

# Basic Issues About our Bible

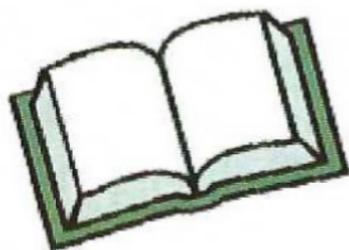
\* Pre-existence

\* Inspiration

\* Preservation

\* Corruption

\* Translation



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## BIBLE ISSUES...

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**T**hese days, we are fighting a real battle over the issue of the Word of God. There has been a battle since the Garden of Eden when Satan said to Eve, "Yea, hath God said..." There has been much questioning of the accuracy of the Word of God and of knowing that we could actually trust what we have.

I Thessalonians 2:13 reads, "For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe." When you hear the Word of God, you are to hear it as the Word of God for it is not the word of men. It will not work in you effectually unless you hear it as being, literally, God's own words to your soul. You need to hear what God says.

We have a coalition of people teaching that it is God's thoughts in man's words. I will be showing you from the Word of God that such is not true.

Many are trying to correct and change it, but the Apostle Paul, after writing the majority of the New Testament scriptures, could say that what he gave them was God's Word – not man's work about God, but actually God's Word. They had received it as God's Word and not man's word, which is why it worked in them effectually. When you wander on the Bible issue the Word of God will not work in you as it would if you had stood right.

The second passage we will consider is Psalm 138:2 which says "... thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name." God has magnified His Word and given it a place of higher respect and higher protection than even His own name. He said, "Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain". We need to be very cautious what we do with His Word because He magnified it. We need to understand something particular about Scripture. Jesus said, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." (Matt. 4:4). He did not say thoughts, concepts, principles, or man's words, but every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. The Scripture is literally the words that God

gave. It is by this we are to live. Otherwise, we do not have a proper basis for Christian living.

According to Ephesians 6, The Word is the Sword of the Spirit. In Psalm 119:11 we are told, "Thy word have I hid in mine heart that I might not sin against thee." The Word has the ability to keep us out of sin, as well as to cleanse young men in their way. In Hebrews 4, we are told, "The Word of God is sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit." It can deal with these two subjects that people mix together.

We live in a day when people have a problem with the Word of God. There were two men, Drs. Westcott and Hort. Both were heretics who damaged the Scriptures, particularly the New Testament where they changed the Greek foundation. Some say they just clarified, updated, and made a few improvements but did not actually change anything. That is what they told me at Cedarville College. Towards the end of my time there, I had become disgusted with their explanations because they contradicted themselves. I wished that, as a freshman, I had

taken an inexpensive Bible and every time they made a change in chapel or class, I would have torn that page out. I could have then presented what was left of the Bible to the President of the College.

I did not do that, but years later, asked a man attending our church services to compare the differences between the so-called new and improved Greek foundation used by Nestle/Aland and the United Bible Society with the Received Text. The latter is the one God inspired and that has been used down through the ages. I gave him an inexpensive King James Bible and asked him to go through and cut out every page in the New Testament if they made a change on either the front or backside of the page. He did that, cutting some and some more – and some more. He told me, “I found a change on the front and the backside of every one of those pages”. How much of the New Testament was left unchanged? There was none. Every page had a change. People say there are few changes, they are insignificant and not to be worried about. But there was nothing left, not one page of the New Testament, which they

would let you trust. I know what the scholars say, but remember this illustration. This is the reality of what they do to your New Testament, as far as being able to know it is the Word of God and not the word of men. God has magnified His Word above His own name. He does not want anyone trashing His Word.

To better understand this, consider that either the Word of God judges us or we end up judging it. Today, we have the scholars judging the Word of God, which is backwards. We either submit our logic to God's revelation, or we will use our logic to try to change God's revelation. That is what they do. They say, "This does not make any sense to me. This does not look logical." That has nothing to do with it. God said it, and that settled it. We need to understand, it is what God said, not what we think. Our brains are too small to be able to judge God and His Word.

I want to give you five words that deal with this subject. The first has to do with the pre-existence of the Scriptures; the second, inspiration; the third, preservation; the fourth, corruption; and the fifth, translation.

# PRE-EXISTENCE

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Psalm 119:89 is David writing before the time of Christ, "For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven." In other words, the Word of God was a settled issue in David's day, including the New Testament. It had not yet been written on earth, but was already settled in heaven – every single word of it. Not only that, but it had been settled forever, i.e., Genesis was settled before Moses was born, before creation occurred. It has always been a settled issue in heaven. Just like the Living Word, Jesus, pre-existed His coming by means of the virgin birth, so the Scriptures pre-existed their coming by means of inspiration. What was written in the Bible was no surprise to God. He had worked that out long before and had it settled in heaven.

Psalm 119:152 says, "Concerning thy testimonies, I have known of old that thou hast founded them for ever." Not only are they forever settled, but they have been founded forever. John 3:16 was forever founded and settled by God in heaven. It did not happen when the Apostle John was writing.

How the very words would read was established and locked down in heaven.

Psalm 119:160 reads “Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever.” It was there at the beginning. I want you to see that God had His Word in heaven long before He had it here on earth. That is important because it will help you to understand inspiration.

## **INSPIRATION**

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II Timothy 3:16 reads, “All scripture is given by inspiration of God...” How did He give it to us? He gave it by inspiration.

Inspiration was the process by which God gave what He had in heaven to us here on earth. Just as He gave us His Son by the process of the virgin birth, He gave us the Word of God by the process of inspiration. God took what was forever settled in heaven and moved it down to have it recorded here on the face of the earth. That is inspiration.

It is not that God put thoughts in people's minds, they thought them over, tried to figure them out, and wrote them down the best they could. That is commonly taught in most of the so-called fundamental schools of America. The reason they taught that at Cedarville in the 1960's was because they also taught it at Dallas Seminary, Grace Seminary, Bob Jones University, and other such schools. They were walking the party line. Most of the students believed it. Through reading the Scripture, I knew God already had His Word, which He gave by process of inspiration. If it was already in heaven, He was not going to have something different on earth. God was not taking a chance on how men might write it down. He was putting it down here, just like He had it up there.

People mock, ridicule and say it does not make sense. They try to get revelation to make sense to their logic. Remember in II Peter 1:21 the Bible tells us that "...holy men of God, spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." That is how prophecy came in the old time. In other words, inspiration involves God taking over a holy man and moving him to write here what God had

already recorded on High. It was forever settled, forever founded, lasting forever in Heaven. God was just getting it recorded and released down here for our benefit. That is inspiration.

In I Peter 1:10 we read, "Of which salvation the prophets have inquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you." They prophesied about it. God had them record it. Then, they went around asking questions like, "What does this mean?" They did not understand it. Verses 11-12 continue, "Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow. Unto whom it was revealed that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things..." God was telling them, "I had you write it. You do not understand it, but it really is not for you. It is for the people that come after you." The verse continues, "...which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into." The Holy Ghost, who was sent down,

came to explain the Word that was sent from heaven by process of inspiration. It originated in heaven.

## **PRESERVATION**

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I Peter 1:23 says, "Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever." In other words, you cannot corrupt the Word of God." People are working at it. But they cannot destroy it because God only uses the incorruptible seed for people to be born again. You cannot get saved by a corrupted Scripture; it takes an incorrupted Scripture for a person to be converted.

Verses 24 and 25 read, "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: But the word of the Lord endureth for ever..." It has never been lost. We do not need to find some old manuscript to correct what was ruined somewhere along the way. The gospel, the Word, and its effectiveness in converting people

are tied to the preservation of the Scriptures. That is why it says in Proverbs 30:5 that “Every word of God is pure.” That is why Psalm 119:140 says, “Thy word is very pure.” That is why Jesus said in Luke 21:33, “Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away. That is why He said in Matthew 5 that heaven and earth will pass but not one jot or tittle from the law will be changed.” Not even the little markings on the letters. He is going to preserve and keep it pure. We have a guarantee of the Savior Himself and promises throughout the Scripture that “The Word of the Lord endureth forever. That is why Isaiah 40:8 says, “The word of our God shall stand forever.” That which pre-existed – then by inspiration was released to man in its pure form – is kept pure by God, so that we will always have on earth what He has in heaven.

Psalm 12:6-7 says, “The words...” (Plural, not thoughts, not word in general, but words, the very 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.” Man

does not have to keep them pure; God has promised to do that. When God gave His Word from heaven, He did not leave it here for man to destroy. He said He would preserve it and there would always be His pure Word here on earth. God's preservation is a guarantee that He made on this issue of the Scriptures.

## CORRUPTION

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Then, we have the problem of corruption and the matter of corrupted Bibles. You can study history. Know the past, those who stood for what is right and those who tried to destroy the Word of God. There are infidels, heretics and theologians who have banded together to try to destroy the Word of God. An infidel in France once tried to destroy every Bible in that country. After his death, his house was purchased by the French Bible Society. He intended to do one thing. God turned it around and made it a laughing stock.

II Corinthians 2:17 reads, "For we..." (Apostle Paul and his group) "...are not as many, which

corrupt the Word of God.” There are those who hold the words pure and preserved. Others try to corrupt them. This was written before the New Testament was completed. It is part of New Testament revelation. We have pre-existence, inspiration, preservation, but we also have a movement of corruption. Paul said, “For we are not as many, (of the crowd) which corrupt the word of God...:” The verse then continues, “But as of sincerity, but as of God, in the sight of God speak we in Christ.” Those that are right will hold to that which is right, pure, and preserved. One of the marks of those who are not right is they will find some way to change what God actually said to something similar, or even different.

My children soon learned that when I gave instructions for them to pass along, they were not free to restate my words, according to their whim. Otherwise, the instructions might not have the same force or details. Yet, man dares to do with the Word of God what he would never allow others to do with his own words.

We are told in I Corinthians 2:14 “...the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God:

...because they are spiritually discerned.” Any attempt to get the Bible understandable to lost people is wrong and doomed to failure. The Bible is to bring revelation to the soul, not understanding to the intellect. This is a book of the mind of God, not of the principles for man. It is what God’s people are to live by. You say, “You mean corruption goes all the way back to the early apostolic age when the Apostle Paul was ministering?” It certainly does. It started before the Bible was complete. People think the oldest manuscripts must be the best, but you can have a manuscript that was corrupted before the book of Revelation was written. That is what this passage will tell you.

I will carry this further. We have these nice clichés that may convince people, but if you read your Bible and listen to the Holy Ghost within, you will see through them. Jeremiah 23:29-30 reads, “Is not my word like as a fire? saith the LORD: and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces? Therefore, behold, I am against the prophets, saith the LORD, that steal my words every one from his neighbour.” Any preacher who sets something in

front of the people that is different than the actual words of God whether thoughts, principles, paraphrase, equivalents, or whatever – God is against them. That was going on in Jeremiah’s day, hundreds of years before the time of Christ. Twenty-six hundred years ago, they were stealing the very words of God from the people. The preachers were leaders in this. We are not talking about the people living in wickedness, or the atheists, we are talking about the prophets of God, the preachers.

Corrupting the Word of God is done in the schools, the seminaries, and churches. I received an e-mail from the country, formerly called Burma, from a man that has a church and a Bible college where he trains Independent Fundamental Baptist preachers. He has over 80-students studying for the ministry. He is also fighting the battle against many in the country who are trying to steal the literal words of God out of the Bible. This battle is not just local – it is an international war on the matter of stealing the very words of God.

The passage continues in verses 31-34, “Behold, I am against the prophets, saith the LORD, that use

their tongues, and say, He saith..." They say, "Well, this is really what God said." The verse continues, "Behold, I am against them that prophesy false dreams, saith the LORD, and do tell them, and cause my people to err by their lies, and by their lightness." (They ridicule those that hold right on the Bible.) "Yet, I sent them not, nor commanded them: therefore, they shall not profit this people at all, saith the LORD. And when this people, or the prophet, or a priest, shall ask thee, saying, What is the burden of the LORD? Thou shalt then say unto them, What burden? I will even forsake you, saith the LORD. And as for the prophet, and the priest, and the people, that shall say, The burden of the LORD, I will even punish that man and his house". If you do not treat the Bible right, God will punish you. You can talk about being burdened by God, but if you do not treat God's Word right, you are open to the punishment of God. Verse 36 continues, "...And the burden of the LORD shall ye mention no more: for every man's word shall be his burden...;" God says you will end-up with just your words and claiming it is God's words. The verse continues, "For ye have perverted the words of the living

God, of the LORD of hosts our God. Let me say, if you take this position you will lose many friends and may get cut-off some places. But the Lord was cut-off too. Paul was cut-off and said I am not of that crowd. Jeremiah was cut-off and said he did not want to be in that crowd. You may get cut-off from them, but they are being cut-off from the Lord and sooner or later, it will show up. This is not a minor matter. God has magnified His Word above His own name. If these people treated the name of the Lord the way they treated the Bible, can you imagine the judgment that would fall? But they lightly do this and that angers God.

Revelation 22 says "... if any man shall add unto these things, (The Word of God) God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book." If they take away from the Word of God, He will take away their rewards in the future. Those are the closing verses of our Bible. The Bible hardly starts; creation is hardly completed, when the Devil shows up. The first words he spoke were "Yea hath God said." He said, you think you have final revelation. You think you have the actual words of God. You think you have it straight. Then

he started working to get Eve to adjust. He adds a bit and takes away some. The same concept but not the same words, not the same preciseness, or the same sharpness, and before long Eve fell into sin. Adam walked right behind her, fell into sin, and the curse came down on man. It started with Scripture tampering – corruption of the Word of God. If you start on that path, you will end-up in terrible shape.

Let me give you a quick personal testimony. I went to Hagerstown, Maryland in 1972. For a number of years, an older gentleman came to our Sunday night services. He was an officer at a local Lutheran church. He told me how they used to have gospel preaching and evangelistic meetings where people were converted, lives were changed, and they sang about the blood of the Lamb. All this took place while he had been a deacon in the church. Then, by 1972, they did not believe in getting saved and born again. It grieved his heart. I asked, “When did this change occur?” He said, “Along about 1950 or so,” I asked, “What do you think brought about the change?” He replied, “When we changed Bibles from the King James

Version to the RSV. We lost our whole view of the gospel, of Christian living, evangelism and our burden. We headed in another direction.” That was his testimony.

## TRANSLATION

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The fifth word is translation. Inspiration is how God moved His Word from heaven to earth. Translation is how God moves His Word from one language to another. He sent it to earth by inspiration. He sent it in Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek. Most of the Old Testament is in Hebrew with only a bit of Aramaic. The New Testament was in Greek – then translated into Syriac, Coptic, Old Latin, later into new Latin, and eventually into German, French, Czech, Slovak, Spanish, Portuguese, and English and so on.

If translation is done properly, the purity that was in heaven and by inspiration came down to earth can be carried over. You can have God’s pure Word. I do not have any problems with this book. I have read, reread, and studied it - listened to arguments and accusations – but find nothing

wrong with what I use, the King James Version (KJV). Of course, Westcott and Hort would tear the entire New Testament out, as already noted in a previous chapter. Not every verse, but they found something wrong on every page, and on some pages, many things were changed.

We must understand how translation is to be done. God gave us not only His Word, but literally His words. If you are going to translate, you must take God's words and correctly move them over, word-by-word into another language. You must make sure the meaning carries over and linguistically fits. If you have learned another language, you will know that word order is not always the same in a sentence. I know of one translation into Spanish that is word-for-word from our KJV, but does not make good sense in Spanish. The word order is bad and some of the words were improperly translated. It must be a word-for-word translation, so that for every word God gave, we have a word with explanation and understanding. This is what you will find in the KJV.

We have a generation who are not interested in starting with God's words. They prefer some other

textual foundation like the Westcott-Hort Critical Text. Yet, these heretics denied the new birth, believed in infant baptism, and felt that the worship of Mary was the same as worshipping Jesus. They were spiritists, members of the Ghostly Society in England, revolutionists, and socialists. Westcott did not believe in the bodily resurrection of Christ. He disguises that very cleverly in his commentary on the book of John, but it is there. He did not believe in some of the miracles either. They butchered up the text terribly and many translations are from the wrong words. You must start with God's word. If you want purity in the end, you must start with purity. You cannot start with a corrupted text and end-up pure.

The New International Version (NIV) does not even attempt to do word-for-word translation. They hold to dynamic equivalence, i.e.; God gave thoughts and as long as the thought is still there that is fine. They turn nouns into pronouns, pronouns into nouns, drop some words, add others, and some verses disappear. They start with a wrong foundation, use a wrong process, and cannot possibly come out right.

The New American Standard Version (NASV) is a word-for-word translation. The process is right, but they started with a wrong foundation, a corrupted one. If you start with corruption and translate right, you still end-up with corruption.

The Living Bible was paraphrased. Kenneth Taylor said that he thought the Bible needed a rewrite job. That was in Time Magazine. He did not even take the time to translate from the Greek and Hebrew text. Instead, he used the American Standard Version of 1901 as his basis.

The NEB did not believe in the Deity of Christ. They made a mockery of some of the passages of the Old Testament, such as that in Zechariah about seeing the wounds when Christ comes. It is almost blasphemous what they turn that passage into. They had a wrong foundation and used a bad process.

The New King James Version (NKJV) has a wrong foundation and sometimes uses a bad process. That is why you will find the book of Revelation a tragedy, as well as difficulties in the

rest of the New Testament and some of the Old Testament.

The above are issues on the matter of translation.

*Now the good news:* The King James Version (KJV) is accurate. It was done right. It has been proved through the test of time. It was translated word-for-word from the Masoretic Hebrew text of the Old Testament and the Received Greek Text of the New Testament.

In addition, when it comes to readability, it is just as easy as or easier than any of them. This was discovered by the computer program used to determine readability for school materials. I have a friend; he was a schoolteacher who spent hundreds of hours of computer time studying this very subject.

Yes, you can trust this Bible. It will speak to your heart. It will work effectually in those that believe if they will receive God's Words as the Word of God. Do not go for man's corrupted versions. Get God's Word. Treat it as God's Word. And it will work in you as God's Word.

## **FIVE WORDS ...**

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1. Pre-existence
2. Inspiration
3. Preservation
4. Corruption
5. Translation

These will help you sort out the confusion caused by the many English translations in America.