

“Therefore, behold, I am against the prophets, saith the LORD, that steal my words every one from his neighbour.”

(Jeremiah 23:30) This verse describes the problem of those who claim to speak for God, while at the same time, taking the very words of God, stealing them from their neighbors.

This problem began back at the Garden of Eden, when the Devil attacked God’s Word by asking, “Yea, hath God said...?”, and has continued down through the ages. Today religious leaders are trying to steal the words of God from the people, not only in English, but also in Spanish, French, German, Italian, Russian, and hundreds of other languages. It is time we raise the cry, “THIEF! THIEF!”

In Jeremiah 23, there are three things told about the words of God. In verse 22 we read, “But if they had stood in my counsel, and had caused my people to hear my words, then they should have turned them from their evil way, and from the evil of their doings.” If they had put their energy and efforts into having people hear what God said, instead of stealing the words, people would have repented and turned away from the evil that they were doing. In verse 36 it states, “And the burden of the LORD shall ye mention no more: for every man’s word shall be his burden; for ye have perverted the words of the living God, of the LORD of hosts our God.” They took God’s words and perverted and twisted them in their meaning. Because of that, they had struck

out against the very living God. These words are God's words, not God's thoughts in man's words.

We are facing three conditions today. Some preachers, preach the Word of God in order to turn people from their evil ways. Some take the words of God and pervert them, and the burden of the Lord is removed from such people, knowing not what it is to fear God and follow Him. Then there are those who literally steal or purloin God's words away from their neighbors.

How are they stealing God's words? One of the chief tools of the Devil today in stealing the words of God is the multiplied perversions of the Bible that are being put on the market. Not only are they perverting the Word of God, they also have various hidden ways of stealing the Word of God. They tell us that the new versions will make things clearer or better understood. However, some of the things that are supposed to be "better understood" have been totally left out of these Bibles. In other cases, certain portions have not disappeared, but have been put in italics, brackets, or at the bottom of the page, where we are told, this part isn't really the Word of God.

Since the time of the King James Version, there have been several hundred attempts in the English language to pervert or steal away the Word of God. This has particularly been true in the last century since the time of Westcott and Hort. These men never claimed to be saved for they did not believe in the new birth.

On the contrary, they felt that infant baptism and taking the sacraments was all a person needed. They were evolutionists who hated American democracy.

Since this time, we have had well over one hundred attempts to steal God's words. This is one reason God put the King James Bible in our hands - so that we could see what is wrong with these other versions. Right now there are three new versions on the market, and twelve to fourteen in preparation. There will be no end to this as long as people buy them. There are millions of dollars to be made in this business, and as long as there is money to be made, people will steal from God's Word to line their own pockets.

This issue of changing the Word of God and trying to destroy it is nothing new. It was going on in the time of the Apostle Paul. He said he was not of the group that was corrupting the Word of God. Jeremiah had to face the issue 600 years before the time of Christ. In his day there were preachers trying to destroy the Word of God. The Devil's effort to undermine the authority of the Word of God has been consistent down through the ages, and we have no reason to expect it to decrease.

There will be preachers that steal from the Word of God, and they will find that HE is not their friend, but rather, has become their enemy. What is the end result of all this stealing from God's Word? Another prophet in the Old Testament gave



us some insight on this matter. Amos 8:11 says, "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...". Once these words are stolen, as stated in Jeremiah, the people will no longer have access to them.

There are several ways people steal from God. In Jeremiah, we have those that steal His very words. God gave literal words to the writers, not thoughts. They wrote down what He wanted, word by word, but some who came afterwards tried to steal those words away from the people. The preceding verse, Jeremiah 23:29, says, "Is not my word like as a fire? saith the LORD; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces?" God's Word works like a fire, but people steal those words so there is no real fire in their souls to purge sin and set a person afire with zeal for the Lord. It is like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces, but the hammer has been stolen. Instead, a very gentle piece of literature remains, not a hammer to break hard hearts.

I have found through my research of various versions that the Jehovah's Witness's Bible and recent Protestant versions have the same things stolen from them as the Roman Catholic Bible. They like it better with the fire and hammer gone, and only shreds left of some stories with a softened language.

They say they have not changed any major doctrines in these new versions. It would be interesting to know where they

found their definition of doctrine, and who determines what is major and minor. God does use these terms in the Bible, referring to some issues as “major” and others as “minor”. Yet the “scholars” will quickly assure us that no major doctrine has been affected. We have found through our study that verses, or parts of verses, have been left out that deal with doctrine of the Trinity, the Deity of Jesus, the Lordship of Jesus, the Messiahship of Christ, His precious blood, and His sinlessness. These are rather “major” doctrines to us. Obedience to the Scriptures, separation, the priesthood of the believer, the doctrine of repentance, the everlasting nature of hell, along with these other areas certainly seem to be “major”. If these matters are not crucial, what is?

The question has been asked, “Which versions take which parts out?” This has not been fully answered, but others have written on the subject and more research can be done. If you have a modern version, it is most likely that anywhere from 70 percent to 90 percent of the verses we will examine have been questioned, damaged, or cut out of your Bible. One researcher checked 200 such passages with the following results:

New English NT has 197 of the 200 omissions

New International has 195

Revised Standard NT has 189

New American Standard NT has 183

Good News for Modern Man NT has 182

Living NT "only" has 130 of the 200

These "translators" are stealing God's words from their neighbors. Naturally, this brings God's opposition.

Let us examine this issue to see how the truths of the Bible are being stolen.

(1) I John 5:7 states, "For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one." This verse is perhaps the most hated and most attacked by the Devil. In the modern versions of the Bible, you may not find verse 7, or that verse 6 has been divided in half and verse 7 has been left out. This verse teaches the reality of the Triune God - that God is one God made up of three separate personalities: the Father, the Word (the Lord Jesus), and the Holy Ghost. These three are co-equal, co-existent, and in absolute agreement with no controversy between them. This is referred to as the doctrine of the Trinity, a holy Trinity in the sense that they are absolute perfection.

Not only does the Devil not like this verse because it tells of a God far greater than he and of the true nature of God, but it also tells that there is a heavenly witness to our salvation. The verse states there are three that bear record in heaven. The Devil would like for people to be deceived about this matter of salvation. He would have them to either think they are saved when they really are not, or lead them to believe there is nothing more to

salvation than something here on earth. But the Bible tells us that when a person is saved, all three of the Trinity are involved and in full agreement.

The Father loved me, planned for me, and desired my salvation. The Son shed His blood for me; He has received me, and is my own. The Holy Spirit birthed me into the family after convicting me and drawing me to Jesus. Now He indwells me. These three bear record in the matter of salvation. This is why the Unitarians, who deny the Trinity, hate this verse. The Jehovah's Witnesses, who think that Jesus was no more than an angel, despise this verse. The Apostolics, who deny the reality of the three, resist this verse.

The matter of the Trinity is a great mystery that goes beyond the realm of our human understanding and gets into the realm of faith and believing in God's revelation. I John 5:7 is the clearest, simplest, most powerful verse on this subject, and the Devil would like to obliterate it from your Bible.

The scholars who challenge the inspiration of this verse may not be fully entitled to our unquestioning respect. Here are some examples of the so-called scholarship of those that are stealing this truth from our Bibles. Philip Schaff, head of the translators of the American Standard Version, did not believe in the deity of Christ, the blood atonement, the bodily resurrection, the verbal plenary inspiration of Scriptures, and denied all the



fundamentals of the faith. Others showed their ignorance of the Word of God in the story of David and Goliath. They became so confused over who killed the giant Goliath that in one place they said David did, and in another place they decided someone else did. (Elhanan, II Samuel 21:19) A Sunday School child is smarter than these "scholars". Recently the Lockman Foundation decided that it was time to revise the American Standard Version and came out with the New ASV. When they came to the temptation of Eve in Genesis, they could not tell the difference between God and gods, so they substituted one for the other. In their ignorance, they showed no understanding of the difference between the demons and the God of the universe.

Upon tackling Hebrews 11 where it tells of Sara's giving birth to a child, the committee that produced the New International Version deleted the child's birth and substituted the name Abraham for Sara. It would appear they had trouble telling a man from a woman.

These scholars say I John 5:7 does not belong in the Bible. They claim there is no historical evidence for this verse, and that it is not to be found in ancient manuscripts. They say, Erasmus was persuaded to put it in, because of one copy of a Greek text found in a library in Ireland. This, however, does not agree with the facts. There is presently a research paper over 250 pages in length that documents this as an historical text that has always been part



of the Scriptures. Many modern translators are not scholars, but thieves. They have stolen the words of the Lord.

(2) I Timothy 3:16 says, "And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory." This is one of the great passages regarding our Lord Jesus Christ. This is a key verse, teaching that the Lord Jesus is God, and became flesh for us. Most of the modern perversions do not read that way. They either have "he" was manifest in the flesh or "who" was manifest in the flesh. What is the difference you might ask? When we meet people we recognize them for how they look to us or how they are manifest in the flesh - their physical make-up. However, there is a difference between Jesus being manifest in the flesh like we are, and the matter of God being manifest in the flesh. It was not the personality of Jesus being manifest like ordinary human beings, but rather, the mystery of godliness is that the incarnate God, the creator of the universe, the one who can be omnipresent and has all wisdom and power, was manifest in the flesh. He became revealed to us in the flesh. He did not cease to be God, but also became man. The Devil is not happy with this truth and neither are many religious leaders. Thus, they have stolen the words of the Lord.

This will satisfy the various cults who believe Jesus was an angel, and the liberals who think that Jesus was just a good man, but this will never satisfy God. His Word says it was "the mystery of godliness; God was manifest in the flesh." God is against those who have stolen His Word in this particular passage. They have stolen the words of God regarding the Deity of Jesus - the fact that Jesus is God.

(3) Colossians 1:2 tells us, "To the saints and the faithful brethren in Christ which are at Colosse: Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ." Most of the modern perversions leave out the word "Lord". They evade the issue of His Lordship. They have taken God's words right out of this verse. They also remove the matter of Jesus being Lord from Titus 1:4, Matthew 13:51, Mark 9:24, Mark 11:10, I Corinthians 11:29, II Corinthians 4:10, Galatians 6:17, Ephesians 3:14, Ephesians 6:1, I Thessalonians 1:1, II Timothy 4:1 and many other places in the Bible. These people do not want to face the fact that Jesus is Lord. They would rather have a Jesus that is a servant who will bail them out when they are in trouble, than One to whom they must submit.

Not only do they delete the word "Lord" in the New Testament, they also delete the word "Christ" and "Jesus" over and over. "Christ" is the title signifying that He was the promised Messiah - the provider of deliverance.

These so-called translators are stealing Jesus from us as our Lord, Messiah, and Saviour. They are denying and leaving out the person and titles of the One whom we dearly love. They do not want to hear any more than absolutely necessary of the One who demands they repent of their sins and trust fully in Him, so they avoid Him by stealing these truths from God's Word.

(4) Another area in which the truths have been stolen is found in Colossians 1:14, "In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins...". Notice this verse says our redemption is through the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. In many of these new versions they have taken the word "blood" out and substituted the word "death". It is not the death of Jesus that redeemed us; we are redeemed by His blood. If only the Lord Jesus' death was required, any of the other attempts on His life would have been satisfactory. Jesus had to go to the cross that He might shed His blood for our sins. In particular, the Good News for Modern Man has substituted many times the word "death" for the word "blood". They do not like the doctrine of the blood or the application of it.

How did they come to the conclusion that the word "death" could be used in place of the word "blood"? In the 1800's, Westcott and Hort, who did not believe in being born again, the blood atonement, the bodily resurrection, or the deity of Christ, said "death" could be substituted for the word "blood".



These men were Anglo-Catholics who believed that worshipping Mary was the same as worshipping Jesus. Many people follow the Westcott-Hort theory, and use the Westcott-Hort text (Nestle-Alland), which varies in over 6,000 places from the King James Version. These are the ones who have taken the word "blood" out of many verses of their Bibles. You have to wonder what will be left in our Bible if they ever complete the revising of God's Word.

(5) James 5:16 says, "Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed." Here they try to steal one of the precious rights of the believer. This passage is speaking about healing in the realm of faults. They have taken the word "faults" and used in its place the word "sins". These scholars have not learned the difference between faults and sins.

The Bible teaches the priesthood of the believer, which means we are to confess our sins directly to God. We are not to confess our sins to others, but rather, our faults or areas of weakness and temptation. We do this so that someone might pray for us and assist us in staying out of sin. The Bible tells us if we confess our sins to God, "he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." If we confess our sins to another person, He cannot wash us and make us clean with the Lord's blood. But if we confess our sins to God, He can cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

(6) Matthew 9:13 says, "But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance." Most versions remove the last two words from that verse, so it reads, "...for I am not come to call righteous, but sinners." These "Bibles" do not say what He is calling sinners to do. It leaves the impression that they can follow Him while remaining in their sin. God calls sinners to repent of their sins, not to go on in their sins. The doctrine of repentance is stolen from this passage in many "Bibles".

(7) Jesus, while preaching to His disciples and giving them instructions early in His ministry, says in Matthew 5:22, "But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of judgment:". In the modern versions they have stolen three words from this verse - "without a cause". They are saying that it is sinful to get angry; however, the Bible said "without a cause". This may seem like a small matter, but these "scholars" are ignorant of the wholeness of the Scriptures. When they remove these three words they are saying it is wrong for a person to ever get angry, and if they did, then they sinned.

Well, should people get angry? The Bible tells us in Ephesians 4:26, "Be ye angry, and sin not...". By taking those three words out of Matthew 5 they make the Bible look like it contradicts itself. Also Mark 3:5 says of Jesus, "And when he had looked round about on them with anger, being grieved for the

hardness of their hearts...". Jesus was angry because of the hardness of their hearts. He had cause for being angry. The way "scholars" perverted the Scripture in Matthew 5 would make it a sin to obey Ephesians 4. This would make Jesus to be a sinner in Mark 3 and God the Father to be a sinner when He became angry over sin in the Old Testament. Can you see the foolishness that results from the stealing of just three words from the Bible?

(8) Luke 4:4 says, "Jesus answered him saying, It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God." This is a quote that comes from Deuteronomy 8. Most of the new Bibles have stolen the last phrase, "but by every word of God". They have been stealing the very words of God so long that they don't want their readers to know that God expects them to live by them. They take this phrase out to protect themselves, and to go on without any regard for God's sacred words.

(9) I Timothy 6:5 says, "Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself." From most modern versions the phrase "from such withdraw thyself" is stolen. Now the doctrine of separation is weakened. They remove separation as easily as they took away the teaching of righteous indignation and dealing with sin.

(10) In Mark chapter 9, Jesus is solemnly warning people of the awfulness of Hell. Twice He repeats Himself in verses 44



and 46. They are identical in the King James Bible - "Where the worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched." These people that have rewritten the Word of God, do not want to believe Hell has a fire that never quits burning. Most folks who like to use these new versions do not believe in a literal Hell, or at least in a lasting one. It should not surprise us that they have stolen these two verses right out of their Bibles. Jesus said it twice, and they would rather not read it even once.

(11) Romans chapter 8 is a chapter on the victorious Christian life. It opens in verse 1 saying, "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit." "Scholars" have a controversy with God over this also, so they cut out the part of the verse that says, "...who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit." They removed the subject of the chapter at the beginning. It may be they would like to think they can walk after the flesh and have no condemnation - it is not necessary to walk after the Spirit. Perhaps they would like to think that there will be no accounting for their walking after the flesh, but the Bible says differently. When the necessity of a victorious Christian life is removed, a person is free to live as he pleases.

(12) The next passage where they stole God's words is found in Mark chapter 16. In this case it becomes embarrassing to them how much they are trying to pilfer the Word of God.

This omission is so lengthy that sometimes they just put brackets around it and make a note that it doesn't really belong in the Bible. They cite two old manuscripts, one of which came from a Catholic monastery on Mt. Sinai, and the other came from the Pope's personal library shelves in the Vatican. They would have us think that since it is missing there, it shouldn't be in the Bible. They do not tell us it had been around long before these manuscripts were ever copied down. Someone just didn't finish their job when they were copying these two. This gives them an excuse to dispose of something they wish to be rid of anyway. In Mark 16 they took out these words, beginning in verse 9, "Now when Jesus was risen early the first day of the week..." The resurrection of Christ and worshipping on the first day of the week is gone! The rest of verse 9 all the way through verse 20 is gone. Twelve complete consecutive verses have been chopped right out of the Bible! This passage deals with the resurrection, the matter of it's being the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene, deliverance of seven demons, the two on the road to Emmaus, the matter of meeting with the eleven, the commission to evangelize the world, the matter of changed lives of those that are saved, God's protection over missionaries, Jesus' ascension up into Heaven, and the working of the disciples afterward with God's blessing. All of this is taken from most modern Bibles.

(13) Another passage they take out is found in the beginning of John 7:53 and continuing through 8:11. This section of twelve verses is the whole account of the woman who was taken in adultery, caught in the very act, and brought by some self righteous people who then came under conviction themselves. The final statement that Jesus made to the woman is perhaps the cause for the removal of this whole passage. Jesus told her, "...go, and sin no more." There is an awful doctrine today which encourages people to think that they can get things right with God, go back out, and get into the same sin. They can get it right again, go back, get into the same sin, and carry on like that. God wants us to stop our sinning and get out of our sin. When Jesus said, "...go, and sin no more," it was a rebuke to that kind of thinking. Some people can read and never find this truth in their Bible.

(14) In Matthew 17 we read the account of Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration, and then His coming down to help the boy that had problems. This lad had been tormented by demons, and Jesus dealt with those. The disciples then asked Him why they were unable to cast out the demons. Jesus rebuked His disciples for their lack of faith. Then in verse 21 He makes this particular statement, "Howbeit, this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting." This verse disappears from many Bibles.



One reason that these “scholars” like to write their verses in paragraph style is that the whole verse can disappear and we are none the wiser. The idea that there are different kinds of demons, that they are to be dealt with differently, and that there is a need for fasting and prayer is kept from the reader in most new versions.

(15) Matthew 18:11 says, “For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost.” In many of the modern versions, instead of the verse reading like this it may say, “The Son of man is come to save”, or “The Son of man is come”, or they may leave the whole verse out. Those that have changed this may not want to think they are lost, but this is the reason Jesus came. How could they, in good conscience, remove the doctrine of the lost being saved and say there are no major doctrines affected? What is major in the Bible? What truths are they going to leave us? What truth is so sacred that they dare not touch it?

(16) In Matthew 19:9, Jesus is dealing with the issue of divorce and remarriage. This is a sensitive issue today, because there is so much of it. People would like God to change His mind and agree with them rather than them agreeing with HIM. This verse says, “And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.” Now perhaps “scholars” of this modern age found

something offensive here so they removed the last part of this verse. "He that marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery" is gone. They want to give license to what Jesus condemns. Those who have a modern version will not know that Jesus will hold them accountable for an act of adultery. They have that warning stolen from them by these who damage the very words of God.

(17) In Matthew chapter 23 Jesus is preaching to the hypocrites. Verse 14 says, "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." This verse also has disappeared from many modern versions. Do you suppose that may be why so many religious people devour widow's houses - that is, try to get the widows' pension and inheritance to build up their religious programs? They don't find condemnation for this in their modern versions.

This verse also talks about those who "for a pretence make long prayer". In other words, they have reason for their long prayer, other than having an audience with God. They are pretending and using that to manipulate people. Jesus said that is hypocrisy and there is a greater damnation for people who do that sort of thing.

(18) In John 5:3,4 it says, "In these lay a great multitude of impotent folk, of blind, halt, withered, waiting for the moving

of the water. For an angel went down at a certain season into the pool, and troubled the water: whosoever then first after the troubling of the water stepped in was made whole of whatsoever disease he had." This account tells about the pool at Bethesda and the angel coming in and moving the water. "Scholars" remove the part at the end of verse 3 about "waiting for the moving of the water", and all of verse 4 is gone. They are trying to take the miraculous out of the Word of God.

Jeremiah 23:30 says, "Therefore, behold, I am against the prophets, saith the LORD, that steal my words every one from his neighbour." The words to the following song express the frustration felt by many as they view this problem today:

### WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE OLD BLACK BOOK?

Chorus:

What's wrong with the old black Book my daddy used to read from?

Is it so outdated by the modern translations?

Revised Standard and Good News everywhere I look,

Why won't somebody tell me what's wrong with the old black book?

Verse 1

People who know not my God just don't understand,

The scriptural inspired Word of God's not given by some man.

They've all agreed by joining hands in a world wide movement

To take that blessed old black Book and set out to improve it.



Verse 2

Jesus said, "I am the Shepherd , my sheep follow Me,  
As the voice of strangers speak they shall turn and flee."  
The words my daddy used to read I've learned to love so well,  
But all these other words I've heard are straight from the pit of  
hell.

Verse 3

The enemy is much to smart to jump right in and say,  
"Forget all you have learned about, -it's not true anyway!"  
They're making plans in years to come to take God from our  
minds  
By giving us new Bibles changed a little bit each time!

-Author Unknown