

**The English Bible at Great Hope**  
**(Why We Are Not “KJV Only”)**  
July 29, 2007

Pastor Joe Whalen

**1. It Is Beneath a Christian’s Dignity and Calling as a Follower of Jesus Christ to Lie, to Misrepresent, and to Tamper with the Truth – Ephesians 4:15**

- a. The truth does not require our lying to support it
- b. God does not give us the option of lying in His name or for His cause
- c. Even if the truth **scares** us
- d. If we resort to lying in defense of our position, our position is automatically under suspicion
- e. And our standing as a teacher in God’s Kingdom is in jeopardy – Seen point #2
- f. So, we are going to deal truthfully as best we possibly can because that is liberating – John 8:32!

**2. It Is Beneath a Christian’s Dignity and Calling as a Follower of Jesus Christ to Support/Allow and Not Question Teachers of Error– James 3**

- a. God calls His followers to a high standard of teaching and those who teach are to be questioned, challenged, and **tested**
- b. If a teacher is wrong and is teaching error, there are only three options:
  - i. The teacher just doesn’t **know** the facts – and is therefore disqualified from teaching on that topic (for now)
  - ii. The teacher made an honest **mistake**– and therefore will do his/her best to **correct** the mistake
  - iii. The teacher does know the facts, and taught error anyway – and is therefore disqualified from teaching period
    - (1)a teacher who doesn’t **regard** the truth . . .
    - (2)and who spreads error in God’s name is not to be **tolerated** or followed – James 3

**3. It Is Beneath a Christian’s Dignity and Calling as a Follower of Jesus Christ to Resort to *Ad Hominem* Attacks**

- a. “*Ad hominem*” = against the man, against the **person**
  - i. “Well, he doesn’t love his wife . . .”
  - ii. “He doesn’t love **God!**”
- b. Or guilt by association . . .
  - i. “Well, he’s E. Free and you know how liberal those folks are!”
  - ii. “He attended Liberty and we all know that Liberty allows . . .”

- c. Or guilt by ridicule . . .
- d. Or name-calling of others(!)

**4. It Is Beneath a Christian’s Dignity and Calling as a Follower of Jesus Christ to Use Foolish Questions in Order to Turn Attention Away from the Truth, the Facts, and the Weakness of His/Her Position – Titus 3:9**

**5. It Is Beneath a Christian’s Dignity and Calling as a Follower of Jesus Christ to Say We Believe Something “By Faith” If it Is Not Specifically Revealed in Scripture**

- a. That is, if the Word of God does not address something, we cannot say we believe it “by **faith**”
- b. Eg: Jesus has **blue-eyes**, blond hair, had a Mohawk haircut, and liked eating chick-peas, etc.
- c. Those are not biblical “faith” because they are not revealed in the Word of God
- d. Our faith is found solely in the **written Word of God** – 2 Peter
- e. We are free to have our **opinions** as believers . . . but those must . . .
  - i. Never be given a status equal to biblical faith
  - ii. Never be made a test for orthodoxy
  - iii. Never be confused for **real** biblical doctrine and faith

**6. It Is Beneath a Christian’s Dignity to Pull Verses out of Context or Say They Mean What We Want Them to Mean in a Desperate Attempt to Bolster a Weak Position**

- a. Example: Proverbs 29:18 (or Matthew 3:3 to say “no crying at the supper table!”)
- b. We cannot, must not, and will not jettison our hermeneutic
- c. Our job is to get ourselves to agree with Scripture . . . not have it agree with us
- d. We are subservient to it . . . not it to us and our pet topic

**7. It Is Beneath a Christian’s Dignity and Calling as a Follower of Jesus Christ to Make His/her Tradition Equal To, or More than the Bible Itself –**

- a. Jesus’ harshest words were for those who held to their tradition regardless of . . .
  - i. The truth
  - ii. The Word of God
- b. See the Gospel of Matthew

**viii. It Is Completely Within a Christian’s Dignity and Calling as a Follower of Jesus Christ to wrestle with Complex Issues, and Seek to Get to a More**

**Truthful Position . . .**

- a. That is biblical
- b. That is godly
- c. That is growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord – 2 Peter 3:18

**The English Bible in the Father’s House**

Why We are Not KJVOnly #2 August 5,  
2007 Pastor Joe Whalen

1. We are Christians, and therefore must be men and women of truth – Ephesians 4:15
2. False teachers and false teaching must not be allowed – 2 Peter 2
3. We cannot resort to *ad hominem* attacks
4. We cannot say we believe something “by faith” if it is not specifically revealed in the Word of God
5. We cannot pull verses out of context to support our case
6. We cannot make our tradition equal to / greater than the biblical faith

**Why we are doing this series**

1. It’s time
2. You can handle this
3. I want you to be mature believers

**Important Definitions  
KJVOnly – five groups<sup>1</sup>**

1. #1 – “I like the KJV best.”
2. #2 – “I like the KJV best because of its textual background.” (Majority text)
3. #3 – “The KJV is supernaturally preserved because it comes from the Textus Receptus, which has also been supernaturally preserved.”
4. #4 – “The KJV is inspired”
  - a. the KJV Bible alone = the Word of God alone
  - b. Therefore, it alone is THE standard
  - c. Missionaries must translate from the KJV for the native people groups (or teach them English so they can read THE Bible!)

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1

From James White, *The King James Only Controversy*, pp. 1-5

- d. Any change from the KJV is seen as changing the “one and only Word of God.”
- e. All other translations are corrupt and are the result of someone tampering with the Bible
  
- f. All other translations are “perversions,” “dangerous” and “corrupted”
- g. Anyone who questions this is called a “Bible butcher.”
  
- 5. #5 – “The KJV is New Revelation”
  - a. It’s Greek and Hebrew text are unimportant because the Holy Spirit inspired the KJV translators . . .
  - b. Just as He inspired the original authors
  
- 6. **Inspiration** – 2 Tim. 3:16, lit, “God-breathed”
  - a. “God superintended the human authors of the Bible so that they composed and recorded without error His message to mankind in the words of their original writings.”<sup>2</sup>
  - b. “It [Scripture] was the work of the Holy Spirit to supernaturally superintend the work of the human authors so that flawed agents in a flawed world could produce a flawless manuscript. The original text of Scripture could not have been any more perfect.”<sup>3</sup>
  - c. Plenarily = fully
  - d. Verbally = God’s inspiration extends even to the words the human author wrote
  - e. 2 Sam. 23:2; 1 King 20:13; 2 Peter 1:21; 2 Tim. 3:16
  
- 7. **Autographa – the original hand-written document**
  
- 8. **Preservation** – “The Old Testament in Hebrew . . . and the New Testament in Greek . . . being immediately inspired by God, and by His singular care and Providence kept pure in all Ages, are therefore authentic; so as in all controversies of Religion, the Church is finally to appeal unto them.”<sup>4</sup>
  - a. Currently there are over 5,300 known manuscripts of the New Testament
  - b. Along with thousands of extant sermons, hymns, books, letters and other early translations of Scripture
  
- 9. **Manuscript** – a hand-written copy Scripture
  - a. Abbreviated “ms” or “mss”

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Charles Ryrie, *Basic Theology*, p. 71

3

Doug McLachlan, *The Bible Version Debate*, p. 2

4

The London Baptist Confession of Faith, 1677, quoted in TMS Journal, Spring 1998, p. 26

- b. Before the invention of the printing press in 1440 all books and letter were copied by hand
- c. The copyists (scribes) were humans . . . and so no two manuscripts agree 100%
- d. But this fact (we are Christians – we deal with truth) does not hurt our faith because . . .
  - i. Our faith is in the revealed Word of God
  - ii. The differences among the manuscripts are exceedingly minor
- e. The KJV has had its own series of printing blunders and has been revised 4 times

**10. Text** – a printed copy of Scripture

- a. All texts are compiled from manuscripts
- b. No text is ever just discovered

**11. Textual Criticism** – the science of trying to get as close to the original reading as possible

- a. This is a godly and commendable task because it deals with the facts
- b. EVERY text has been compiled from mss by a human who used textual criticism

**12. Question:** “Isn’t this just making us question our faith? Isn’t it easier for us just to remain in the dark about this type of thing?”

- a. No
- b. We are God’s children . . . and we can handle the truth

**13. Question:** “How do I know that what I’m reading is from God and not a mistake a scribe/printer made?”

- a. Your English Bible is
  - i. Authoritative
  - ii. Accurate
- b. And God expects you to
  - i. Read it
  - ii. Obey it

Next Week: The History of the KJV and a Roman Catholic Priest Named Erasmus

**The English Bible in the Father’s House**

Why We Are Not KJV Only #3 August 12,  
2007 Pastor Joe Whalen

**1. Question:** “Isn’t this just making us question our faith? Isn’t it easier for us just to remain in the dark about this type of thing?”

- a. No
  - b. We are God’s children . . . and we can handle the truth
  - c. I am your pastor, not your Pope
2. **Question:** “It sounds like you are undercutting my confidence in my Bible. ?”
- a. Your English Bible is
    - i. Authoritative
    - ii. Accurate
  - b. And God expects you to
    - i. Read it
    - ii. Obey it
3. **Aren’t you anti-KJV? Absolutely not**
4. **Aren’t you taking a risk in teaching this material?**
- a. The truth is worth the risk
  - b. Your spiritual lives are worth the risk

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- 5. #5 – “The KJV is New Revelation”

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From James White, *The King James Only Controversy*, pp. 1-5

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Church is finally to appeal unto them.”<sup>8</sup>

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**I thought that the TR was the preserved Greek text. What do you say to that?**

1. **The Textus Receptus** (aka, “TR”) is a wonderful Greek text
2. **And because it is a text**, it was not discovered, it was compiled(!) and published in 1516ad
3. **Desiderius Erasmus of Rotterdam** compiled the TR using 7 Greek manuscripts and his Latin Vulgate
  - a. He used textual criticism to choose readings
  - b. He wrote why he made the decisions he did
4. **Erasmus Was a Rcc Priest in Good Standing with Rome**
  - a. He defended Transubstantiation, the power of the Pope, and the adoration of Mary
  - b. He thought Luther was wrong and wrote against him
  - c. He dedicated his Greek text to Pope Leo X(!)
5. **Erasmus Produced and Published 4 Different Versions of His Text**
  - a. Question: if the TR is **the** preserved Greek text, and God promised us access to the one-and-only, where was it before 1516?
  - b. Question: if the TR is **the** preserved Greek text, then why did Erasmus make four different versions? Which one is the one?

### **The English Bible in the Father’s House**

August 26, 2007 Pastor Joe Whalen

### **Questions and Answers**

1. **“Didn’t God Promise to Preserve His Word”**
  - a. Yes – Deut. 6; 2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Peter 1:21
  - b. And He did so in the multitude of Greek and Hebrew mss
  - c. According to the Wycliffe Bible Translators, there are currently 2,286 languages without a Bible<sup>9</sup>
  - d. And there are over 196,000,000 people who use those languages and therefore do not have a Bible in their language
  - e. Of the 6,912 languages extant today, only 429 have a complete translation of all

66 books of the Bible

**2. “Don’t all true Fundamentalists and Bible-believing Baptists use and hold to the KJV?” No**

- a. What English translation one uses was never a plank in the Fundamentalist’s platform
- b. Which English translation one uses was never a Baptist distinctive
- c. What English translation one uses should not be a test of fellowship or orthodoxy

**3. “If this isn’t a Fundamental of the faith, and isn’t a Baptist distinctive, Where did KJV Only come from?”**

- a. From a 7<sup>th</sup> Day Adventist named Wilkinson
- b. See Beacham and Bauder chapter 1 for more information

**4. “I heard the modern translations attack the deity of Christ, remove the blood, and weaken key biblical truths.”**

- a. They don’t
- b. There are no doctrinal differences between the texts

**5. “But I saw a chart that sure looked convincing.”**

- a. The chart was wrong because it was based upon circular reasoning and beneath the dignity and calling of a follower of Jesus Christ, the Lord of truth
- b. That chart only proved the author of it picked the verses he/she thought helped their case, and ignored other verses that hurt their case

**6. “I heard that modern translations use dynamic equivalence and don’t translate the Greek word-for-word.”**

- a. Well, yes, some translations use dynamic equivalence more than others
- b. But all translations require some level of dynamic equivalence
- c. And the KJV uses dynamic equivalence frequently – Luke 20:16; Romans 3:4; 3:6; 3:31; 6:2, etc.

**7. “Well, there are just too many Bibles out there nowadays. We are confusing people and there should be just one.”**

- a. Yes, I agree in principle
- b. But there were 8 different English translations and 80 Latin translations in Europe when the KJV was translated

**8. Are you endorsing any and all newer translations? No**

**9. “Isn’t the language of the KJV much more beautiful, poetic, and honoring to God?”**

- a. When God revealed gave His Word to His people, He used the common language that they spoke and read
- b. Moses wrote in every-day Hebrew
- c. Malachi wrote 1,000 years later in a completely different Hebrew language
- d. Paul, Luke, and Peter all wrote in the common every-day Greek (called *Koine*)
- e. So if we go on what God did in the past, He is fine with being worshiped and read in the common language of the people
- f. We must be careful of injecting our preconceived ideas upon God and His Word(!)
- g. And frankly, the KJV language isn't the way we talk nowadays
- h. If our spiritual growth depends on us loving and obeying God . . .
- i. As He has revealed Himself and His will for us in His Word . . .
- j. Then we must understand that Word . . .
- k. Then any hindrance to us knowing what the Word means needs to be addressed

**10. “Didn’t Satan begin an attack on God’s Word in the Garden of Eden with ‘Yea, hath God said?’”**

- a. Yikes!

**11. “If I want more information on this, what should I do?” You should read these books (in this order)**

- a. *One Bible Only?* by Roy Beacham and Kevin Bauder of Central Baptist Seminary
- b. *The King James Only Controversy* by James White
- c. *The King James Debate: A Plea for Realism* by D. A. Carson

**12. “Isn’t this a slippery slope we’re heading down?”**

- a. Truth is not a slippery slope!
- b. We are called to be men and women of truth – and that is where we must anchor ourselves