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## BATTLE OVER THE BIBLE

*Challenge Xtra - June 2011*

(We first printed this twelve years ago. Though few want to hear it, it is still a very vital issue and needs to be kept before professing Christians. I am afraid that anymore, few *Bible believers* really care.)

Sometimes it appears there is a lull in the war, but be assured the battle over the Bible still rages and will until our Lord comes. Every once in a while, there is the charge that KJV only believers are dividing the people of God; 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? 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 Cor.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, "**O, Lord, thou shalt preserve them from this generation forever.**" ~*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 try. 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; I stand where I've stood since I was saved 48 (now 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, about thirty 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. God impressed upon me 25 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 have errors in them*. If that is so, there is no infallible Word of God today! God didn't keep His Word! I am not going to preach alongside someone who doesn't believe he can hold the true, pure Word of God in his hand! All modern versions have errors; serious omissions. We believe it is wrong and dangerous to confuse our testimony. It sends the wrong signal; others will assume we endorse, or condone, these versions. It is only a natural conclusion. There are some Fundamentalists who do not use modern versions, but they labor with those who do and they never give a word of warning about these false bibles. The Bible says, **"Can two walk together except they be agreed?"** Especially on the foundation. *This is not trivial!* Many say, we go by the Book, but do you have the right Book? 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 here to 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..."* Spurgeon paid the price leaving the Baptist Union in 1887 over 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 participation in sin."*

-Cornerstone Challenge May 1999

One very serious problem is Fundamentalists who use the King James Bible in the pulpit, but they believe that it can be corrected with a modern version where they think it is necessary. And believe me, that is quite often for the King James Version and all modern versions differ in many places. Now if you correct one source with another, obviously, at best you are saying that one is superior to the other – so, the modern version is better than the King James Bible. However, at worst you are saying that the modern version is right and the KJV is wrong in that particular place. And that is exactly what some professed Bible believers are saying, for the two Bibles contradict each other; both can't be right. We urge you to think seriously about this matter. It is not merely a matter of preference, or a desire to keep to the oldest version. I think one of the most ridiculous statements I ever heard on this subject is from professed Fundamentalists who say there are a few good Bibles out there, choose the one you like best. The one you like best may be in reality the worst. It is not a matter of preference, what you or I may like, we are talking about the very Word of God! It is a matter of whether we have an infallible, inerrant Word of God which we can hold in our hands today. Either you have that Bible or you do not! If you don't, I suggest that you look into the subject and do your best to find that one true Scriptures. Sad to say, I don't think it matters to very many professed Christians, but I can tell you this, it matters to God. He says, **"Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.** II Tim.1:13. All the Fundamentalists I have read who prefer, or use a modern version, believe that all versions have some errors, none is perfect. But God has said that He would preserve His perfect Word. That is the issue, did He or did He not! **"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 forever."** Psalm 12:6,7. God originally gave His Word perfectly, did He not? Well, did He preserve it as He said He would? If He did, where is it? If He didn't, then God is not able to keep His Word! I believe God kept His Word! I believe it is in the King James Version today!