

Northwest news

A Quarterly Publication of Northwest Bible Baptist Church in Elgin, Illinois

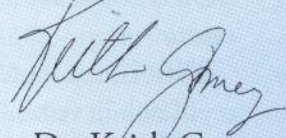
It was called to my

attention that *The Voice*, a publication of First Baptist Church in Hammond, Indiana, pastored by Dr. Jack Schaap, had been dedicated to his explanation of why he did not believe that the King James 1611 was inspired.

In that lengthy article, Northwest Bible Baptist Church and Providence Baptist College were mentioned as believing as he does concerning inspiration of the King James Bible. Of course, we do not. When we say Bible or Scriptures, we are talking about the Book we hold in our hands—not the originals, which do not exist on earth.

For the 35 years that I have been saved and the 27 years that I have pastored Northwest Bible Baptist Church, I have noticed that when a man messes with the Word of God, God messes with that man's mind. This is why I refrain from correcting my Bible. We should not judge the Word of God. We need the Word of God to judge us. This issue of the *Northwest News* is dedicated to the infallible, immutable, inerrant, inspired King James 1611.

Enjoy,



Dr. Keith Gomez

"Plenary, Verbal Inspiration of the Bible"

A sermon preached by Dr. Keith Gomez on October 8, 1998

II Timothy 3:16, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."

There is no doubt that a great attack is upon the Word of God. Recently I heard a man on the radio claiming we only have one Bible, but then he went on to quote from four or five different versions. Not only did listening to this man make me feel ill, but I could not help but wonder if he even really believed what he was saying!

As Bible believers, we believe in the plenary, verbal inspiration of the Bible. There are some who do not know these terms. A Christian should understand these terms for his own edification.

First of all, you must understand that we have a Bible, and that Bible—the King James Bible—is preached from this pulpit. If the verses in the Bible you are

holding do not match those that were just read from this pulpit, you do not have the King James Bible in your hands; you are holding a perversion of the Bible. Christians must understand this vital and important phrase "the plenary, verbal inspiration of the Bible."

Now what is meant by the plenary, verbal inspiration of the Bible? First of

Continued on page 2

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Continued from page 1

all, let us look at the word “inspiration.” *Inspiration* means God-breathed. The Bible is God-breathed. All Scripture is given by “inspiration” of God. If the Bible is God-breathed, how can you possibly improve upon it, unless you set yourself up as a “god.”

God breathed out His Word over 1500 years through, possibly, 40 different writers. It is God-breathed because God is the Author. Man is not the author of this book that I hold in my hand—God is the Author of the Bible. In Psalm 68:11, the Bible says “*The Lord gave the word: Great was the company of those that published it.*”

In 2 Timothy 3:16, the Bible explains Who its Author is: “*All scripture is given by inspiration of God.*” God is the Author of the Bible. In Hebrews 1:1 “*God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,*” God spake. I am glad that I have a Bible that is God-breathed.

Notice in 2 Peter 1:16-21, “*For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty. [17] For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. [18] And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount. [19] We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:[20] Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. [21] 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.*”

These verses are very important for a Christian to understand. The statement, “*When we were with him in the holy mount...*” refers to the mount of

transfiguration. Peter, James and John were there. They saw Jesus in His glorified body. They saw Him transform; they heard the voice of God say, “*This is my beloved son in whom I am well pleased.*” Not only were they eyewitnesses, but they heard His voice that came from heaven when they were with Him in the holy mount.

In 2 Peter 1:19, “*We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:*”

What is that more sure word of prophecy? Look in verse 20, “*...knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.*”

And in verse 21, “*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.*” These verses assure us that we have a more sure Word of prophecy; we hold it in our hands. How sure? The Bible says that it is more “sure” than someone who is seen there on the mount of transfiguration. How sure? The Bible also says more “sure” than hearing the voice of God on the mount. We have it here in this Book.

Notice that these verses declare that the Bible is more reliable than seeing Christ in His glory and hearing God’s declaration. Why? ...Because eyewitnesses may disagree on what they saw. That is why. God would not. Inspiration is superior to eyewitness accounts because His inspiration is not influenced by fallible man. This book is God-breathed; it is inspired. So inspiration means God-breathed. “Inspiration” means “breathe in.” “Expiration” means “breathe out.” This Book is alive because it is inspired, not expired. Thank God we have an inspired Book. When it is preached, it will bring life. When it is obeyed, it will bring life. When it is disobeyed, it will bring death.

“*For the wages of sin is death...*” and sin is transgression against God’s Holy Word.

The second thing we must understand is not only inspiration, but verbal inspiration. The word “verbal” means the words of the Bible are God-breathed. It did not say portions of the Bible are God-breathed, but the words are God-breathed—every word. Charles Spurgeon said, “This Bible is the writing of the living God. Each letter was penned with an Almighty finger; each word in it dropped from the Everlasting lips; each sentence was dedicated or dictated by the Holy Spirit.”

If you are lost and on your way to hell, it is only because you do not want to put yourself under the subjection of God’s Holy Book. When this Bible tells you that you are a sinner and on your way to hell, understand that God said it! Not the preacher or some kinfolk, but God said it. You better believe what God says. When God said that you are living an unholy life and that booze, smoking, and filthy music are wrong, it is wrong! God wants us to live a holy life because this is a Holy Book. If God said it in His Word, we must believe it. Why? ...Because we have a book that is God-breathed. Every word is God-breathed. The definition of verbal is “by means of words” or, “word for word.” Which simply means every word of God is inspired.

When I read this Book, I read every word. All Scripture is given by the inspiration of God. Every word in the Bible was breathed by God. The Scriptures reveal, unquestionably, that God gave exact words in the Scripture.

In 2 Samuel 23:2, “*The spirit of the Lord spake by me and his word was in my tongue.*” In 1 Corinthians 2:13, “*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.*”

Acts 1:16 says, “*Men and brethren, this scripture must needs have been fulfilled,*

which the Holy Ghost by the mouth of David spake before concerning Judas, which was guide to them that took Jesus."

God revealed not only the spelling of the words, but also the difference in the singular and the plural of each word that God breathed. In Matthew 5:18, the Bible tells us *"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."* Not only the spelling of every word will remain, but the singular and plural will remain, and that should bless your heart! Look at it in Galatians 3:16, *"Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ."*

Many have tried to change the Book, but we have a Book that is correct already. Every word in the Bible is God-breathed, even the spelling and the singular and plural forms of each word. Do you understand if God would have said "seeds" instead of "seed," that the Messiah would have never come? If God would have said "seeds" instead of "seed," He could have used the offspring of Hagar instead of Sarah. If God was so very careful in even one verse to make sure that we understood it is "seed"—singular instead of plural—then God has made sure that every word of this Book is God-breathed.

This should prove to you how much God does care about His Word. It amazes me how many people say that this Book is not His Word. There are preachers who stand in their pulpits today and say, "...A better rendering would be..." I do not know of a preacher who will blatantly say from his pulpit, "This is not God's Word." I have never met someone who would be as blatant as that; however, they **will** say, "This is a poor translation," or, "In the Greek, it says...In the original languages, it says..."

If you feel you can write a better rendering because God is a poor transla-

tor, then you are telling me you have the ability to translate a Bible! So, why don't you do it? If you do not think what we have is superior, why don't you translate it? If you think that you can produce a Bible that will cause a revival like the King James Bible has, you go ahead and do it! Has anyone alive today ever seen the originals? Dear people, this is fallacy. If you only understood the majority text concept and how we received the precious Book that we hold, you would never make statements such as these.

I am surprised at how many preachers say they believe the Bible, but in truth, they do not. They will sit in their offices and tell me, personally, that this book only "contains" the Word of God. But, they have not been saying that from their pulpits. They have never said from their pulpit that this book "contains the Word of God." In fact, I have heard these men say from their pulpits that it does not "contain" the word of God, but that it actually "is" the word of God. But then, in **private**, they tell me it only "contains" the word of God. These preachers are lying to their own people!

Do you do Greek studies? I think not. Can an average lay person understand the Greek language? No, he cannot read that language. These men who make statements against the Bible are like doctors who charge big bucks because they can give you a diagnosis and a prescription in a language you could never understand, instead of telling you exactly what your ailment is in laymen's terms. Why would a preacher stand in his pulpit and tell his people that "A better rendering would be..." or, "In the original languages..." How many lay people have taken Greek and Hebrew to the point where they can actually do a word study or exegete a verse of Scripture? Every time a preacher makes statements like "a better rendering would be..." or, "in the original language it means..." he causes the lay people sitting under

the sound of his preaching to decide in their heart that they cannot understand the Bible because they do not know the original languages. The preacher who makes those statements from the pulpit sets himself up as an authority over the Bible—no different than what a Roman Catholic priest does! This is the same reasoning that is found in the Roman Catholic church. No Scriptures are of private interpretations. Dear people, this Book was written for you. This Book is for you and for me—as Christians—for all matters of faith and practice.

Plenary, verbal inspiration. If a person would just sit down and reason this out, it is very simple. I am no heretic; I know what I believe. But I can tell you this: I would rather believe that I have the Book, than to say, "Oh, well, you know; they are all kind of good!" If every word is God-breathed, how can the same verses from different versions have different words? Does that make sense? God does not speak out of two sides of His mouth. When He said what He meant, He meant what he said! God is not like us.

Plenary means "every word" of the Bible is God-breathed. Plenary means full. It means that every word of the full Bible is inspired. Matthew 4:4, *"But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."* Proverbs 30:5, *"Every word of God is pure; he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him."* 2 Timothy 3:16, *"All scripture is given by inspiration of God..."*

The most important truth of all of this is that the plenary, verbal inspiration is not some theological terminology that some preacher came up with! It is actually God's view of His own Word. Notice again in 2 Timothy 3:16, the word "A-double-L" That is plenary. All. Full. All scripture.

What is Scripture? The writings. That is verbal. The writings that were given to

Continued on page 4

Continued from page 3

the prophets verbally. All means plenary. Scripture means verbal. *"All scripture is given by inspiration..."* God-breathed. There it is. That is what God says about His Word. All Scripture is given by inspiration of God. It is the plenary, verbal inspiration. That means that the entire Bible that I hold—every Word of it—has been God-breathed. That is why I can stand and preach the way I do. To be honest with you, I do not understand how some can even stand in their pulpits and preach what they preach. The truth of the matter is that some do not stand and preach in power. They stand and give a sermonette because they have no power, since they do not believe what they hold in their hands to be the very Word of God. If I did not believe that this was the Word of God, how could I believe that it would have power to change lives? And if it is not the Word of God, where is the Word of God within

it? Is Psalms the part that is inspired, or not? One preacher told me he did not believe that 80% of the Bible was even inspired, and he is a fundamental, independent Baptist. If I mentioned his name, you would drop dead out of your seat! You just would not believe it!

Dear people, we have the plenary, verbal inspired Bible—every word of it. When you read it tomorrow morning, you ought to weep over it, and understand the power that it has. And, if every word of God is God-breathed, don't you believe that it might have some power to keep you from sin, to get you on the right road, to get you financially free? Don't you feel that if every word is inspired, God-breathed, that just possibly you ought to obey it?

Dear people, this precious Book is your weapon. If you want to defeat the devil, this is your weapon. If you want to conquer some habitual sin in your life,

this is your sword. Instead of using our sword, we are trying to fight our battles in the energy and might of the flesh. But, this is our weapon. Did you read it this week? Did you bathe yourself in it this past week? Did you get on your knees, open this blessed Book, and pray, "Oh, God, speak to me. I need you."

There are countries in which this Bible is such a hated Book that it is not allowed in those countries. I wonder why? This Book is not a work of Shakespeare. This Book has been standing for a long, long time, and it will never perish, because it always was. It was written in Heaven, settled in Heaven, a long time ago. Thank God we have it, thank God we can preach it, and thank God we live it.

Do you love it? Do you have a desire to teach it to others? ☺

Thy Word is Like a Garden, Lord

by Edwin Hodder

Thy Word is like a garden, Lord,
with flowers bright and fair;
And everyone who seeks may pluck
a lovely cluster there.

Thy Word is like a deep, deep mine;
and jewels rich and rare
Are hidden in its mighty depths for
every searcher there.

Thy Word is like a starry host: a
thousand rays of light
Are seen to guide the traveler and
make his pathway bright.

Thy Word is like an armory, where
soldiers may repair;
And find, for life's long battle day,
all needful weapons there.

O may I love Thy precious Word,
may I explore the mine,
May I its fragrant flowers glean,
may light upon me shine!

O may I find my armor there! Thy
Word my trusty sword,
I'll learn to fight with every foe the
battle of the Lord.

What is is?

“It was not important to *find* inspiration in the King James Bible...
it was never *lost*.”



By Steve Szwarga
Instructor • PBC

For 12 years, Bro. Steve Szwarga was an assistant pastor and then pastor of the church that reached him as a child through the bus ministry. He has now been serving at Providence as Operations Manager and Dean of Ministry for the past 11 years.

Why do Bible-believing Baptists need to make an *issue* out of something that has been a *given*? Some have been critical of the doctrinal statement of our fundamental Baptist churches, claiming they lack specificity about the meaning of inspiration.

It is not easy to foresee every twist that a novice preacher can put on Bible doctrine. I looked through my Systematic Theology and Manuscript Evidences class notes to find something that addresses the issue. I find very little that deals with *new truth*. If it is new, it is not truth. If it is truth, it is not *new*. It was not important to *find* inspiration in the King James Bible — it was never *lost*.

II Timothy 3:16, “*All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.*”

What God *did not* say: “All scripture *was* given by inspiration of God.” Consider the Greek exegesis: “Was” would be accurate if “given” was an imperfect tense verb; “Was” would be accurate if it was a verb in the passive voice. However, *theopneustos* is an adjective, and the predicate use demands the use of “is.” (This is why it is in italics in the King James Bible.) Therefore, all scripture “is” given by inspiration of God. I thought only Bill Clinton had a problem with the meaning of the word “is.”

The scriptures are inspired, and God never revoked that inspiration. The King James translators did not need to be inspired—God’s words never lost their inspiration. When did this become an issue?

Perhaps instead of revising our articles of faith, we should simply return to having faith in the divinely-inspired Word of God as our final authority in faith and practice. ☞

PRESERVATION OF INSPIRATION



By Dr. Mike Hall

Vice President • PBC

An ex-Major in the United States Army, Dr. Mike Hall came on staff as administrator of our own Northwest Baptist Academy in 1992, and has been part of the administration of the college since it opened its doors in 1998. He has now been Vice President of Providence Baptist College since 2003.

The issue of the preservation/inspiration of the King James Bible seems to be a fairly simple issue to me.

First, as fundamentalists we would all agree that the original manuscripts were inspired by God and consequently are the exact words that God wanted written down for us.

II Timothy 3:16, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."

Hebrews 1:1, "God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the father by the prophets,"

II Peter 1:21, "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."

These men were sometimes eyewitnesses (I John 1:1-3 "...that which we have seen and heard declare we unto you..."), but on the other hand often did not even understand what they were writing (Daniel 12:8-9 "...and I heard but I understood not..."). Regardless, the Holy Spirit moved them to write exactly what God wanted written. As a result, I have no problem with also agreeing with the concept of "mechanical dictation." This is because I understand that the same God would have no problem dictating exactly what He wanted said through different men with different personalities. As a music major, I learned to play different instruments. I can play the trombone, baritone, and trumpet, among

others. Even though I am the same musician, as I play the various instruments, a different sound is produced. The same notes are played, the same tunes, but all with their own unique tone. This is true of the writers of the original manuscripts. It is the same God, the same message; but different personalities which are combined to give us the unique collection of 66 books within one.

Next, as far as I have read, most of us fundamentalists have no problem accepting that God preserved His Word for us today.

I Peter 1:23, "Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever."

Isaiah 40:8, "The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever."

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."

Psalms 12:6-7, "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 for ever."

If that is true, then the only question seems to be if God has perfectly preserved His Word. I maintain that if God goes through the effort to tell us "one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law" and "...thou shalt preserve them from this generation forever," then He wants us to understand that His Word

will be perfectly preserved through time. That being the case, God using imperfect man to give us a perfectly translated Bible through the centuries, certainly indicates a miraculous act as well. In fact, it seems to me to be as miraculous as the original act of inspiration. To say that God *imperfectly* preserved His Word would seem to be faulty in at least a couple of points. First, it does not seem to be in God's nature to imperfectly do anything, especially when dealing with something as precious as His Word. Secondly, why would God go through all the trouble of perfectly inspiring the originals and telling us so, when all future generations were to settle for imperfect copies? As with either case, it does not seem to make sense for God to imperfectly preserve His perfect Word.

This then brings us to the obvious conclusion of the matter. If God perfectly inspired the originals and then He perfectly preserved them for us today, what we have today is the perfectly preserved, inspired Word of God. This is not through a second act of inspiration, but through the miraculous act of perfectly preserving the inspired originals. To a simple mind like mine, this makes complete, uncomplicated sense. If it was perfect before, and has been perfectly saved through to today, what I have is also perfect. As a result, I can say with confidence that I have in my hands the perfectly inspired (through preservation) Word of God. ☺

Inspired or Expired?

By Jay Reed
Youth Pastor • NBBC

Bro. Jay Reed is a product of three generations of gospel ministry. He has been in youth work for 12 years.



There is a red herring issue floating around Baptist circles these days called “double inspiration.” This term is usually bantered about by scholarly types to get Christians to back off their faith in their English Bible. The idea of double inspiration in a nutshell is that God showed up in the translation room in 1604 and re-breathed His Word to the King James translators, (thus making the King James Bible a product of “second inspiration.”) When confronted with the false choice that either A) the Bible was only inspired in the originals or B) divine inspiration took place again in 1604, we are supposed to surrender to the idea of inspiration only in “the originals.” A glaring question comes to mind as we ponder the implications of all this scholarly-ness; why did the Bible need to be re-inspired? Adam was not alive until God breathed into his nostrils, and when Adam stopped breathing, he expired. Did the Word of God

expire somewhere? Maybe between Hebrew and Greek, or between Greek and English? Is Hebrews 4:12 accurate when it claims, “the Word of God is quick?” If we are to believe Scripture, then our English Bible purports to be alive right now. It was alive in 1604 in Erasmus’ Textus Receptus, in hundreds of extant manuscripts, and in hundreds of sermons and letters from the early church fathers. It was alive when it entered the translation room – and it never stopped breathing. There was no need for a second inspiration - the first one was still at work through the miracle of preservation. Our King James Bible is alive, because it was alive and never stopped living. The Bible we hold today is inspired, because it never expired. ☪

1 Peter 1:25, But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.

The Divine Preservation of the Word of God

A sermon preached by Dr. Keith Gomez on November 12, 1995

1 Peter 1:23-25; "Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

[24] For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away:

[25] But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you."

2 Peter 1:16-21; "For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty. [17] For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. [18] And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy

mount. [19] We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: [20] Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. [21] 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."

“...Eyewitnesses of His Majesty.” They saw the Lord Jesus with their eyes. That is an important statement. “...This voice... we heard...” They not only saw the Lord Jesus Christ (verse 16); but they heard the voice of God in verse 18. So they saw the Lord Jesus; they heard the voice of God. But notice in verse 19 the Bible tells us we have a more sure word of prophecy than actually seeing Him and hearing the voice of God. Notice in verse 21, the Bible did not come by the will of man. Our King James Bible did not come by the will of man; it came by God. All scripture is given by inspiration of God; all the other perversions came by the will of man—for money.

We have a more sure word of prophecy than an eyewitness account. They saw in verse 16; they heard in verse 18; and yet, in verse 19, the Bible says we have a more sure word of prophecy.

Notice in verse 19, “...until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts.” Anywhere in the Bible where it

talks about the day dawn or the day star, it is talking about the coming of Jesus Christ at the rapture. The Bible that God gave us is the only Book that we need and we should stick with it until the rapture. Why won't we need it then? Because we will see Him face to face and His Word will be preserved forever in Heaven. This Book that we have, the more sure word of prophecy, is good for us until the rapture takes place.

We do not need a new translation. We need a new dedication to the translation that God has preserved without error. I believe with all my heart that the King James Bible that we hold in our hands is inspired and is without error. I believe it is preserved by God Almighty for this English-speaking generation. No one can prove me wrong on this. They can write their books if they will; they can say the only inspired Bible that we have is in the originals; and yet, no one has the originals. If we did have the originals, no one could read them, much less preach them.

God did not give us an English perversion, but He gave us an English Bible.

Those who have an argument with this fact always complain that it is too hard to understand. Most of those with this complaint are theologians with a Ph.D. They are missing the point. This Book was written so that a person with an eighth grade education could understand it. Over 80% of the King James Bible is one-syllable words. If I had a Ph.D., and I was making statements that a book with 80% of its words being one-syllable words was hard to understand, I certainly would not be admitting to anyone that I was so educated. Many of these religious scholars have been educated out of their faith. They are educated beyond their faith. They receive an “honorary” degree. It is like a pig's tail; it has a nice twist to it, but it does not put any more pork on the pig.

These educated idiots who do not know any better are exactly the ones who are trying to take our Bible away. They have been educated out of their faith.

They are trying to say the translators of the Bible surely made mistakes.

God has given us three safeguards whereby we might know Him and be known of Him. God loves us so much that it is not His will that any should perish. Therefore, He gives us three safeguards.

The first safeguard is our conscience.

God has put within everyone a conscience that we might know Him. Turn to Romans 1:20; *"For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse."*

God has given us a conscience, and creation speaks to our conscience and tells us there is a God! In Romans 2:14, *"For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves. [15] Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;"*

God gives us safeguards to show us that we have an infallible Bible. *"Which shew the work of the law..."* What does? Creation shows the works of the law *"... in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness"* (to them and against them). The law of God was written in their hearts. Look back at Romans 2:1, *"Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things."*

Those who think that God will smile upon the heathen who have never heard the Gospel, understand that they are without excuse. In Chapter 1 verse 19, *"Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them."* God not only put it in them (conscience), but God showed it unto them (creation). It is a safeguard

that God put in us so that we might know Him. He does not want us to go to hell, so even if we do not have a Gospel preacher to tell us, or even if we do not have the Bible to read, He at least will give us a conscience which tells us.

Now the question arises: "Can we trust our conscience?"

1 Timothy 4:2, *"Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;"* Our conscience can be seared, so I would suggest that we cannot totally put our trust in our conscience because, many times, our conscience will deceive us.

But God has given us a conscience. When the Bible is preached and conviction comes, God will send the conviction to your conscience and it will say to you, "The preacher is right. The Word of God is right. You are wrong."

The second safeguard that God gives us is the Holy Spirit.

Romans 9:1, *"I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost."* Our conscience should be under the subjection of the Holy Spirit of God. We cannot trust our conscience, which will deceive us. But our conscience, under the subjection of the Holy Spirit, will convict us and point us to God. The Bible tells us we cannot totally trust our conscience; that it must be under the subjection of the Holy Spirit of God.

In John 16:7-8, *"Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. [8] And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:"*

God said that the Comforter will come to convict and convince the world of sin and righteousness and judgment. He will come to reprove. He will comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable. The Holy Spirit will convict us and try to

bring us to Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit is another safeguard to bring us to God.

The question is: Should we totally trust what people call the "Holy Spirit" of God?

The truth is, if it truly is the Holy Spirit of God, you may certainly trust Him. But the sad thing is that the majority of the people—even Christendom—know nothing about the Holy Spirit of God. You cannot trust every spirit.

1 John 4:1, *"Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world."*

So many people will make the statement, "The Holy Spirit told me to do thus and so." If I was not a saved man, after hearing as much of this as I have over the years, I surely would not want to have any part of Christianity. According to them, God the Father certainly is confused. God the Holy Spirit sure is confused. And Jesus the Savior is confused according to all that I hear from people today. It is funny how the Savior will say one thing to some people at one time, and then something completely different to them at another time! We have some religious crowds saying that the Holy Spirit told them to speak in tongues, or that the Holy Spirit told them to laugh to the point where they got into a drunken stupor to make fools of themselves. Everyone is talking about the Holy Spirit; but God says "try the spirits."

Many walk the aisles and tell me that the Holy Spirit led them to join this church, but six months down the road, when I am preaching about a sin in their lives and nailing them to the wall, all of a sudden, the "holy spirit" has moved them to another church! They blame it on the Holy Spirit. I feel sorry for the Holy Spirit. He gets blamed for so much that He never led people to do. Many would not know the Holy Spirit from Casper the Friendly Ghost! They have

Continued on page 12

Continued from page 11

never prayed to seek His filling; never asked Him for guidance; they have no earthly idea who the Holy Spirit of God is!

1 John 4:6, "We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error."

We must understand that if we are not careful, we may have the spirit of error come upon us, and if the spirit of error comes upon us, we will err! Be careful. Make sure the "spirit" you are referring to is of God. If it is the Spirit of God, it will always match up with the Word of God.

Many Christians make unscriptural statements. I often wonder at the biblical ignorance. I hear statements such as, "The Holy Spirit wants me to quit my Sunday School Class, or bus route, etc, etc..." Let's see: "Spirit" and "Quit." Hmm. Let me run that through the computer! Reference not found!

God does not want any to perish. How can the Holy Spirit be directing you to quit presenting the Gospel to the lost when He wills that none should perish?

The Third Safeguard is the Word of God.

John 4:24 "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth."

Your conscience must be subjected to the Holy Spirit. Now you see where God is Spirit, and they that worship Him must do so in Spirit and in TRUTH. Now, what is Truth?

John 17:17, "Thy word is Truth."

Your conscience must be under subjection of the Holy Spirit and the Holy Spirit has to be under subjection to the Word of God. Whatever you say that the Holy Spirit has told you MUST match up to the Word of God. If we turn from God, then we do not have truth.

2 Timothy 3:14, "But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou

hast learned them; [15] 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. [16] All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

[17] That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."

We must conclude that God deals with our conscience by the Holy Spirit through His Word. The conscience must be subjected to the Holy Spirit and the Holy Spirit subjected to the Word of God. Both the conscience and the Holy Spirit are judged by the Word of God.

In Psalms 12:6-7, God said that He would preserve His Word. "The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. [7] Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever." He did not say that man would, or that a professor would, or that a church would, or that a scholar would preserve His Word. God, in His providence, had to preserve His Word. If not, He could never call anyone to preach it.

2 Timothy 4:1, "I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;

[2] Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. [3] For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; [4] And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables."

God would never call preachers out of the church and ask them to preach a Bible that they could not put their hands on! God would never call men out to preach what they do not even have. That would not even make sense. But, God is

calling men out to preach the infallible Word that God has preserved in the English language in the King James Bible. Thank God we have it, and thank God it is preached at this place.

"Be instant in season and out of season..." That means when you feel like it and when you do not feel like it. That means when you like it and when you do not like it. "Reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering..." So many are getting used to the preaching, they are getting used to the rebuking, and if you are not careful, you will get hard and calloused. "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine..." Preachers must be sure they are God-called and not mama-called. If a preacher is always checking the wind, he is not God-called. The time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but will heap unto themselves teachers having itching ears.

The typical Christian today does not want someone standing up in the pulpit calling the roll, pointing a bony finger, telling him he is going to hell or telling him he is not living right. The typical Christian today prefers to have someone stand up with overheads and teach, instead of a preacher standing up to preach the Bible. "They shall turn away their ears from the truth..." I will not be compassionate on the evangelicals because they have turned their back on the truth of God.

I believe in the divine preservation of the King James Bible because God said that He would keep His Word. God, in His promise, had to keep His Word. He could not call anyone to preach if we did not have a Bible. This book is preserved errorless.

Proverbs 30:5, "Every word of God is pure."

I believe that God, Who can speak the worlds into being, can also keep His Word.

If we have an imperfect Bible, we have an imperfect God because God esteems His Word very highly, as we see in Psalms 138:2, *"I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name."*

His name is Jesus, and at His name, people are saved, knees bow, and the Word that He gives us is far more excellent and lifted up above His name! "... Every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess..."

God says He exalts His Word above His name. John 1:1, *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."* God said it. Thank God I have His Bible.

Our religious systems are made up of four basic authorities.

1. There is a religion based upon emotions. Its manifestation is "feelings." Its religions are Charismatic and Pentecostal. These religions are full of women, because they base their authority on feelings. They do not care what the Bible says; they say their "feelings" are more important than the Word of God.

2. There is the religion of secular humanism. Its manifestation is "intellectualism." They worship the mind. These prefer the "teaching" ministry. Their final authority is the mind.

3. There is the religion of Catholicism. Their final authority is the Church. Its manifestation is man's dogma and creed (pastor or elder rule). Its religion is Catholicism. If a Church believes that it is the final authority, then it is Catholic in its beliefs!

4. Lastly, there is the religion of Biblical Christianity. Its manifestation is the priesthood of the believer; the Bible is for all believers, for all matters of faith and practice. Its final authority is the Bible.

Our country and our churches are so perverted because:

1. We have no Bible and therefore, no authority.

2. With no authority, we have no guidelines.

3. With no guidelines or rules to govern us, let us all just eat, drink and be merry!

In 2 Timothy 3:16, when Paul told Timothy to preach the Word, do you believe Timothy had the originals? *"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:"*

There are so many churches today whose Articles of Faith state: "The Bible is the inspired Word of God in the originals." Many people are so ignorant; they just keep reading and do not even notice what they have just read. They go ahead and join that church. Only the originals are inspired? That means if I am going to preach an inspired book, I have to find the originals! Would someone go find them for me? And if you do find them, you must also find a Hebrew and Greek scholar so they can be translated into English so I can preach them!

Our works and behavior should be according to the Word of God. If I do not have the Bible, infallible, without error, how in God's name am I supposed to know what to do?

God is going to save me by His Word, and if He is going to save me by His Word, He will then give me His Word to live by.

If all of God's Word is not preserved, what if John 3:16 is not preserved?

We are saved by grace through faith. What is our faith in? It is in the Word of God. We are saved by grace through faith in the Word of God. In Hebrews 11, we have the faith chapter. God spoke; they believed and obeyed. The doctrine of the Divine preservation must also be accepted by faith because God said He would preserve His Word.

Judgment will come upon those who correct and reject the Word of God.

There are people who sit in judgment of this Bible, instead of allowing this Bible to judge them!

The evangelical crowd has been corrupt from the start—from Billy Graham on down. I am not concerned about the evangelical crowd; I am concerned about our own! Our own independent Baptists who sit here in judgment of the Book, instead of allowing the Book to judge them! Instead of allowing the Book to judge us, we try to justify our lives of sin.

John 12:48, *"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."*

That same Word, that same Bible—which some professors, scholars, even some Baptists who sit in our own pews—have criticized, will judge them for rejecting His Word.

Many schools today are teaching that the translators made a mistake—that there was a lot lost in the translation. If I would ask the typical Christian, "Who wrote the Book of Romans?" they would answer, "Paul." Now, look in your Bibles on the first page of the Book of Romans. You will read, "The Epistle of Paul to Rome." Now, turn to Romans 16:22; "I Tertius, who wrote this epistle, salute you in the Lord." Who wrote it? Paul did not write it. Tertius wrote it, and he did so because he was a translator of Paul. Paul had an eye problem. Paul wrote some books of the Bible, and others he did not. Paul did not write the Book of Romans. His translator, Tertius, wrote it for him.

Who wrote the Book of Jeremiah? In Jeremiah 36:4, you will find that it was Baruch who wrote it for Jeremiah. *"Then Jeremiah called Baruch the son of Neriah: and Baruch wrote from the mouth of Jeremiah all the words of the LORD, which he had spoken unto him, upon a roll of a book."* Baruch was Jeremiah's translator.

Continued on page 14

Continued from page 13

You do not lose anything from the translator. Do not tell me that God could not preserve His Word!

Thank God this King James Bible is the only Book that came by way of Antioch. Every other Bible translation that has ever come down the turnpike has come from the corrupted Alexandrian manuscripts of Westcott and Hort.

There is only one Bible that came from Antioch—where they were called Christians first—the Received Text, or the Textus Receptus.

How can you get angry and leave this church and go to something that does not even stand upon the Word of God! You are actually admitting that your feelings supersede what you really believe. You really do not care about the stand upon the Bible; all you care about is whether or not you feel you are being

treated right. The people who fill our churches are not perfect people. We still live in our sinful flesh.

We must understand what has been produced in the 19th century. Until the American Standard Version came out, we had a great harvest of souls getting saved through the preaching of men like Billy Sunday, D.L. Moody, and Charles Spurgeon. Then, in 1901, when the ASV came out, a number of preachers embraced it. There was a new Bible on the scene and they thought since scholars were saying it was better, they embraced it. They were led as a sheep to the slaughter. Check out our history from 1901 on down. This nation has plummeted. Christianity has plummeted. Old-fashioned Biblical Christianity has plummeted. The fruit of the ASV

resulted in five hundred dead, orthodox Bible colleges in America.

The Methodists used to preach just like the independent Baptist churches. Bob Jones Sr. was a Methodist. He was straight on the Book. He believed in the Divine preservation of the Word of God. It was his scholars and sons who put him out to pasture in his last days. He used to say, "Every time we hire a Ph.D. on campus to teach in our Bible college, we have a week-long revival to offset his stinking intellectualism. We have to give him one week to get right with God before he can stand in the classroom."

We are either preaching the Bible or we are not preaching the Bible. We either have the Bible or we do not have the Bible. This King James issue is splitting Christianity. Christianity has always been split over the Bible. ☪

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