

SEVEN PRACTICAL BENEFITS OF HOLDING TO THE KING JAMES BIBLE

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(Preached in 1994 at the Dean Burgon Society Annual Meeting held at the Bible Brethren Church in Hagerstown, Maryland)

All Scripture quotations in this book are taken from the *King James Version* of the Bible.

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Seven Practical Benefits of Holding to the King James Bible

WE do not hold to the King James Bible because of its practical benefits, but rather because it is the blessed Word of God. Truth, not practicality, is the real issue. Yet, God has seen fit to bless us with many practical benefits when we honor HIS TRUTH.

In Rev. 3:7 and 8 we read, "And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith He that is holy, He that is true, He that hath the key of David, He that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth; I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name."

The book of Revelation was written to seven churches, five of which were commanded to

repent. The churches of Smyrna and Philadelphia were of sufficient spiritual character that they needed no such command.

Jesus is here pictured as having the key of David to open and shut. No man can shut what He opens, nor open what He shuts. This promise is true, and has been proven so to the frustration of those who oppose our view of the scriptures. This promise of an open door is not given to just any believer, but rather to those who meet the three conditions of **Rev. 3: 8** ...

- 1) "Thou hast a little strength", and
- 2) "hast kept MY WORD", and
- 3) "hast not denied MY Name".

Let us center our attention on the second reason for Jesus opening doors. It is perfectly obvious that keeping God's Word brings benefits to the Church. We must **KEEP** His Word. That is ...

- 1) Keep it all together, no abridging, no condensing, no simplifying, and no disposing of words, phrases, verses, or parts of chapters.
- 2) Keep it accurate (KJV in English). No changing of meaning, no interpretive translation, no dynamic equivalence, no paraphrasing, no rewriting.
- 3) Keep it circulated, both verbally and in written form. If anything, we must increase its realm of influence and circulation until all have a chance to possess it.
- 4) Keep it preached and taught. We must preach the Word, not just have messages about it. There is a famine coming as prophesied in **Amos 8:11**, "Behold, the days come, saith the Lord God, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the Words of the LORD."
 - 5) Keep it lived before an onlooking world. They need to see the Bible put into practical life.

The reason we keep it is because it is the Word of God. Il Tim. 3:16, 17 states, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works." Think of it ... inspired ... profitable ... throughly furnished unto All good works! This Bible certainly is practical.

It is the blessed Word of God because it is inspired. Jesus told the Devil the degree of inspiration in Matt. 4:4, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every Word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." The Bible is not man's words about God's thoughts. It is God's Words from God's mouth. It is sinful when man thinks he can put his own words in God's mouth. It is deceitful to say that God gave thoughts to one man to interpret in that man's words by writing. No scripture is of any private interpretation. This really and literally is the Word of God, — not the words of men about the thoughts of God.

It is the Word of God because it is preserved. God had His ancient people Israel sing this truth into their hearts in **Psm. 12:6, 7,** "The Words of the LORD are pure Words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever."

Given pure and preserved pure, - that is my Bible. These others are based on the false theory that purity, if ever it existed, was lost. We must trust the scholars who will gradually give it back to us a little bit at a time. They say, each succeeding revision and version claims some progress towards purity, but they don't really know where purity is. Conybeare was of the opinion that the pure scriptures could never be fully recovered.

Titus 1:9a tells us that a qualification for an elder or gospel minister is "holding fast the faithful Word." That is good advice for all believers.

Prov. 13:13 states, "Whoso despiseth the Word shall be destroyed: but he that feareth the commandment shall be rewarded." Our attitude toward this Book mirrors our attitude toward Jesus and our relationship with Him. To doubt or criticize the written Word is to doubt or criticize the living Word.

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THE SEVEN PRACTICAL BENEFITS

ow there are many definite practical benefits of holding to the King James Bible. Let me cite seven.

- have Jesus opening doors and not allowing them to be shut. Based on this promise, a Bible Conference along with 100+ acres of ground was recovered and kept open. Those holding to a weaker Bible had obtained control and planned to shut it down. Once the issue of Who had opened the door of this work was settled in our hearts, we took steps by faith, knowing only Jesus could shut the door. The grounds were given to us and the conference has continued operating these past 12 summers.
 - 2) II Tim. 3:16, 17 The Word of God is trustworthy, for God gave it by special

means. We can depend upon it whenever it speaks. Whether it touches on science, prophecy, geography, redemption, history, holiness, politics, heaven, hell, medicine, finances, family, laws of learning, morality, sin, or the Saviour, — all of it can be trusted. It will help us in the present, guide us in the future, and prepare us for eternity. The Devil still asks, "Hath God said?" We can clearly respond that this Bible tells us, "Yea, God hath said!" Trusting the promises of God has fed my family and built this building without ever asking for money.

3) Heb. 4:12 – This Bible is powerful. It is sharper than a two-edged sword. It pierces and divides. It is "the Sword of the Spirit" (Eph. 6:17). It exposes sin, rebukes worldliness, divides soul from spirit, separates differing issues, searches out hidden thoughts and intents of the heart, teaches right living, defeats the enemy, stops sinning, and stops Satan.

- 4) I Thess. 2:13 The Word of God works effectually. It works effectually unto holy living (I Thess. 2:12). It always accomplishes what God pleases (Isa. 55:11). It prospers where He sends it. It will not return unto Him void.
- 5) Mark 13:31 God's Word will last. (Matt. 5:18; Matt 24:35; Luke 21:33). Hundreds of attempts have been made to change this King James Bible and the Hebrew and Greek texts it is built upon. All have failed. The hammers break but the anvil stands solid. Others are attempting to change this Bible. They too will fail. They cannot change it. They cannot improve it. They cannot replace it. God's Word will last.
- 6) John 17:17 "Thy Word is Truth." It always tells the truth. It tells of:
 - a. The true God
 - b. The truth about the Trinity

- c. The true Jesus He is God, Creator, born of a virgin, absolutely sinless, our total substitute through His shed blood, death, burial, and resurrection. He is ascended and seated in heaven. He is King of Kings and Lord of Lords.
- d. The true state of man fallen into sin, born a sinner and sinning, lost, helpless and hopeless in and of himself.
- e. The truth about sin. Social standards change, laws are adjusted, religion switches philosophies, but the Bible still tells the same things about sin. It defines it, exposes it, attacks it, brings conviction of it, washes from it, delivers from it, and helps us resist it. The Bible calls it sin. Sinners call it mistakes, errors, slips, backslidings, lack of consecration, ignorance, social mannerisms, lifestyles, disease, human nature, or family traits. The Bible warns of the wages of sin, the harvest of sin, the pollution of sin, and the exceeding sinfulness of sin. The truth

- about sin is needed if we are ever to help sinners. For that, we need a real Bible.
- f. The truth about salvation. Not everybody is saved. In fact, not many are saved. The Bible tells the truth about hypocrites and false professors, as well as the truth about genuine believers. It tells who needs to be saved, how to be saved, and the results of salvation.
- g. The truth about heaven, that wonderful place where our Saviour is. It tells of mansions, streets of gold, gates of pearl and blessed fellowship with the Redeemed. It is real, and I'm going there. My Bible tells me so.
- h. The truth about hell. Cults deny it, liberals eject it, and compromisers try to put out the fire. Jesus warned of it. Sodom is now suffering its eternal vengeance, and the lost will have the smoke of their torment go up from it forever. It is real, created for the Devil

- and his angels. Those who die without Jesus will go there. "Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men." (II Cor. 5:11a).
- i. The truth about peace, peace through Christ's blood, peace with God, peace from God, the God of peace, and the peace which passeth all understanding. The right Bible points to the only true peace that lasts.
- 7) There is a seventh practical benefit of holding fast to the King James Bible. It is hated by God's enemies. Notice their emotional responses to our Bible. They can scarcely contain themselves. Watered down versions don't bring the same reaction at all. Consider the atheists, despisers of good, heretics, infidels, Communists, Liberals, apostates, Catholics, cults, Muslims, wicked, compromisers, worldly, neo-evangelicals, the sexually promiscuous, and perverts. See how they

join together against this Bible. See how many of them join together to try to replace it. There is a great benefit in holding to a Bible that God's enemies reject and often hate. It puts us on the right side of the issue. It saves us from unsavory company. It clears the air. It makes a rallying cry. Isa. 8:20 states, "To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this Word, it is because there is no light in them." More and more the enemies of God forsake even the appearance of holding to our Bible. It is too strong for them.

Why should we hold to the King James Bible? Because it is the blessed Word of God.

Are there practical benefits to those who hold fast? Yes! Jesus opens doors for us. We can fully trust our Bibles. There is a great power in God's Words. They work effectually. They will last. They

are true and tell the truth. They help us tell friend from foe.

You won't go wrong by holding fast to the right Bible. God blesses those who do.

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