

# EXCERPTS FROM

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# THE LINK

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**North Road Chapel** (Evangelical)

**BIDEFORD**

## Internet Edition

TELL IT TO THE GENERATION  
FOLLOWING (Psalm 48:13)

Children of believers are never to be looked upon as Christian children; nor are they in any way to be seen as members of a church. They must ever be treated as unconverted until, through the grace of God they are regenerated and effectually called of His Holy Spirit. Even to one of the Old Covenant, and a Master in Israel, it was clearly stated: "That which is born of the flesh is flesh ... Ye must be born again" (John 3:6-7).

However, there can be no doubt that children born of Christian parents have very great privileges: equally parents have tremendous responsibilities.

It is a Biblical principle that in the moral dealings of Almighty God, the iniquity of the fathers is visited upon children's children - Cf. Exodus 34:7. So, also, is it stated: "But the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear Him, and His righteousness unto children's children; To such as keep His covenant, and to those that remember His commandments to do them." (Psalm 103:17-18).

In the communication of Truth, God always has posterity in view. For example, when God disclosed to Abraham His intended judgment upon Sodom and Gomorrah, it was not for the knowledge of the Patriarch alone - Cf. Genesis 18:19. Future generations were also in mind: "His children, his household and those after him".

The destruction of the cities of the plain were not to go down in history as a natural disaster or a human tragedy, but as a DIVINE JUDGMENT; righteous retribution upon men who were, "sinners before the LORD exceedingly". This awesome and terrifying happening was to be told to "his children" and those "after him".

The Bible lays great stress upon the handling of Truth and to its being faithfully passed on. In this the Christian parent has a solemn charge; for, "children are an heritage of the LORD" (Psalm 127:3). "HERITAGE" - it means "property that has been passed on to us by another". Here, it is children passed on to us by none other than God

Himself. This is how they are to be viewed, and parents are commanded by the Divine Giver, to "Bring them Up in the fear and admonition of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4). "Train up a child in the way he should go" (Proverbs 22:6)). "One generation passeth away and another generation cometh" (Ecc.1:4); but the unadulterated truth of God must be handed on without distortion. "Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it" (Deut.4:2). "Take heed to thyself and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget these thing" which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life: but teach them to thy sons and thy sons' sons" (Verse 9). "Tell ye your children of it, and let your children tell their children, and their children another generation" (Joel 1:3).

Holy Scripture leaves us in no doubt whatsoever as to the importance of this matter; it is a charge laid heavily upon us. We are to impart to succeeding generations a true knowledge of God in all the wonder of His Eternal Being, Majesty, Holiness, Power, Wisdom, Grace, so that when we pass from this scene, those "after us" are not left in ignorance as to the truth concerning God, as revealed in His Word. "Tell in the ears of thy son, and of thy son's son ... that ye may know how that I am the LORD". (Exodus 10:2).

A sound and comprehensive knowledge of the Word of God must also be left behind us. It is not sufficient that our children know about Noah and the ark, David killing Goliath, Daniel in the lions' den, the Lord Jesus feeding five thousand people with a few loaves and fishes. Getting them to recite John 3:16 and other "so called" gospel texts is good, but very much more than that is entrusted to us to pass on - it is UNDIMINISHED TRUTH - "all the counsel of God". "Set your hearts unto all the words which I testify among you this day, which ye shall command your children to observe to do, all the words of this law". (Deut. 32:46).

It is also important that a true pattern of the corporate worship of God be passed on to those succeeding us. The Old Testament worship was not to deviate in any way from the instructions given by Jehovah to Moses, all was to be "after their pattern which was showed thee in the mount"

(Exodus 25:40 and 26:30). The instructions laid down in the New Testament are none the less authoritative, yet alas, how they are disregarded. With all the babel of voices, the medley of practices, the confusion of denominations, we have a responsibility to instruct posterity from the WORD OF GOD, clearly defining truth from error, and with conviction and authority state: "THIS IS THE WAY", here is the mandate. The God of Heaven has not disclosed these things for our benefit alone, it is for those "after us". The importance of the continuity of truth must ever be before us.

John Calvin states: "God does not make known His will to us, that the knowledge of it may perish with us; but that we might be His witnesses to posterity, and that they may deliver the knowledge received through us to their descend-ants. Wherefore, it is the duty of parents to apply them-selves diligently to the work of communicating what they have learned from the Lord to their children. In this manner the truth of God is to be propagated by us so that no one may retain his knowledge for his own private use. There are those who stifle truth by not taking care to transmit it to their children; the Lord, therefore, righteously takes away the precious treasure of His Word to punish for their sloth. We must give diligence in order that the truth of God which is eternal, may live and flourish after our death, and thus when we are dead, a 'Holy Course' of living may survive and remain". What words of wisdom.' and how they bring home to us our tremendous responsibility:

1. WITH OUR OWN FAMILIES AFTER THE FLESH.

Are they going to continue in the faith of their fathers? If not, is their failure a sad reflection upon the instruction, training, yes; and example which we have given them?

2. WITHIN THE SPIRITUAL FAMILY - THE LOCAL CHURCH.

Has there been given a full orb'd presentation of the True and Living God? Has "His Eternal Power and Godhead" been fully told out? Has there been comprehensive teaching of the Word of God, shunning no aspect of Truth? And are these things applied as well as declared? Are the young people of our generation receiving a thorough grounding in the faith, and being guided into ALL TRUTH?

3. REGARDING A PURE AND UNADULTERATED WORSHIP OF THE TRUE GOD, IN THE TRUE MANNER.

This poses a number of questions: (a) Are young people seeing a real Biblical form of worship in our day? (b) have any trappings of the flesh and of the world, or traditions of men intruded and found a place in our public assemblings? (c) Are there certain practices and activities within our church which, when honestly examined in the light of Holy Scripture, must be said to be 'EXTRA BIBLICAL'? If so, are we 'REFORMING' according to the Word of God and rooting such things out? (d) Have we in our churches taken the necessary steps, at a human level, to safeguard the continuity of a TRUE WITNESS to future generations? (e) Have we a church constitution? (f) What of the Trust Deeds? (g) Who are our Trustees and what is their position and attitude to these matters?

It is posterity which is in view, and we are accountable to God: We have a solemn responsibility, for the 'mandate' is not for us only, but for those "AFTER THEE".

One views the contemporary scene with sadness, for within many families there is evidence of a departing from the God of their fathers. There is nothing more tragic than to see the Truth passed down the family line and then 'FORSAKEN' because of a break in communication - a lack of faithfulness on the part of one generation.

There are others who certainly have not abandoned the Faith, yet, have a very mild and watered down approach to spiritual things. This is often spoken of as "the spirit of the age". However, it must be said that it is such people who are responsible for this "spirit of the age". It is a DIMINISHING OF TRUTH - it is leaving the "OLD PATHS" - it is not "ALL THE WORDS OF THIS LAW" (Deut. 32:46).

This anaemic and deficient approach to the truth of Holy Scripture, is seen in the home, the church and the worship of God's people. This can only lead to the favour of God being turned away; for "The mercy of the LORD ... is upon them that fear Him, and His righteousness unto children's children; to such as keep His Covenant, and to those that remember His commandments to do them. (Psalm 103:17-18). A stubborn generation who are rebellious over truth, who

will not set their heart aright, whose spirit is not STEADFAST with God, that keep not the covenant of God, and refuse to walk in His law - Cf. Psalm 78:8 & 10 - will be followed by 'a generation who will even curse their fathers' - (Cf. Prov.30:11).

Above the vain babblings of pseudo 'EVANGELICALS' and the liberal 'REFORMED' can be heard the voice of Almighty God saying, "O that there were such an heart in them that they would fear me, and keep ALL my commandments ALWAYS, that it might be well with them and with their children forever" (Deut. 5:29).

May it please God that many Christian parents of this age heed "These words which I command thee this day...and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up." (Deut. 6:6-7). Let none be mistaken, the DIMINISHING of Truth is the road to the ABANDONING of Truth.

We owe it to succeeding generations to pass on that "which we have heard and known, and our fathers have told us. We will not hide them from their children, showing to the generation to come the praises of the Lord, and His strength, and His wonderful works that He hath done ... That the generation to come might know them, even the children which should be born; who should arise and declare them to their children, that they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments." (Psalm 78:3-7).

For those churches, also, who have sadly drifted from the true pattern and practice; there can be return. "Thus saith the Lord, stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls." (Jer. 6:16) "They shall build the old wastes, they shall raise up the former desolations, and they shall repair the waste cities, the desolations of many generations. (Isaiah 61:4). Thrice happy is that family, and thrice happy is that church which of a truth can say: "Lord, thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations." (Psalm 90:1).

W. H. Molland.

## THE NEW REVISED AUTHORISED VERSION

[commonly called the 'New King James Version']

The following is an extract from a sermon by Dr. Ian Paisley.

The New Revised Authorised Version of the Bible - The R.A.V. - is it yet another faithless perversion of the Scriptures. Or is it a faithful version of the Word of God?

### THE THREE GREAT SENTINELS.

By way of introduction could I say that God has set three great sentinels in His Word. Open your Bible and turn to the fourth chapter of Deuteronomy, and in verse 2 of chapter four you will find the first great sentinel guarding the Word of God. "Ye shall not add unto the Word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you". So, at the beginning of the Book there stands this sentinel.

Then, in the centre of the Book there stands another sentinel. Turn to the Book of Proverbs chapter thirty and verse 6: "Add thou not unto His Words, lest He reprove thee, and thou be found a liar". The second sentinel stands in the centre of God's Word.

Then, turn to the Book of the Revelation, chapter twenty-two and verse 19 - the last Book of the Bible; the third sentinels "And if any man shall take away from the Words of the Book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this Book". So, we have, guarding the Word of God, at the commencement, in its centre and at its conclusion, these three great sentinels, the red burning lamp of warning, warning men to keep their sacrilegious hands off the Precious Word of God.

### TWO CONTRASTING CONFLICTS.

Now let me say to you, there are two contrasting conflicts in the Bible, between the Devil and between mankind. The

first took place in the third chapter of the Book of Genesis. Turn to that chapter and you will find the first recorded words of the Devil. "Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field, which the Lord God had made, and he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden, but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden God has said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it lest ye die. And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die". The first utterance of the Devil recorded in the Scripture is his challenge to the absolute authority and finality and infallibility of God's Precious Word. "Yea, hath God said" This is a direct challenge of Satan to God's Precious Word.

Now Eve made a threefold reply: Notice it very carefully, it is of utmost importance. First of all, she made an omission from God's Word. Attacks on the Word of God are made by omitting passages of Scripture. Notice, she omitted the words, "every" and "freely" - Genesis 2:16, "Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat". Eve said, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden". Note the omission of the vital words, "every" and "freely", omitting the Word of God.

Secondly, she added to the Word of God. Not only omission from God's Word, but addition to God's Word. The second line of attack is to add to the Scriptures. Look at it, Genesis Chapter 3 verse 3; Eve added the words, "Neither shall ye touch it". Compare this with Genesis 2:17, "Thou shall not eat of it".

Then, thirdly, the alteration of God's Word. The third line of attack is to alter the Word of God. Omit some passage, add to some passage or alter the Word of God. Eve altered the certainty, "Thou shalt surely die" God said in Genesis 2:17: Eve said in Genesis 3:3: "Lest ye die". What happened? Eve fell: She gave the fruit to Adam and he fell, and every one of the human race has been cursed with original sin and iniquity ever since.

When I come to the New Testament I see the last Adam. He is approached by the same Devil, and what weapon does He



use? Turn to Matthew chapter 4, and in Matthew chapter 4 you have an account of the battle between the second Man, the Lord from Heaven, and Satan, and you will notice in verse 4 The Lord says, "It is written", in verse 7 He says, "It is written", and in verse 10 He says, "It is written."

Changing, altering, and adding to God's Word brought the fall. The Lord Jesus Christ by standing on the Word of God brought about Satan's defeat, and eventually our redemption. Hence, the importance of God's Precious and Holy Word.

THE FIRST PREREQUISITE - A BELIEF IN THE FULL PLENARY INSPIRATION OF THE WORD OF GOD.

Now there are some necessary prerequisites to a faithful translation or revision of the Holy Scriptures. One, those that translate must believe the Bible to be God's infallible Word. If they don't believe it is God's Word, then, they will handle it as if it was a writing by human beings - a writing stamped with the fallibility and inaccuracies that are common to mankind. But, if they are totally and absolutely and altogether committed to the verbal inspiration, the plenary full inspiration of the Bible, then they will handle it with the reverence that it deserves and calls for.

When I take up one of these Versions, the first thing I say, "Are the translators committed to believe in the infallibility and inerrancy of Holy Scripture?" Remember, the men that gave us the Authorised Version were totally committed to the infallibility and finality of God's Word. I am glad to say that the translators and revisers of this New Revised Authorised Version were all committed to the plenary and verbal inspiration of the Bible.

Could I just quote you something that George Bernard Shaw said (he was no fundamentalist, he was an infidel). He said of the Authorised Version: "The translation was extraordinarily well done, because what they were translating was not merely a curious collection of ancient books written by different authors in different stages of culture, but the Word of God Divinely revealed through His chosen and expressly inspired scribes. In this conviction they carried out their work with boundless reverence and

care, and achieved a beautifully artistic result." So, even the infidel George Bernard Shaw pointed out that the grand prerequisite to the wonder of the Authorised Version was the fact that its translators and revisers were dedicated to a belief in the full inspiration of Scripture.

This revision meets the first prerequisite that those who took part in its production were bound and sealed to a belief in the full plenary and verbal inspiration of the Word of God, and, of course, I welcome that.

THE SECOND PREREQUISITE IS THAT THE MANUSCRIPTS USED MUST BE THOSE THAT ARE NOT CORRUPTED.

The second prerequisite is that the manuscripts used must be those that are not corrupted. Anything that comes from Rome is suspect. Anything that comes out of a monastery I put a question mark at it. That is why, as a Fundamentalist I do not accept the Vaticanus, or Sinaiticus manuscripts. Many hundreds of copies of the uncorrupted texts of the New Testament are available. These are commonly called the "Received Text". The special blessing of Almighty God on those English Versions written and grounded on this "Received Text" from Tyndale's translation culminating in our own Authorised Version of 1611, has been a God given testimony to the unchallengeable truth that its foundation is solid rock.

The Reformation, the second Reformation under the Puritans, the Evangelical Awakening under Whitefield and Wesley, the second Evangelical Awakening under the great preachers of the nineteenth century; those great movements of the Holy Spirit owed their origination to and their continued power and progress to those Versions of Holy Scripture, founded and grounded in its New Testament part on the Received Text. God has set His seal that this foundation is truth.

Now I am glad to say that the Revised Authorised Version takes the Received Text for its basis in translating the New Testament. There is not the same controversy over the Hebrew text. The Hebrew text is generally accepted to be one and the same, and there is not the controversy over it as there is over the New Testament text. So, on the second

prerequisite the Revised Authorised Version meets that prerequisite.

### THE THIRD PREREQUISITE IS THE USE OF ITALIC PRINT.

Thirdly, any faithful translation, in order to be absolutely accurate and yet to meet the criteria of intelligence, must make use of italic print. If you look at your Authorised Version, say for example, Psalm 128:2, you will find that the word 'shall' and the word 'be' and the words 'it shall be' are in italics. That means that there is no word in the original Hebrew that those words are a translation of; but they are put in there as an accurate translation, bringing out intelligently the meaning of the passage, but in reverence and in holy awe they are printed in italic that you can know there is no word in the Hebrew that is equivalent to them. So, through the whole of the Authorised Version there is the use of the italic type in this way.

I am glad and pleased that the Revised Authorised Version follows that proper and reverent procedure, so that we can see by the use of italics just exactly which words are placed there by the English translators or revisers to bring out the full sense and meaning of the text alone. There are no words in the original that they are the translated equivalent of. So, that also is very important,

### HOW TO TEST A TRANSLATION.

Now it is quite easy to test any translation of God's Word. Let me lay at once this lie of the modernists: "Except you are a competent Greek or Hebrew scholar you cannot stand in judgment upon these modern translations of Scripture". Jude verse 3: "The faith which was once delivered unto the scholars." You never read that in the Bible. "The faith which was once delivered to the saints". The modernist says, "You ignorant fundamentalist people, how dare you stand in judgment upon our scholarship?" I say, thank God. God did not give the faith to the scholars; He gave it to the saints. The woman tomorrow morning (I was going to say, at the washtub) operating the washing machine, if she is born again knows more about real divinity than the greatest scholar who is still a natural man and cannot understand the things of the Blessed Spirit of God.

There are eight texts of Scripture, and any translation of the Word of God must be tested by these eight texts.

Text No. 1.

The first text is Genesis chapter 3 verse 15 (and these texts have all to do with the Person of the Lord Jesus: "What think ye of Christ whose Son is He?" That is the test question, and if this Book answers these questions, then it fulfils another prerequisite of being a faithful translation of God's Word). I will read this text in the New Revised Authorised Version: (Could I just say before I do that, there is another matter which I will come to, and that is the dropping of "Thee" and "Thou" in this New Version: I think this is an act of folly, and I will come to that in a moment or two). The text reads: "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed, He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel". So, you will notice that in the Revised Authorised Version this translation is faithful to the meaning of the text, and brings out the fact that Christ shall bruise the head of the Devil and the Devil shall bruise the heel of Christ.

Text No. 2.

The second great test text of Scripture is Psalm 45:6. (By the way, every believer should learn these texts: They should have them at their fingertips, because these are the cardinal texts of God's Precious Word on the deity of the Blessed Son of God). "Your throne, O God, is for ever and ever". Keep your finger in that passage, and look at the cross-reference passage in Hebrews 1:8, and you will see the significance of that passage in reference to Christ. "But to the Son he says (and I am still reading from the Revised Authorised Version), Your throne O God, is for ever and ever". So it is clear that the Revised Authorised Version in this text stands up to full scrutiny, because in the modern versions this text is manipulated and altered so that it reads entirely different and takes away the deity of the Lord Jesus Christ.

TEXT No. 3.

The third test text is Isaiah 7:14. The great text of the virgin birth of the Lord Jesus Christ: "Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel". Again, the text is a faithful rendering of the Word of God, and it stands up to that test too.

TEXT No. 4.

The fourth test text is Romans Chapter 9 and verse 5: (this is the text that smashes to smithereens Unitarianism) "Of whom are the fathers and from whom, according to the flesh Christ came, who is over all, the eternally blessed God". Once again, a faithful rendering of the text in the Revised Authorised Version.

TEXT No. 5.

The fifth text is 1 Timothy chapter 3 and verse 16: "And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness, God was manifest in the flesh, justified by the Spirit, seen of angels, preached among the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory". Again, this text stands forth, displaying the full orb'd deity of Jesus Christ.

TEXT No. 6.

The sixth test text is Ephesians 1:7 - "In Him we have redemption through His Blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace". Once again, this text gives a faithful rendering of God's Holy Word.

TEXT No. 7.

The seventh test text is Acts 22\*28\* "Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood". Once again, this test text stands up and gives a faithful declaration of the deity of Christ; that the Blood of Christ is the Blood of God. "Purchased with His own Blood"

TEXT No. 8.

The eighth test text is one we are all familiar with; the Gospel in a nutshell; Martin Luther's little Bible; John

3:16, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life".

Now in these eight vital test texts the Revised Authorised Version comes out with a full plus mark.

I wish that I could now stop and say to you: 'Well, if you do want a Bible in modern English, I advise you to get a copy of this Revised Version' but, alas, with all these pluses, which are very important, and I would not want to minimize one of them, this Version gives away all its pluses by the most dangerous, deceptive and damaging system of footnotes, and it is to be regretted that the footnotes of this book are just those in the New English Bible repeated completely.

#### REGRETFUL DROPPING OF "THEE" AND "THOU".

Let me say, at this point, that I regret the dropping of 'Thou' for God in the Bible. When we address God and use the word 'Thou' it has a dignity and a reverence. When we stoop to colloquialism and use 'You' with reference to God, we lose part of that devotional reverence that we ought to have for Deity. Let me illustrate it. Turn to Psalm 102: those great verses, verses 24-27:

"I said, O my God, take me not away in the midst of my days: Thy years are throughout all generations. Of old hast Thou laid the foundation of the earth: and the heavens are the work of Thy hands. They shall perish, but Thou shalt endure: yea, all of them shall wax old as a garment} as a vesture shalt Thou change them, and they shall be changed: But Thou art the same, and Thy years shall have no end".

There is a beauty, there is a rhythm, there is an inspiration, there is a devotion about that language that is unsurpassed and unsurpassable!

Now let us turn to the Revised Authorised Version, and let me read you that in this book:

"I said, "O my God, do not take me away in the midst of my days; your years are throughout all generations. Of old you laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are

the work of your hands. They will perish, but you shall endure; yes, all of them will grow old like a garment: like a cloak you will change them, and they will be changed, But you are the same, and your years will have no end".

By omitting the 'Thees' and the 'Thous', especially in reference to God, I think that this Revised Authorised Version has lost and jettisoned a great deal. Of course, that could be a matter for argument, but not so the footnotes; these damaging, these divisive, these deceptive and dangerous footnotes. Let me say something more: When they undermine the Word of God they become diabolical, because it is the Devil's aim to cast doubts and aspersions on the veracity and integrity of Holy Scripture.

#### POISON IN THE FOOTNOTES.

Alas, those who made this revision saw fit to insert in footnotes the poison which appears in the texts of the many modern perversions of God's Word. The footnotes of the Revised Authorised Version are all the more damaging, for as we have seen the main texts are faithful and true: so, people will say, "This is a good Text; this is an acceptable Text; this meets the prerequisites". Then in the footnotes you have the poison, the very same poison that is in the main texts of the New English Bible, the Revised Standard Version, The Common Bible, Good News for Modern Man, and to a lesser extent in the New International Version. The poison is there.

Let me show you some very important things. Turn to John chapter 4. In this chapter there is an account of the conversion of the woman at the well, and it is a great passage in God's Precious Word - a passage that is important because it bears testimony to Christ. Look with me at verse 29, and in our Authorised Version she says: "Come, see a man which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?" She is convinced He is the Christ, and she says, "Come, see a man which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?"

The Revised Authorised Version reads, "Come, see a man who told me all things that I ever did; could this be the Christ?" The reason for that weakening comes out in verse

42: "And said unto the woman, now we believe, not because of thy saying: for we have heard him ourselves, and know that this is indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the world." (A.V.). The Revised Authorised Version reads, "Then they said to the woman, now we believe, not because of what you said, for we have heard for ourselves, and know that this is indeed the Christ": and the footnote adds, "The text omits 'The Christ'," and when I turn to the New English Bible, what is omitted by the footnote of the R.A.V. is in the text of this New English Bible. So, what they have done, is to remove from the text by the footnote.

I could give many scriptures where this takes place. Take for instance, that controverted passage of Mark chapter 16, verses 9 to 20. The great battle is 'that verses 9 to 20 are not part of Scripture'. The modernists reject it and say, 'this is not part of the Word of God'. In the R.A.V. we read these words: "verses 9 to 20 are bracketed in the text as not original. They are lacking in codex Sinaiticus and codex Vaticanus, although nearly all other manuscripts of Mark contain them". So, instead of standing solidly for the Received Text they put in this deceptive and dangerous footnote intimating a doubt that this is not part of the Scriptures at all.

Then, when we come to that other controverted passage in John chapter 8, the story of the Lord and the woman taken in adultery, the R.A.V. in its footnote states that verses 1 to 11 are bracketed as not original insertions. So, again there is the highlighting of this by the adversaries of the Scripture which originates in the Devil's aspersion of the Scriptures.

#### ONE VITAL PASSAGE.

There is one passage of Scripture that is of the utmost importance. Turn to Luke 23 verse 42: "Then said he to Jesus, Lord, remember me when Thou comest into Thy Kingdom" and the R.A.V. reads "Then he said to Jesus, Lord remember me when you come into your kingdom"; and there is a footnote: "And he said, Jesus, remember me". The dying thief did not own Him as Lord. No man can call Jesus 'Lord' but by the Holy Ghost. We have the same thing that is in the main text of the New English Bible here in the footnote of this Revised Authorised Version.



This is a very serious matter indeed, because the main texts of the Revised Authorised Version meet the prerequisites, and thinking evangelical people who know these main texts and take up this book and study it, they will say: "Yes, these texts are good", and perhaps they might even recommend it to some new convert, but that convert is going to have in the footnotes, all the poison of all the modern Versions.

One word that I must tell you: that great text that I spoke of in 1 Timothy 3:16 - "God was manifest in the flesh". They have the pernicious footnote, the text reads, "Who was manifest in the flesh". The word 'God' is jettisoned, and, of course, that is the modernistic twist on the passage, that He wasn't God, it just refers to Christ as 'Who was manifest in the flesh'.

I regret that those responsible for this Bible have fallen into this Satanic trap, and into this trap they have indeed fallen.

#### ARCHAIC WORDS.

I am not so sure either that they have been careful in bringing out the full and proper meaning of words in our Authorised Bible which have a different meaning today in the 20th century than they had in the 17th century. For instance, let me give you one example. In 1 Samuel 17:6 (we all know this passage, the passage about Goliath and David), it says, "And he had greaves of brass upon his legs, and a target of brass between his shoulders". Now in our modern idiom a target is something that you fire at. Did he carry something on his shoulder that was to be fired at? No, the old meaning of 'target' was 'a shield'. The Scottish clans went into battle with a target shield on their hand to protect them. So, the meaning of the text is, he had this shield of brass upon his shoulders.

One would have thought that in this so-called modernising of the Bible for the readers of the twentieth century, that would have been brought out clearly, but I notice that they depart completely from the meaning of the text and the text reads, "He had bronze greaves upon his legs, and a bronze javelin between his shoulders", which makes the thing absolutely ridiculous. How did he carry a javelin between his shoulders? I am afraid that this Bible

which was supposed to update the archaic words, (give them their proper meaning now in our contemporary English), and make the obsolete words meaningful to us today; it has even failed in that objective.

STICKING TO THE OLD BOOK.

As far as this Church is concerned, needless to say we will be sticking to the Old Book, incomparable in its faithfulness, majestic in its language, and inexhaustible in its fruitfulness. This time-honoured Version continues to reveal to millions the matchless grace of Him whose name is the Word of God and who is crowned with glory and honour.

The Authorised Version is that Version of the Scriptures in the English tongue which bears upon it as no other, the signal seal of Heaven's approval in the great revivals of the Church since the Reformation. All came to the English-speaking peoples of the world through the reading and preaching from this Volume; and what is more, the Authorised Version is not only the fruit, but the root of the great Protestant Reformation. This can be established from its literary pedigree. Our present English Version was based on the Bishops' Bible of 1568, and upon Cranmer's of 1539 which was a new edition of Bishop Matthew's Bible of 1537: partly from Coverdale's of 1535: but chiefly from Tyndale himself.

Who was Tyndale? The man who sealed with his life's blood the first translation of the Word of God that ever was printed in the English tongue. Wycliffe's Bible was not printed, it was copied out, printing was not then in existence, but Tyndale gave us the first printed copy of God's Precious Word.

"The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul"

I trust we will receive the engrafted Word, and every one of us will know the Incarnate Word, which is revealed in the Inspired Word of God.

May God bless His Truth, for Jesus' sake.'

AMEN and AMEN.

NO DEVIATION.

F.J.Harris

"All the Athenians and strangers which were there spent their time in nothing else, "but either to tell, or to hear some new thing". (Acts 17:21)

In the days in which we live when so many people are prepared to discard every standard and value of previous generations, a closed mind is reckoned to be one of the greatest evils and to be a mark of extreme narrowness and bigotry. Notwithstanding this, I want to put in a plea for a closed mind - in certain areas at least - and I believe that I can demonstrate that such an attitude is thoroughly biblical.

When the apostle Paul went to Athens, he found people with anything but closed minds. They were willing to listen to any and every new philosophy and as a result, with all their wisdom, they never learnt the one thing needful. It was left to the man who had refused to enter into debate with the wise men at Corinth but "determined not to know anything among them save Jesus Christ and Him crucified" to declare to the men of Athens the God whom they ignorantly worshipped. It was the same apostle who warned the Colossian Christians against "philosophy and vain deceit after the tradition of men" (Col.2:8) and who warned Timothy against "profane and vain babblings and oppositions of science (knowledge) falsely so called" (1 Tim. 6:20).

I maintain that I am following biblical teaching when I say that there are certain things to which Christians should shut their minds. Teaching which has been tested, and proved to be at variance with revealed truth, can do us no good at all and the mind should be closed against it.

I feel it is necessary to make this emphasis today for it is unhappily true that within the professing church there are many who foolishly follow in the footsteps of the men of Athens. That which is new seems to have a strange fascination for them. New methods, new messages, new experiences often attract even Christian people. I am suspicious of that which is new - not because I wish to live in the past but because that which is 'new' is

generally inspired by fleshly wisdom and new truth, so called, has usually proved to be heresy.

The words of C.H.Spurgeon in 1877: addressing a conference of pastors, are relevant today: "I am frequently being told that I ought to examine at length the various new views that are so continually presented. I decline the invitation. I can smell them and that satisfied me. I perceive in them nothing which glorifies God or magnifies Christ, but much that puffs up human nature".

As conservative evangelicals we adopt a similar attitude and it is for this reason that we are charged with having closed minds. Because we choose to believe the word of God rather than listen to the conclusions of human reason we are labelled 'obscurantists'. This is particularly so when we reject the philosophies of scientists and eminent men who teach the false theory of evolution as if it were fact, and when we repudiate the views of those theologians who tell us that the scriptures are fallible human documents and therefore not the trustworthy, inerrant guide which scripture itself claims to be. But if the opinions of men, however scholarly, wise and respected they may be, are in conflict with the word of God, we must take our stand with the apostle and say, "let God be true but every man a liar" (Romans 3:4).

That is the negative aspect - the positive is a strong proclamation of the truth. Let us pray that in these days, those who love the truth will be content with nothing less than dogmatic statements of Christian truth and uncompromising declarations of the fundamentals of the "faith once delivered to the saints". Of course, this will bring the scorn of the world and the disapproval of many within the professing church but what of that? "If I yet pleased men I should not be the servant of Christ". (Gal. 1:10)

Let us be sure that if any real progress is to be made in the Christian life there must be some clearly defined body of doctrine to be adhered to. From these we are to countenance no deviation, having no dealings with either new theology or new morality, so called.

The science of navigation is dependent upon the existence of certain fixed points from which a bearing can be taken. Granted such fixed points a ship can be guided with

certainty across the vast and empty ocean. So as we voyage across the sea of life it is absolutely essential for us to have fixed points by which we may chart our spiritual course. Without these fixed points we shall not make progress. Rather we shall drift and end up on the rocks. On some things the sailor cannot afford to have an open mind. He must not doubt his chart, his compass or the stars. Our minds may legitimately be open on many matters but the fixed points are not for our judgement or approval; they are for our guidance and respect.

What are these fixed points by which we may safely make our spiritual voyage? Here are some of them. We believe in God, the One Who, by the word of His power, created heaven and earth and all that is in them; we believe in the deity of the Lord Jesus Christ, His virgin birth, sinless life, atoning death, physical resurrection, ascension into heaven, His present reign and future personal return in glory; we believe in the personality and power of the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Trinity, and of the need of His convicting, regenerating and sanctifying work; we believe that salvation is by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone - and we are not ashamed to declare that salvation has only been wrought by the shedding of the precious blood of Christ; we believe in the judgement of the world in righteousness, with the eternal blessedness of the saved and the eternal misery of the lost. And we believe in the inspired and infallible scripture of truth, God's full and final revelation to mankind.

These are not opinions, they are certainties. They are the fixed points by which we steer our course. Against any deviation from them we resolutely close our minds. Let other« call us dogmatic if they will. We are on a perilous voyage and we would be fools indeed to doubt them.

"Forever, O Lord" cried the psalmist, "Thy Word is settled in heaven." Luke wrote of "those things which are most surely believed among us". Jeremiah cried "Thus saith the Lord; stand ye in the ways and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls". (Jeremiah 6:16).

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## EDITORIAL

In our last edition of the Link, we included an extract of a sermon by Dr. Ian Paisley focusing attention on the New International Version of the Scriptures. Considerable interest has been shown in this article, consequently we have decided to include in the current issue, an examination of the Revised Authorised Version (known to some as The New King James Version), by the same author.

We have printed these two articles because, whilst many Christians plainly perceive the weaknesses and dangers in versions such as, The Good News Bible, The Living Bible, The New English Bible, The Revised Standard Version and a number of others, they are being misled by the widely acclaimed and advertised N.I.V. and N.K.J.V. on the grounds of their evangelical background and support.

These two sermons by Dr. Paisley will leave no thoughtful, spiritually-minded person in any doubt that there are serious defects in these two newcomers which can only serve to create confusion amongst conservative evangelicals.

As has been stated before in this magazine there is such a thing as Biblical English. Have modern standards in education become so deficient that there is now little appreciation of the English language at its purest and best as is exemplified in our Authorised Version? Christians also seem to have lost their keen sense of vigilance and have become gullible to pseudo-intellectualism. We affirm with Dr. Paisley that this church will be sticking to the Old Book - the time-honoured Authorised Version.

We have also sought to draw attention to the importance of maintaining a true testimony and carefully passing on truth to those who follow after us. For some years Evangelicalism and the so-called Reformed have been drifting into an ever-increasing grey area as a result of a middle of the road compromising Christianity. May God help us to take up a positive black and white position.