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A Learning and Worship Center

SO WHAT IS AT STAKE WITH THE NEW TRANSLATIONS....IS IT MORE THAN MUCH TO DO ABOUT NOTHING?

John 5:39-40 tell us that the purpose of Scripture is to lead us to Christ and be a guide for our life..."not for scholarly intellectual exercise"

Jude 3 tells us that we should earnestly contend for the faith

II Timothy 2:23-26 declares *"But foolish and unlearned questions avoid, knowing that they do gender strifes. And the servant of the Lord must not strive, but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will"* Many Christians have been taken captive by the devil concerning the Bible manuscripts. As will be revealed, the questions regarding the reliability and authenticity of the Word of God are neither foolish nor unlearned. The ultimate purpose of our study in all of this is to restore – to meekly instruct those who are either in error or simply do not understand the issue with regard to the various translations, in order to bring them to the truth.

Ephesians 4:14-15 declares *"That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:"*

THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED CAREFULLY BY THE SERIOUS BIBLE STUDENT:

1. Would God inspire a text and then allow it to become lost?

If you look into the background of all the diverse denominational beginnings confessions of faith, you will find statements concerning the Holy Scriptures to be given by God, divinely inspired and are inerrant in their content.

2. If God did inspire a text, would He not preserve it?

Since there are no original writings preserved, that is the actual first drafts of any of the Scriptures, there leaves room for insertions of doubt as to the authenticity and leaves room for counterfeits to be considered. The argument put forward to accept the current translation texts on the basis of being the oldest therefore the most accurate becomes an opportunity for serious error. If God inspired the first penned texts, could He not equally inspire those that produced the copies? Which ones are the inspired texts can be determined. Since the Apostles and Jesus himself quoted from the Scriptures as being the authentic Word of God, they too were using only the copies but referred to them as the inspired Word of God. II Timothy 3:16-17; Luke 4:21; Acts 17:2; Jeremiah 1:12; Mark 13:31; Mark 8:38; I Peter 1:25 (a direct quote from Isaiah 40:8) Psalm 138:2; John 10:35; Psalm 12:6-6; all testify to the Scriptures being the Inspired Word of God.

3. Could we expect counterfeits of the originals to be in circulation? Genesis 3:1 records the first Bible reviser. The same hold true today. Satan is alive and well moving people to consider adding books and subtracting words to fit what appears to be fitting for the wind of secular thought of the day. We must remember that God's Word is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow. Because God was in the beginning creating the world He alone would be able to see the whole of time and existence without the error of nearsightedness that we as human beings are plagued with.

So, how serious is knowing the true Word of God?

1. John 12:48 declares *"He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day."*

2. Matthew 5:18 *“For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.”*
3. John 5:45-47 *“Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father: there is one that accuseth you, even Moses, in whom ye trust. For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me. But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words?”*

Even the method God used to select the languages on which His Word would be transmitted throughout time is inspired and demands an intelligence of an all knowing God. Both languages of the Old and New Testaments (Hebrew and Koine Greek) were written and then became Dead languages within a few hundred years, thus freezing in time the meaning of those original words. That is the changes in language that normally occur with time did not occur here and we are able to know explicitly what the words meant.

The Dead Sea Scrolls are over 1000 years older than the oldest Masoretic Texts available, but the Massoretic Text was copied by Levitical priests chosen by God for their work, which text is still used today by the Jews. The Dead Sea Scrolls, although are interesting to compare should not be used as authentic because they are written by Essene's, a Jewish cult of ascetics whose teachings were rife with heresies.

The texts now being used for current translations (**remember these are different than the texts deemed authentic by the writers of the King James, Luther's German Bible, William Tyndale's Bible, Olivetan's French Bible, the Geneva Bible (English) and which are identical to the texts used and preserved by the Greek Orthodox Church throughout the centuries and were used in translating the Italic, Celtic, Gallic, and Gothic Bibles, to name a few.**) have opened the door of challenging the inerrancy of the Bible. The following are some examples: 1. Matthew 1:7 & 1:10 there is listed two non existent kings that are correctly listed in the majority text. 2. Luke 23:45 records a scientific error that is properly reported in the majority text. 3. John 7:8 & 10 list Jesus in contradiction to himself that is properly recorded with no contradictions in the majority text TR or TT.

Jesus own testimony concerning the Scriptures are found in the following texts;

1. Luke 16:17 *“And it is easier for heaven and earth to pass, than one tittle of the law to fail.”*
2. Matthew 5:18 *“For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.”*

Next week we will begin to look at the first Chapter of Genesis as an inspired account by God of the beginnings of our existence. We will look at the text and take a natural reading of the words that anyone would be able to understand. By believing in a Creator God instead of pre-existing matter in which we are our own god, we will begin to unlock the awesome insights of God for our lives and for our time.

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