



A
Ministry
of:

**CORNERSTONE
BAPTIST
CHURCH**

54 Brighton Street
P.O. Box 438
Belmont, MA 02478
Tel: 617-489-2498

Pastor
ROLLAND C. STARR
Editor

WHERE IS THE WORD OF GOD?

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One does not hear as much about the Bible Version issue as we did a few years back. I believe the reason for that is many "Bible believers" have adopted one or more of the modern versions. Then, there are not a few Fundamental Baptists who simply believe that it is a non-issue. Nothing could be further from the truth! We hear from time to time the charge that KJV only believers are dividing the people of God over a minor issue. I have been accused of it many times. (Now, we are talking here about your basic Fundamental Baptists who believe the Bible - not Peter Ruckman, etc.). Let's face it, there are many other issues over which Bible believers are divided; some valid and some invalid. I personally believe that there is no more fundamental nor important issue than where is the Word of God? Is there such a thing as the perfect Word of God in the world today? I believe to refuse fellowship over it is not only justifiable but right. If we are to break fellowship with a brother because he is "covetous" (I Corinthians 5:11) or with one who "walks disorderly," how much more should we refuse fellowship with one who stands upon a faulty foundation and promotes heresy (which all modern versions do). This is a MAJOR issue - where is the pure Word of God? The truth is, users of the NIV, NASV, NKJV, etc. do not believe God. The primary issue today among Bible believers is not inspiration - all agree to that. But there is plenty of disagreement over just what is inspired! I believe God! Concerning His Words He said, **"Thou shalt keep them, O Lord, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever."** ~Psalm 12:7. **"The Word of our God shall stand forever."** ~Isaiah 40:8. **"My Words shall not pass away."** ~Luke 21:33. The issue is preservation! Did God perform what He promised? I believe He did. Believers in modern versions do not! These people tell us that all of the "good" Bibles contain the Word of God and therefore, there is nothing to argue about. But all modern versions basically agree with each other and disagree with the KJV in thousands of places. They also agree with the bad versions like the RSV! Either one of the modern versions must be the Word of God or the KJV. You can't have it both ways, though some seem to think you can. Check this out - all modern versions agree with the Roman Catholic Bible in the areas where there is a difference from the KJV. Something that is often ignored (I am afraid deliberately by many modern version promoters) is there are two basic types of manuscripts from which all Bible versions come. The KJV alone comes from the true ones, those labeled TR, while ALL modern versions come from corrupted ones (see our book). Incidentally, during the Reformation, though every Reformer had been a Roman Catholic priest or monk (Luther, Calvin, Zwingli, etc.), not one used the Roman Catholic Bible (which is like modern versions) as the basis for translation into his own language, but used the work of Erasmus which later became known as the TR.

Personally, I have not divided anyone on this issue for I stand where I have stood since I was saved 60 years ago. I was as ignorant as anyone could be of God or the Bible but was saved reading the KJV. When I went to Bible college the faulty Westcott and Hort Greek New Testament was used in Greek class. I did not know the difference - I wasn't told there were two Greek texts. I was not preaching long before I realized that my Greek New Testament and my KJV Bible were miles apart. At first, I just said I'll stick with the Bible that saved me. Thank God! It must have been the Holy Spirit! Later, many years ago now, I looked into the matter and came to the obvious conclusion (I

think it will be if you can put aside your prejudice). There can only be one Bible! In English, it is the KJV! I believe it! I preach it! You don't have to believe it. You may believe whatever you want to believe; that's what most people do. But just remember, you are going to stand before God some day and give an account. One problem is that many don't want to look into the situation; they might have to make a decision that will cause them difficulty.

God impressed upon me many years ago that I should not share the same platform or ministry with someone who does not stand on the true Word of God. Let me tell you why I do not work with those who preach from another bible. Modern version preachers have adopted a liberal, Roman Catholic bible. Westcott and Hort were liberals, even Romanists; their Greek New Testament is the basis of all modern versions. Translators of the NASV, NIV, NKJV, are not exactly Fundamentalists. Thomas Nelson will not give the names of the NASV translators, but they've given the denominations: Congregationalist, Baptist, Presbyterian, Nazarene, Methodist, Disciples of Christ (a cult). Modern version promoters believe differently than I do. Could you build a house with a fellow who used a 30" yardstick? I do not know one Bible believer who holds to a modern version who does not say only the originals are inspired; *all versions (including the King James Version) have errors in them, so they say. If this is true, there is no infallible Word of God in the world today!* According to them, God did not keep His Word. He did not preserve it as He said He would. In addition to the Scriptures above, we read: **"Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away."** ~Luke 21:33. **"Being born again, not of corruptible seed but of incorruptible, by the Word of God which liveth and abideth forever."** ~I Peter 1:23. **"Concerning thy testimonies...thou hast founded them forever."** ~Psalm 119:152. **"Thy Word is true...and everyone of thy righteous judgments endureth forever."** ~Psalm 119:16. I am not going to preach alongside someone who doesn't believe he can hold in his hand the inspired, perfect, preserved Word of God. Someone who does not believe that God kept His Word! All modern versions do have errors and serious omissions. We have pointed out many over the years. This proves they are not the Word of God. We believe it is wrong and dangerous to confuse our testimony. It sends the wrong signal when we work with those Bible correctors, etc. Others will believe that we endorse or condone the use of modern versions. It is just a natural conclusion. The Bible says, **"Can two walk together except they be agreed?"** ~Amos 3:3. We must especially agree on the foundation. This is not trivial. Many say we go by the Book, but do you have the right Book? The right Book – God's Book doesn't have any errors.

There is another insidious error which is quite common in Fundamental Baptist circles. There are those who use the King James Bible in the pulpit, but wherever the KJV does not agree with a particular modern version, they correct it with the modern version. For example, where there is a difference, they will often say, "Now a better rendering is...." They might say that "The most ancient manuscripts read..." And they call this preaching from the King James Bible. That is not preaching from the KJV but in reality the modern version is their authority. This is common with preachers from Bob Jones University, for they believe that the NASV is really the best version. However, they teach the Pastoral students to use the KJV in public but correct it with the NASV. If you believe that the NASV is the best version, why use the King James Version at all? Doesn't it just make sense to use what you believe to be the best? What is the motivation for using what you believe to be of lesser accuracy?

Five Hundred years ago, Martin Luther said, *"I do not want to know anything of peace and concord when the Word of God is thereby lost. It is not right for me to give in and draw back and to give way out of love toward you or any other man; before the Word everyone must give way, whether he be friend or enemy...Don't talk to me... of love and friendship if the Word and faith is to be compromised... Worldly things may go as they go; the devil has not yet gained anything by it. But if you err in such a way that he robs you of the Word of God, you have lost everything..."* C. H. Spurgeon paid the price of separation when he left the Baptist Union in 1887 over the true inspiration of Scripture. He said, *"God's Word in this age is a small affair; some do not even believe it to be inspired; those who profess to revere it set up other books in a sort of rivalry with it. I don't understand loyalty to Christ which is accompanied by indifference to His Words. Unless we have infallibility somewhere, Faith is impossible. Fellowship with known and vital error is sin."*

In Psalm 119:89 it says: **"For ever, O Lord, thy Word is settled in heaven."** Yes, and it is settled on earth also! Is it possible that God could give His Word perfectly to man (the originals are inspired) but that He was unable to keep it down through the ages? That doesn't say very much about the power of God. That may be your god, but it is not my God! I thought that God is omnipotent – He can do all things. Jeremiah 32:17 says, **"Ah Lord God! Behold thou hast made the heavens and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee."** Praise God that's true! **"The Word of God endureth for ever."** ~I Peter 1:25. AMEN!