

WHICH BIBLE SHOULD I USE?

Isaiah 8:11-20; John 5:30-47 / Psalm 119:129-144

I. The Bible Is the only Reliable Guide to Truth

A. Sin distorts everything so that left to themselves, people convert truth into self-destruction. “Because that, *when they knew God, they glorified him not* as God, neither were thankful; *but became vain in their imaginations*, and *their foolish heart was darkened*. PROFESSING THEMSELVES TO BE WISE, THEY BECAME FOOLS, And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and four-footed beasts, and creeping things. Wherefore **God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts**, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: Who changed the truth of God into a lie, **and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator**, who is blessed for ever. Amen.” (ROMANS 1:21-25)

B. The Bible corrects sin’s distortions. “And *that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures*, which are *able to make thee wise unto salvation* through faith which is in Christ Jesus. **All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable** for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: **That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.**” (2 TIMOTHY 3:15-17)

C. The Bible and its message bring people to Christ and hope of a better life in this world and in the next. “And *this is life eternal*, that they might *know thee the only true God*, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.” (John 17:3) **along with** “For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, **it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.**” (1 CORINTHIANS 1:21)

D. Truth comes only from God in His word by the work of the Holy Spirit; there is no other way to know reality. “Which things also we speak, not in the words which man’s wisdom teacheth, but **which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual**. But the *natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit* of God: for *they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.*” (1 CORINTHIANS 2:13-14)

II. The Bible Is God’s Book – Not Man’s to Adjust

A. God produced the Scripture across the ages in various ways with a focus on the Messiah. “**God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets**, Hath *in these last days spoken unto us by his Son*, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; **Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;**” (HEBREWS 1:1-3)

B. God designed the Scriptures to remove ambiguity about the things which matter to Him and to believers. “It seemed good to me also, *having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write* unto thee in order, most excellent Theophilus, *That thou mightest know the certainty of those things, wherein thou hast been instructed.*” (LUKE 1:3-4)

C. Accept the Bible as the standard by which to measure all truth or call Jesus a liar. “Sanctify them through thy truth: *thy word is truth.*” (JOHN 17:17)

III. Follow the Bible’s Standard for Evaluating a Version

A. Do the translators treat the Bible with proper respect? “Knowing this first, that *no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.* For *the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.*” (2 PETER 1:20-21) "Good as New," the Church of England's new Bible was translated by former Baptist minister John Henson for the "One" organization, to produce what the group calls a "new, fresh and adventurous" translation of the Christian scriptures. Faithful was not an objective.

B. How closely does the English result conform to the original text; Jesus left no room for acculturation. “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.*” (MATTHEW 5:18)

C. Does a version bring you closer to Christ? “For whatsoever things were written aforetime were *written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.*” (ROMANS 15:4)

D. No unused version will do anyone any good. “*Let the word of Christ dwell in you* richly in all wisdom; *teaching and admonishing* one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, *singing with grace in your hearts* to the Lord.” (COLOSSIANS 3:16)