of errors and is untrustworthy. On the religious scene the evidence of this attempt to discredit the Word, is found in scholarly literature and the many contradictory Bible versions. On the secular scene we witness changing of well established laws to ridicule anything that even suggests God is involved in the destiny of the human race.

When Jesus said he would establish His church He was not speaking of the church as we know it in the world, but He was speaking in a spiritual sense. Jesus' church is not made up of bricks and mortar, for it is a spiritual church that is made up of all believers of all time and is referred to in the Bible as the Bride of Christ; only true born again believers belong to Jesus' church.

The organization we call a church in the world is not the church that Jesus built, though we are always struggling to make it so, but the frailties of human life and unbelievers in our midst prevent our church from being perfect. However, the church that Jesus built can exist spiritually in each individual if he so desires it, for we are the temples of the Living God which means when we are saved our names are written on the membership rolls of Jesus' church; this is called the Lamb's Book of Life.

The Scripture gives us much insight in what Jesus' church looks like. The passage that is most quoted in this regard is found in the event in Matthew 16 where He explained to the Apostles the basis for the founding of His church. Preceding this event there is one other verse that addresses the Pharisees' doctrines that is extremely

important because it is a fundamental warning to the church today in regard to the modern Pharisees. Let's look at these verses.

### **Matthew 16:12**

(12) Then understood they how that he bade them not beware of the leaven of bread, but of the doctrine of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees.

Jesus told His disciple to "Beware of the Doctrine of the Pharisees." The Pharisees were the leaders of the Jewish religion in the time Jesus walked the earth. It was this group that studied the Law and denounced Jesus in His every move. They didn't believe the Old Testament records that explicitly spoke of Him nor would they accept the divine proof He offered that He was sent by God.

The Holy Spirit is telling us the same thing today, "Beware of the Pharisees." These are the scholars who are devoting their time in discrediting the Bible and making their pet theories more important than the written record God has given us. They, like the Pharisees of the Bible, think they are doing God a favor by correcting His Word. They, like the Pharisees of the Bible, have built a strong following of people who will accept their words over the recorded Words of God. They, like the Pharisees of the Bible, are the enemies of God and refuse to look at the truth as it is presented to them. Their end will be exactly the same as the Pharisees; their woes will be the same. Carefully read the 23<sup>rd</sup> Chapter of Matthew as presented below and you'll clearly see who the most dangerous enemy of Jesus church is today, the modern Pharisees.

### **Matthew 23:1-39**

- (1) Then spake Jesus to the multitude, and to his disciples,
- (2) Saying, The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat:
- (3) All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not.
- (4) For they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers.
- (5) But all their works they do for to be seen of men: they make broad their phylacteries, and enlarge the borders of their garments,
- (6) And love the uppermost rooms at feasts, and the chief seats in the synagogues,
- (7) And greetings in the markets, and to be called of men, Rabbi, Rabbi.
- (8) But be not ye called Rabbi: for one is your Master, even Christ; and all ye are brethren.
- (9) And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven.
- (10) Neither be ye called masters: for one is your Master, even Christ.
- (11) But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant.
- (12) And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.

- (13) But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in.
- (14) Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayer: therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation.
- (15) Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves.
- (16) Woe unto you, ye blind guides, which say, Whosoever shall swear by the temple, it is nothing; but whosoever shall swear by the gold of the temple, he is a debtor!
- (17) Ye fools and blind: for whether is greater, the gold, or the temple that sanctifieth the gold?
- (18) And, Whosoever shall swear by the altar, it is nothing; but whosoever sweareth by the gift that is upon it, he is guilty.
- (19) Ye fools and blind: for whether is greater, the gift, or the altar that sanctifieth the gift?
- (20) Whoso therefore shall swear by the altar, sweareth by it, and by all things thereon.
- (21) And whoso shall swear by the temple, sweareth by it, and by him that dwelleth therein.
- (22) And he that shall swear by heaven, sweareth by the throne of God, and by him that sitteth thereon.
- (23) Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.
- (24) Ye blind guides, which strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel.
- (25) Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess.
- (26) Thou blind Pharisee, cleanse first that which is within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also.
- (27) Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness.
- (28) Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity.
- (29) Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! because ye build the tombs of the prophets, and garnish the sepulchres of the righteous,
- (30) And say, If we had been in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets.
- (31) Wherefore ye be witnesses unto yourselves, that ye are the children of them which killed the prophets.
- (32) Fill ye up then the measure of your fathers.

(33) Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?

(34) Wherefore, behold, I send unto you prophets, and wise men, and scribes: and some of them ye shall kill and crucify; and some of them shall ye scourge in your synagogues, and persecute them from city to city:

(35) That upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zacharias son of Barachias, whom ye slew between the temple and the altar.

(36) Verily I say unto you, All these things shall come upon this generation.

(37) O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!

(38) Behold, your house is left unto you desolate.

(39) For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

This was happening while Jesus was setting the foundation of His church, and it has never stopped for the Pharisees (unsaved religionists) have always been with us and will be more so as Jesus' return grows closer.

The church that Jesus built is embodied in the whole of the New Testament and was founded on only one fact that is He is the Son of the Living God. This, along with the basis for this claim, is found in the record of Matthew immediately following the warning about the leaven of the Pharisees. It is an especially important record for the whole Roman Catholic religion is based on the supremacy of Peter which is a total misunderstanding of Jesus' message here.

### **Matthew 16:13-19**

(13) When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?

(14) And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets.

(15) He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am?

(16) And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.

(17) And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.

(18) And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

(19) And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

Jesus said He would build His church based on the revelation he was the Christ, the Son of the living God, and not on Peter. Here is a brief explanation of this common misunderstanding of the Word.

The Roman Catholic Church says Jesus designates Peter as the foundation as proven by this Scripture. If this is so we Baptists are in serious spiritual trouble. Everywhere else in the Bible Jesus is clearly the foundation stone. The only reason the Catholic Church pushes this is to support the supremacy of the Pope. Let's take a look at the rocks in Matthew 16, Verse 18.

There are two Greek words for the rocks mentioned; the first one is Peter. This is strong's number G4074. The Greek word is Πέτρος; the English word is *Petros*: "Apparently a primary word; a (piece of) rock." The second word is *rock*. This is Strong's number G4073. The Greek word is πέτρα; the English word is *Petra*: "Feminine of the same as G4074; a (mass of) *rock*."

(18) And I say also unto thee, That thou art (*Petros*) Peter, (a small rock) and upon this rock (*Petra*, a large rock) I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Clearly Jesus is calling Peter a small rock, and in addressing the revelation of Himself as being the Son of the living God, He told all of His disciples this revelation was, and still is, the only foundation for the true church. It is on the revelation that Jesus Christ is the Son of the Living God where our hope lies, and it is the only foundation on which to build a true church.

Jesus also promised the Holy Spirit would come to guide them to all truth. The records show that He did in fact come to the church at Pentecost as presented in the second chapter of Acts. It was under His power that the early church took the message of Jesus out to a lost world, and it is the same Holy Spirit that confirms the truths of God's Word for us today.

We know from reading the Scriptures that the Holy Spirit is the inspiration behind the records we have. Being the third person of the Trinity, we can say that the Bible is God breathed, is an accurate record, and can be fully trusted. We can further say the Scriptures are the blueprints for the foundation of Jesus' church. Therefore if we have dependable Scriptures, we can have an accurate picture of the church that Jesus built.

The doctrines of Jesus' church are many and they all are based on the preserved Word of God. If you do not believe God preserved His Word, then don't read any further because you'll never get on the rolls of Jesus' church by calling God a liar. The Bible clearly says this is 2 Timothy.

### **2 Timothy 3:16-17**

(16) All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

(17) That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.

If all Scripture is given by inspiration of God then they are His very Words. If they are all inspired, and all truth, then God has to do as He says He will in the Scripture. This applies to everything in the Bible and it is true all the way from inerrancy to preservation. Jesus conducted His ministry on this premise, He gave His life on this premise, and He founded His church on the same premise. The Apostles did the same thing and developed the early church based on the conviction the Bible was God's Word, accurate to the last Jot and Tittle. It was then, and still is today, the only record God has given the world of His dealing with mankind.

So the earthly church must begin its quest to please God with the preserved Bible, but even then we will not be perfect for we are too human and we bring our humanness with us to the church. God does not expect us to be perfect, but He does require us to respect His perfect Son after all He is the purpose of the church. In doing this we must do the best we can to live a life pleasing to Him. This is an individual effort that must be strengthened by the fellowship of the church and is a lifetime quest to follow the example Jesus gave us. The earthly church is not perfect, Satan is still loose deceiving us daily, and the greatest deception he has ever pulled is getting people to doubt God's Word.

If you are looking for the perfect church, you'll never find it on this earth for it doesn't exist. In fact if you should find it, you wouldn't recognize it because your idea of perfection will not measure up to God's standards. Keep in mind the church is only as strong as we collectively make it. The stronger more mature Christians must nurture the weaker less mature Christians along, however we all must contribute the best we can to God's kingdom by supporting the church's mission. Our tasks are twofold: Provide a peaceful place to worship, and take the Gospel out to the world. When we individually commit ourselves fully to these two commandments of Jesus we are a long way towards experiencing the church that Jesus built.

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### **Ephesians 5:25-27**

(25) Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

(26) That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,

(27) That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

## **GOATS IN THE SHEEP HERD**

**And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. Matthew 25:32-33**

### **Chapter 15**

#### **Selecting a Bible**

Let us suppose you are going into a Christian book store to buy a new Bible. You don't know anything about the Modern Bible Versions (MBV), and you do the natural thing, you ask the clerk which version would be best. Now keep in mind this is not like asking a parts clerk what part is recommended to do a certain job on your car, for he can look it up on the computer and select the correct part, which is cut and dried. The parts clerk does not need to know anything about the part as long as he has the correct information to feed into the computer. All the clerk has to do is look it up in a catalogue, and it works every time if the job is done properly.

However, the Christian bookstore clerk has no way of putting in the information about you in the computer so that it will spit out the right version that will fit your particular need. In fact his job is selling, and he could not care less about your individual quest to get God's Word, and so to do his job as he is trained he refers to the publishers' printed information which is basically the opinions of the translators. Keep in mind that the publishers want to sell their products to make money and the translators want to put their products on the market to sway people to their way of thinking, and because of this all book store descriptions are biased in favor or against of a particular translation.

Here are a few examples of the kinds of information with which you'll be faced. These descriptions were copied from the International Bible Society's web page.

#### **THE CONTEMPORARY ENGLISH VERSION**

Reading Level: Grade 5.6

The Contemporary English Version (New Testament, 1991, full Bible, 1995) was begun in 1984 by the American Bible Society. The mandate for the ABS translation team was to craft a translation that was Biblically accurate, reader friendly, and understandable – even for first-time Bible readers. Among special concerns were ease of reading without sounding 'childish,' comprehensibility when read aloud, modern formatting, quality of style, and literary value. An international, interdenominational group of over 100, including translators, English language experts, and Biblical authorities [comprised] the CEV

translation team” (Thomas Nelson brochure). In general, it employs natural and uncomplicated English.

## **THE KING JAMES VERSION**

Reading Level: Grade 12

This, the most famous of English versions, is named after King James I of England who initiated the work. It is basically a revision of previous translations: Tyndale's, Coverdale's, the Great Bible, and the Geneva Bible. Over fifty scholars worked on the project, which started in 1607. It was finished in 1611.

The King James Version, known in England as the Authorized Version because it was authorized by the king, has become an enduring monument of English prose because of its gracious style, majestic language, and poetic rhythms. No other book has had such a tremendous influence on English literature.

However, the KJV translators had access to only a few ancient manuscripts. Since their day many older manuscripts have been discovered, resulting in a more reliable Greek and Hebrew text. In addition, many words in the KJV are now obscure; others cannot be traced back to the most reliable manuscripts. While IBS is glad to provide the historic KJV, we feel the NIV is both more accurate and more readable for today's audience.

## **THE LIVING BIBLE**

Reading Level: Grade 8.3

In 1962 Kenneth Taylor published a paraphrase of the New Testament Epistles... The entire Living Bible was published in 1971... Using the American Standard Version as his working text, Taylor rephrased the Bible into modern speech, such that anyone, even a child, could understand the message of the original writers. In the preface to The Living Bible Taylor explains his view of paraphrasing:

*... to say as exactly as possible what the writers of the Scriptures meant, and to say it simply, expanding where necessary for a clear understanding by the modern reader.*

Even though many modern readers have greatly appreciated the fact that The Living Bible made God's Word clear to them, Taylor's paraphrase has been criticized for being too interpretive. But that is the nature of paraphrases, and the danger as well.

The Living Bible has been very popular among English readers worldwide.

## **THE NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE**

Reading Level: Grade 11

The Lockman Foundation, a nonprofit Christian corporation committed to evangelism ... organized a team of thirty-two scholars to prepare a new revision [of the American Standard Version of 1901]. These scholars ... strove to produce a literal translation ... in the belief that such a translation 'brings the contemporary reader as close as possible to the actual wording and grammatical structure of the original writers' "" [from the preface].

*After the New American Standard Bible was published (in 1963 for the New Testament and 1971 for the entire Bible), it received a mixed response. Some critics applauded its literal accuracy, while other sharply criticized its language for hardly being contemporary or modern.*

On the whole, the New American Standard Bible became respected as a good study Bible that accurately reflects the wording of the original languages yet is not a good translation for Bible reading.

## **THE NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION**

Reading Level: Grade 7.8

The New International Version is a completely new rendering of the original languages done by an international group of more than a hundred scholars. These scholars worked many years and in several committees to produce an excellent thought-for-thought translation in contemporary English for private and public use.

The translators of the New International Version sought to make a version that was midway between a literal rendering (as in the New American Standard Bible) and a free paraphrase (as in The Living Bible). Their goal was to convey in English the thought of the original writers... The New Testament of the New International Version was published in 1973, and the entire Bible, in 1978. This version has been phenomenally successful. Millions and millions of readers have adopted the New International Version as their 'Bible.' Since 1987, it has outsold the King James Version, the best-seller for centuries, a remarkable indication of its popularity and acceptance in the Christian community. The New International Version, sponsored by the [International] Bible Society, ... has become a standard version used for private reading and pulpit reading in many English-speaking countries.

## **THE NEW KING JAMES VERSION**

Reading Level: Grade 8.5

The New King James Version (1982) is a revision of the King James Version, called for primarily due to the same reasons given for the New Revised

Standard Version. It retains the elegant literary style of the KJV, but is easier to read.

### **THE NEW LIVING TRANSLATION**

Reading Level: Grade 6.3

The New Living Translation (Tyndale, 1996) is a “thorough revision” of The Living Bible. “More than ninety scholars from various theological backgrounds and denominations [were involved] ... with the goal that it be exegetically accurate and idiomatically powerful.

Most significantly, the New Living Translation is not a paraphrase but a translation. Every verse has been carefully compared to the most reliable editions of the Hebrew and Greek texts in an effort to make a translation that accurately conveys the meaning of the original texts” (from the Preface to the review copy of Romans).

### **THE NEW REVISED STANDARD VERSION**

Reading Level: Grade 8.1 (but Zondervan says it's actually 10.)

The New Revised Standard Version [was] published in 1990. ... In the preface to this revision, Bruce Metzger, chair-person of the revision committee, wrote:

*The New Revised Standard Version of the Bible is an authorized revision of the Revised Standard Version, published in 1952, which is a revision of the American Standard Version, published in 1901. ... The need for issuing a revision of the Revised Standard Version of the Bible arises from three circumstances: (a) the acquisition of still older Biblical manuscripts, (b) further investigation of linguistic features of the text, and (c) changes in preferred English usage' (Comfort, p. 85).*

Many scholars believe that the Oxford translation has violated basic translation principles in its attempt to make the Bible “politically correct.” These scholars maintain that in changing the basic meaning of terms and concepts in the original languages, the Oxford Version has sacrificed accuracy in order to be more attractive to contemporary readers.

### **THE REVISED STANDARD VERSION**

The organization that held the copyright to the American Standard Version ... authorized a new revision in 1937. “The New Testament was published in 1946; and the entire Bible with the Old Testament, in 1952.

The principles of the revision were specified in the preface to the Revised Standard Version:

*The Revised Standard Version is not a new translation in the language of today. It is not a paraphrase which aims at striking idioms. It is a revision which seeks to preserve all that is best in the English Bible as it has been known and used throughout the years.*

This revision was well received by many Protestant Churches and soon became their 'standard' text... Evangelical and fundamental Christians, however, did not receive the Revised Standard Version very well, primarily because of one verse, Isaiah 7:14... The RSV has now been replaced by the NRSV.

The above are just samplings of the laborious task you'd be faced with in selecting a Bible for there are around 200 English versions from which to choose. I suspect you noticed the New International Version (NIV) is highly recommended. I suspect the fact it was translated from the "originals" would be an important consideration in choosing it, for we all want to get a Bible that is as close to the originals as we can get.

The King James would not likely be your choice. The write up said it is obscure and doesn't have the benefit of the best manuscripts. It even mentions it has words that can't be verified in the new manuscripts. According to the write up, it doesn't sound like a good choice to me.

You'll also notice that many of the versions are now updated to reflect the changes that have taken place since it was originally published. Some are listed as being paraphrases and others are described as being word for word translations. If you have done no research on the Bible version issue, you'll probably buy the NIV that the clerk recommends.

### **What the Clerk Didn't Tell You**

What the clerk didn't tell you is there are in reality only two Bible versions, the King James Bible and the Modern Versions, and they are totally different. This is not readily apparent, but it has to do with the differences in their underlying Hebrew and Greek texts.

The King James Bible's was translated from the Masoretic Hebrew Text (Old Testament) and the Textus Receptus which is also called the Received Text) (New Testament.) The Masoretic Text is the one preserved by God through the Jewish nation. The Textus Receptus is the one used and preserved by the true church outside Roman Catholicism since the First Century.

The Modern versions have their own Greek and Hebrew Critical Texts from which both the Old and New Testaments were translated. A Critical Text logically is developed as the result of scholars studying existing Biblical manuscripts and collating them to arrive at what they think are the Original Wordings. This presupposes that God

abandoned His Providential care and the texts were all corrupted very early in church history. (According to the scholars even Jesus didn't have an inerrant Bible.)

The explanation of a Critical Text is not as simple as it sounds, for it gets quite complicated. To show how the Old Testament Text was derived, I have included the following article which appeared in *The Lifeline*, May 97, Anchor Baptist Church, Salt Lake City, UT., Written by George Shafer, which gives a brief description of how the Hebrew Text used in the modern Bible versions was developed.

### **Kittel's Corrupted Old Testament Text**

Many people do not understand that there is a critical text behind the Old Testament found in modern versions of the Bible. This critical text, based upon the Leningrad Codex of 1005 A.D. and many other corrupt sources, contains between 20,000 and 30,000 changes when compared to the traditional Masoretic text used by the Godly translators of the King James Bible. That is an average of one change per verse. Every popular English language version of the Bible, other than the King James, is based upon this new corrupted text.

One of the primary causes of this corruption is a man named Rudolph Kittel. In 1906 and again in 1912 he published editions of the traditional (uncorrupted) Masoretic text. In these editions, he included a critical apparatus at the bottom of the pages. This apparatus suggested alternative readings based upon other manuscripts (such as the Leningrad Codex), indicating which manuscripts supported these readings. Critics and scholars quickly gobbled up his alternate readings, taking no time to verify whether or not Kittel, or the manuscripts cited, were accurate.

One scholar named Harry Orlinsky was not quite so gullible. He looked up the changes Kittel listed, comparing them to the manuscripts named in the critical apparatus. His findings were shocking. About Kittel's work he said, "there was scarcely a line in the apparatus of the BH (Kittel's 2nd edition, known as Biblia Hebraica or BH) that did not contain an error." He went on to say, "nearly every line . . . swarms with errors of commission and omission", and that "no single publication has had such detrimental effect on the lower textual criticism of the Hebrew Bible as Kittel's Biblia Hebraica."

It turns out that Kittel was not qualified to be a textual critic, as he had little training in the field. In addition, his work was filled with errors that can be called nothing less than carelessness. For example, he changed the place named in Isaiah 15:9 to "Dibon" based upon the Latin Vulgate, when most manuscripts including the Beatty Papyri, Sinaiticus, Vaticanus, Alexandrinus, Bohairic, Syro-Hexapia, the Targum, and the traditional Masoretic text read "Dimon" (as does the King James). Kittel does not mention these other sources in his critical apparatus.

Another example of Kittel's errors is a change in Isaiah 49:17 that Kittel said was based upon Codex Petropolitanus, the Vulgate, and several other sources. The truth is that Petropolitanus does not read as Kittel said, and that the various versions of the Vulgate disagree with one another.

The best example of Kittel's errors is possibly his change to II Kings 16:5. Kittel changed the plural Hebrew word "Yaklu" into a singular based upon his desire to make it agree with Isaiah 7:1 (there was no manuscript evidence to support the change). He forgot, however, that he had previously changed the singular in Isaiah 7:1 to a plural, once again without evidence, in order to make it agree with II Kings 16:5.

In 1937, the third edition of Kittel's work was published. It is known as Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia (BHS). In this edition, all of the changes that had previously been noted at the bottom of the page were swept up into the text. In other words, all of Kittel's inaccurate work suddenly was declared to be God's Word.

Modern versions including the NIV, the NASV, the NKJV, and the NRSV are all translated from it. When you read Isaiah, Chapter nine in the NIV, you will even see a footnote that is almost identical to the critical apparatus from Kittel's 1912 edition.

Modern versions simply assume that Kittel's work was error free, using it without question. Each, in the preface, proudly declares that it is based upon the latest version of the Hebrew Text (Kittel's 1937 or later).

What about doctrine, you ask? While it is not Kittel's fault, Daniel 3:25 in modern versions says that the fourth person in the fiery furnace appears like "a son of the gods" rather than "the Son of God" (the NKJV is so kind as to read "the Son of God" and place "a son of the gods" in a footnote). Jesus is not "a son of the gods."

I grieve for a man who has been robbed. Few of the people who have bought the NIV, NASV etc. have ever heard of Kittel. They have no idea that the accurate version of the Old Testament has been stolen from them, and replaced with one filled with errors. If you know people like that let them know. Praise the Lord; He is faithful to preserve His word from men like Rudolph Kittel.

## **The Critical New Testament Text**

The goal behind many of the scholars who work on the New Testament text is to reconstruct a pure text as presented in the Original Manuscripts. They accept as a fact that God did nothing to protect His Word and it has become severely corrupted over the years. The procedure used by the critics is to collect the available Greek manuscripts

and fragments and place them into certain groups which indicate their origin. After this is accomplished, they determine which group represents the oldest manuscripts, and these become the focus of their work.

“The Oldest manuscripts are the best,” according to the scholars, and this is a firm rule of the Textual Critic. This means of the over 5,000 manuscripts and fragments only a small portion is used to devise their text. Actually only two are the primary sources for all their work, but they may consult the others in the grouping if they feel like it.

Keep in mind the Textual Critic is different from the translators. The Textual critics are the ones who provide the Hebrew and Greek manuscripts. The Translators are the ones who take these manuscripts and record them in another language.

### **Which Bible Version Should You Purchase**

The following information is a tract published by TWOGISTATES Publishers and is presented in its entirety here.

With so many Bible versions on the modern scene, it is difficult, if not impossible, for the average person to distinguish the differences between them. Don't expect any help from your local “Christian Book Store” for the clerks there are just as confused as you are. The first question you will be asked is, “What kind of Bible are you looking for, one that is a word for word translation, perhaps one in the modern vernacular, maybe one that employs Dynamic Equivalence?” Most likely your response to this will be, “Huh?”

You'll probably reply, “I don't know for sure, but let me look around a bit.” So you begin your process of selecting a Bible, and most likely you'll find one that is easiest for you to read. With no other information to go on, you purchase your Bible and leave the book store feeling good about your purchase and go home and read God's Word. You are to be commended on your efforts to seek God's Word, but did you really purchase a genuine Bible or just another cleverly disguised counterfeit?

You know about the word, counterfeit, from the law of the land. This term usually identifies something of value, usually money that has been copied to appear like it has value, but is in fact worthless. It looks like the real thing, it feels like the real thing, but it has flaws that a knowledgeable person can readily identify as not being real at all. The sole purpose of anything counterfeit is to fool the purchaser and make money for the counterfeiter. The tools of passing anything counterfeit are lies and deception. The trademark of the counterfeiter is smooth talk and false promises.

Counterfeit Bibles are no exception. They exist solely to make money, pump up scholarly pride, and deceive the public with half truths and lies. In general to identify a real Bible a person must be well versed in the truths of the Bible, familiar with the ways of the scholars, and possess a spiritual discernment that only comes with maturity in the faith.

As a rule the general public is not expected to be experts in any of these areas, for the Bible version issue is quite complicated and difficult to understand. But keep in mind that any thing that is counterfeit can easily be identified with a few simple benchmarks and compliance with accepted standards. The Bible is no different and a few simple checks will separate the true from the false.

## **COUNTERFEIT CHECK NUMBER ONE**

The first benchmark is found in the first Book of the Bible where it records God's creation of man.

Genesis 2:7 Traditional

7 And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a LIVING SOUL.

The genuine Bible will have the words "Living Soul" as proof that man has a connection with God. The soul is the only thing that sets man apart from the animals. It is the only part of man that is associated with God, and if you take the soul away, and all you have is evolution. Man then becomes no different than any other animal and has no possibility of communing with God.

On the other hand, most of the counterfeit Bibles will have something like this as taken from the NIV.

Genesis 2:7 Modern

7 the LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a LIVING BEING.

What is a living being? It is anything that lives such as animal, birds, bugs, and snakes. By taking away man's soul the scholars have given evolution a big boost and set the stage for an evolutionary God. This denigrates God, is an insult to man's intelligence, and makes the counterfeit Bible worthless as a spiritual resource.

## **COUNTERFEIT CHECK NUMBER TWO**

There may be a few counterfeit Bibles that pass check number one. I only know of two, the English Revised Version, and the American Standard Version, but there may be others and if a Bible passes the first test then go to counterfeit check number two.

**1 John 5:7-8 Traditional**

7 For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.

8 And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one. KJB

This is an important Trinitarian formula and is always found in a genuine Bible. The counterfeit will generally leave it out for it supports the unbelief of many who are producing the modern Bibles.

### **1 John 5:7-8 Modern**

7 For there are three that testify:

8 the Spirit, the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement.

You will readily notice the witnesses in heaven and earth are missing. We need both to make our salvation complete. The counterfeit Bible only left out one verse, but such an important one. It is kind of like counterfeiting a ten dollar bill and leaving off the signature. Most people won't notice it, but the void is there just the same.

## **COUNTERFEIT CHECK NUMBER THREE**

If a Bible passes the first two checks then proceed to number three which is found in Philippians.

### **Philippians 2:6 Traditional**

6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

Here in the real Bible it is clear that this Scripture clearly agrees that Jesus knew He was and still is God. This is confirmed elsewhere in both the Traditional and Modern Bibles. However the modern Bible presents a different record for they present a Jesus who seems to be uncertain of His equality with God and makes Him a lesser God of some kind.

### **Philippians 2:6 Modern**

6 Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped,

Either Jesus is God or He is not, but He can't be both. The Modern Bibles not only disagree with the Traditional Bible, they contradict themselves. Check John 17:11.

## **COUNTERFEIT CHECK NUMBER FOUR**

Ok, you have found a Bible that passes test one, two and three, but you need to make another check.

### **2 Timothy 3:16 Traditional**

16 ALL SCRIPTURE is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

This says all Scripture is given by inspiration of God. It does not imply that parts of the Bible may not be inspired, but not so with some of the modern versions.

### **2 Timothy 3:16 Modern**

16 EVERY SCRIPTURE inspired of God is also profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for instruction which is in righteousness.

See the difference between “ALL SCRIPTURE is given by inspiration of God” and “EVERY SCRIPTURE inspired of God?” This implies some Scripture may not be inspired by God so you can’t trust it all. How do you tell the difference between which is inspired and which is not? Check the standards.

## **COUNTERFEIT CHECK NUMBER FIVE**

If your Bible has passed tests one, two, three, and four, then take a look at John 3:16. This is probably the most quoted verse in the Bible regarding salvation, and is generally the first verse most Christians memorize. The correct reading cannot be overemphasized for it has to do with Jesus’ virgin birth, God being His Father, and Jesus as the avenue of salvation.

### **John 3:16 Traditional**

16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

The counterfeits have changed this to kind of sound OK, but the true meaning is obscured; the only begotten son has been changed to one and only son.

### **John 3:16 Modern**

16 “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

The difference between the only begotten son and one and only son is significant in that “begotten son” clearly signifies God’s progeny while “one and only son” makes the Christian a foster child or something else for the Bible says we are all sons of God.

## **COUNTERFEIT CHECK NUMBER SIX**

Your Bible has passed all the five preceding test with flying colors and you are feeling good about it, but before you get too excited look at one more Scripture, Acts 8:36-38. Here in the story of Phillip and the Ethiopian Eunuch, we find a strong formula for the requirement of salvation before baptism.

### **Acts 8:36-38 Traditional**

36 And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?

37 And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

38 And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him.

Notice what happened to verse 37 in the counterfeit Bibles; it is totally missing.

**Acts 8:36-38 Modern**

36 As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water. Why shouldn't I be baptized?"

37 (Verse Missing)

38 And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him.

No profession of faith, no acknowledgment of Jesus, just a simple baptism service that does absolutely no good because the reason for the ritual is totally missing.

These are only a few of the places which identify a counterfeit Bible, but if a person is really looking for the truth, wanting to grow in God's Grace, and is interested in pleasing God, these references will be a good starting point.

**Hebrews 4:12**

12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

This is understood to mean the genuine Word of God. The counterfeit conveys no power and is of no spiritual value whatsoever. Never settle for a counterfeit, always ask for the genuine Bible that has all of God's instructions for mankind.

**"The King James Bible is God's Word in English"**

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**Proverbs 30:5-6**

(5) Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him.

(6) Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar.

## GOATS IN THE SHEEP HERD

**And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. Matthew 25:32-33**

### Chapter 16

#### Music in the Church

While music is not on the same level as the Bible, its impact on Christianity is important because in today's world it has become the foremost method of communication among the youth. Those of my age group cannot understand what the young people get out of the Rock, Rap, and other ridiculous stuff called music, but we try to accommodate them anyway.

I personally do not have any opinion about the secular music world for it has never been designed to glorify God, but is structured to captivate the minds of the listener. The unsaved will never comprehend that there is no relationship between the holy and the profane. This is not to say that all secular music is bad, but it is to point out that the two do not share the same motives nor are they designed to appeal to the same groups of people.

It seems to me that in today's music world the line between the holy and profane have been mixed up, crossed, and confused. Jesus said in Matthew 7:6:

6 Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you.

I think the message is pretty clear here, "Don't get confused about what is holy and what is profane."

The Bible does not specify what kind of music we are to use in honoring God, but it does not anywhere even hint that it is to be used in place of preaching. In fact there is not one verse that records one event of a person being saved through entertainment and music. However it does mention congregational singing, so I can deduce that this is a part of worship.

Musical instruments are also a major part of music. I have to say that any and all musical instruments are neutral when they are dormant, but when they are played they are no longer neutral but take on the spirit of the ones who are playing them. In this sense they are no longer neutral. Take a piano for example, it can be used to play holy music to present a tribute to Christ, or it can play rowdy music as a tribute to Satan. It all depends on the person playing and the spirit in which the music is being played.

Music is not an end within itself, but its total function is to set a mood whether it is profane or holy. It can bring a person out of depression and despair, it can create a happy, carefree atmosphere, or it can bring a person into the presence of God. All music speaks to the soul and affects the thoughts, desires, and actions of people. It can put people to sleep, command actions, induce thoughts, but it is never neutral.

As mentioned previously music may be profane or holy and the two are easy enough to define. Profane music creates worldly thoughts and actions while holy music creates thoughts and actions towards God.

Because music is such a powerful force that affects people's thoughts and actions, it is important that we understand that it must meet certain criteria before we can call it holy. In fact it must meet the same criteria as the inspired sermon.

1. Holy music must be inspired by God.
2. Holy music must be composed by inspired writers called of God.
3. Holy music must be played or sung by musicians called by God.
4. Holy music's sole purpose must be to glorify God.

Anything short of the four criteria above will make any music profane.

The modern Christian Contemporary Music (CCM) scene, according to its proponents, is designed to reach the unsaved youth of this generation. This sounds altruistic, but the real motive behind CCM is to produce super stars and make money. The super stars become idols of the youth, and they get extremely rich from sales of their music. This is not a picture of the humble Saviour and His disciples and all those who followed them in spreading the Gospel.

CCM at its best is no more than clean secular entertainment. While this is not bad from a Christian standpoint, it should never be confused with worship. In general I suspect the crowds that make up the CCM concerts are filled with those who love the Lord, but simply don't know the difference between the profane and the holy. They are victims of the marketing strategy employed by many of today's churches and denominations that are more concerned with crowds than they are with salvation. They spend more time giving their opinion about what God wants than they do in asking God what He wants, and in doing so hide the true Gospel, present a false gospel, and lead many to hell in the process.

What kind of worship music should we have in the church? The simple answer to this is we should stay with the kind found in the early church. If one scans through the pages of the New Testament, you will find the following references to accepted forms of musical worship:

**Acts 16:24-25**

24 Who, having received such a charge, thrust them into the inner prison, and made their feet fast in the stocks.

25 And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.

**Romans 15:8-9**

8 Now I say that Jesus Christ was a minister of the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises made unto the fathers:

9 And that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy; as it is written, For this cause I will confess to thee among the Gentiles, and sing unto thy name.

**1 Corinthians 14:15**

15 What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also.

**Ephesians 5:18-20**

18 And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;

19 Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;

20 Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;

**Colossians 3:16**

16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

**Hebrews 2:12**

12 Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee.

**Hebrews 13:15**

15 By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.

**James 5:13**

13 Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms. We can take this topic one step further and see what kind of music is sung in heaven.

**Revelation 5:8-9**

8 And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints.

9 And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;

Notice the kinds of songs being sung: praises, hymns, psalms and spiritual songs. There is no mention of musical instruments used in worship except in Revelation 5:8 which was a harp being played in heaven. There are trumpets also mentioned in Revelation, but they are used as precursors to announce an event or sound an alarm.. There could have easily been musical instruments in the other kinds of singing but they are not mentioned. I must also deduce that if there are musical instruments used in heaven, God will endorse their use in the church.

Clearly we know from the Bible what kind of songs to sing, but we don't know exactly what kinds of musical instruments to use. Getting back to musical instruments being neutral, we have to apply the same criteria to them as we apply to anything else we use in the worship service.

The pastor generally uses a podium. Podiums are not covered in the Bible, but sometimes they are used by ungodly people to make ungodly speeches. This doesn't make the podium ungodly, but it should tell us that neutral things may be used by the holy and profane. In other words, neutral things may be used by the church for it is not the thing that is profane but the person using it.

Most churches have a communion table with, "Do this in remembrance of Me" written across the front. The early church didn't have such a table. In fact they didn't even have a church building for the most part. These things evolved on the church scene and became accepted as normal.

Musical instruments fall into this category. Any instrument may be used in a church service with one provision: it must add to the service and not take away from it. The biggest difficulty we have with any kind of music in the church is it often glorifies the musician instead of Jesus Christ. In fact we some times push talented musicians into situations where they forget the reason they are performing and begin to think too highly of themselves. I suspect this is the biggest threat to those with musical talent in the Christian arena.

Let us be aware that there are two realms of Christian music: worship and entertainment. Sometimes it is hard to define these two genres for they often fall into categories of opinions instead of being separated by facts. In this paper I define worship as the official service we have in the church, and as the Bible says, "It should be done decently and in order."

Entertainment may also take place in the church but its purpose is different than worship and should be recognized as such. If we don't give people good clean entertainment in the church, where do you think they will get it? I can answer that, "They'll get it from the secular world, but it probably won't be very clean." While the

secular world may present something advertised as Christian entertainment, its primary goal is not to honor Jesus but is always to make money, and to do this they must cater to the whims of their constituency. Based on what I have observed I would say that the majority of the constituency of Christian entertainment holds convictions which are skewed completely towards the side of unbelief. I would venture to say that the taste of the unbelievers will continue to prevail when it comes to Christian entertainment because of the necessity of the producers to cater to the masses in order to make more money.

In summary, music in the church should follow the New Testament pattern of the early church. When used in worship, it should be worshipful, and when used in entertainment it should be respectable. A concentrated effort must be made to keep profane expressions out of both.

Life is to be enjoyed and when Jesus lives in one's heart. When this occurs He will be at the forefront of every thought that passes through the brain. He is the reason we are called Christians, He is the only reason we meet together as His followers, and the only reason we meet is to honor and worship Him.

My suggestion to you is to try everything by the Word, and if it doesn't measure up, reject it. If it doesn't make sense, use common sense. This will always work if you have Jesus in your heart.

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### **Ephesians 5:15-20**

- (15) See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise,
- (16) Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.
- (17) Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.
- (18) And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;
- (19) Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;
- (20) Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;

## GOATS IN THE SHEEP HERD

**And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. Matthew 25:32-33**

### Chapter 17

### Conclusion

I must conclude from this study that the Christianity of the Bible is rare in today's typical American church. The reason for this is our society has become so engrossed with recognition, secular knowledge, and a preconceived view of success that we have brought its ideas and practices into our churches. Consequently, these secular views have invaded Christianity to such an extent we can no longer tell the difference between the Holy and the profane.

I know such writings as this will have no effect on the mind of those who are not interested in the ways of the Bible, but there are many Christians who just don't know any better, and are perhaps looking for answers. I hope when such a person reads these writings he will take the time to check out my claims with an open mind.

Much of this is wishful thinking on my part. Satan has blinded the minds of many and today's Bible studies generally no longer address what God wants and how we are to live, but instead have become an exchange of the various viewpoints about the many versions as expressed by the various scholars. The students can clearly see the many disagreements between the versions as they study. However, they fall for the deception that the opinions of the scholars are more important than the authentic Word of God. Consequently, they miss the communion with God that is at the heart of real Bible study.

While this is my personal opinion, it is solidly based on spiritual facts and not some man-made theories. I stake my earthly life and all eternity on the basis that God is true, Jesus is the only way, and the Bible is God's only instructions to mankind. I have unwavering faith that God gave us His inspired, inerrant Word and preserved it exactly as He said He would. I am further convinced the only English version that meets the test of being a Godly inspired Bible, which has been preserved, and has stood the test of time is the King James Version. It was translated from the preserved texts by Godly scholars who believed it was God's Holy Word and reverently undertook the task. Additionally, it has ushered in revivals, convicted hearts, and made a major difference in the world. No other version has even approached this record, or ever will because all of the truths of God are not in them.

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### 1 John 2:5

(5) But **whoso keepeth his word**, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.

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